Winery Wastewater Regulations in New York

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Craft Beverage Production in NY

• Wastewater generated through (wine, beer, cider) production is considered **industrial waste**.
Environmental Conservation Law (§17-0505) requires a **SPDES permit** to make or use a disposal system or point source for the discharge of **industrial waste**, sanitary or other wastes which may cause or might reasonably be expected to cause pollution to waters of the State (including groundwater).

**State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permits**

- Designed by a licensed engineer; approved by DEC engineers
- Site-specific limits and thresholds established
- Volume-specific monitoring protocols
Case for a general permit

• Similar operations

• Similar flow composition

• Similar waste-handling system needs

General Permit Qualifications

...existing and new licensed wineries, breweries, and hard cideries in NYS that discharge process wastewater, with or without the admixture of sanitary wastewater, to groundwater from onsite wastewater treatment systems that have a design peak flow of less than 10,000 gallons per day (GPD).
General Permit Guidelines

• Existing facility:
  – Retain a licensed engineer to “assess their current system(s) and certify that the system is operating correctly and is being properly maintained”

• New facility:
  – Retain a licensed engineer to design a system that meets 5 criteria.
General Permit Guidelines, new and existing systems

- Flow monitoring and regular inspection by owner
- Periodic sampling and analysis
- Recordkeeping and reporting

Full description of proposed general permit conditions can be found at:

Note: This is a notice of proposed permit (NPP). The next step would be a draft, which may or may not have the same specifications. The draft will also be released for public comment.
Reminders:

- Separate waste streams!
  - (properly installed and maintained) sanitary septic systems (<1,000 gallons per day) don’t need SPDES permits
  - “Co-mingled” waste cannot be land-applied- see below
- Solid processing waste (e.g., stems, skins, seeds, etc.) can be land-applied without permitting
- Wastewater can be land-applied with the “part 360” permit, which is a one-time registration