

Quarterly Visual Monitoring

Am I required to conduct quarterly visual monitoring?

All industrial facilities permitted under OKR05, and concrete and asphalt batch plants permitted under OKG11 or OKR10 are required to conduct quarterly visual monitoring.

Where do I conduct visual monitoring?

You must conduct quarterly visual monitoring at each outfall with stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity or applicable construction activity, unless you have substantially identical outfalls as discussed in the following section.

What are representative outfalls?

If your facility has two or more outfalls that you believe discharge substantially identical effluents, you may monitor the effluent of just one of the outfalls and report that the results also apply to the substantially identical outfall(s). You may monitor these outfalls on a rotating basis. For this to be permissible, you must describe each outfall and rationale for your determinations, including the location, why they are expected to have substantially identical effluents, approximate size of the drainage areas, and an estimate of the runoff coefficient of the drainage areas. This exception does not apply to any outfalls with numeric effluent limitations.

When do I conduct visual monitoring?

Your visual examination must occur during daylight hours (e.g., normal working hours). The sample must be collected within the first 30 minutes of when the runoff or snowmelt begins discharging from your facility. The collected sample must be examined in a well-lit area as soon as possible but no later than 60 minutes after collecting it.

What do I document?

Your visual examination reports must be kept onsite with your Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3). At a minimum, the report must include:

- the examination date, time and location,
- examination personnel,
- the nature of discharge (runoff, snow melt, etc.),
- results of observations,
- probable sources of any observed storm-water contamination,
- if applicable, an explanation for why it was not possible to take the samples within the first 30 minutes.

No analytical tests are required for visual monitoring samples. All samples must be collected from the discharge resulting from a storm event that is greater than 0.1 inches in magnitude and that occurs at least 72 hours from the previously-measurable storm event. Whenever practicable, the same individual should carry out the collection and examination of discharges for the entire permit term.



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What do I look for?

Refer to Table 1 to see a list of parameters that should be assessed.

What about inactive or unstaffed sites?

Inactive and unstaffed sites may exercise a waiver of the monitoring requirement. The waiver must be signed, certified, and maintained with your SWP3.

For more information, contact:

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Water Quality Division
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Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
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Table 1 – Parameters to be Assessed

PARAMETER	METHOD	RESULTS
Color and Extent	Visual	Clear, yellow, red, blue, green, brown, black, milky, etc.
Odor	Smell	None, earthy, sewage, musky, rotten eggs, petroleum, etc.
Clarity or turbidity	Come up with your own test such as: remove label from 2 -liter clear plastic bottle, fill the bottle with the sample, and try to see things through it	1) Can't see through the bottle 2) Can see through but cannot read newspaper 3) Can see through and can read newspaper 4) Pretty clear, but not as clear as bottled water
Floating solids	Visual	Yes/no. Describe
Settled solids	Use same 2-liter bottle	Tablespoons or cups of material or millimeters of solids on bottom after at least 60 minutes.
Suspended solids	Look through containers	What do you see?
Foam	Visual	Yes/no. How thick is the foam? How much of the surface does it cover? What color is the foam?
Oil sheen	Visual	Color and extent
Other obvious indicators of storm-water pollution	Indicate what you observed that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the stormwater was polluted	Tell it like you see it