

ILLINOIS EPA INTRODUCES THE eDMR SYSTEM

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) announced a new compliance tool for regulated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) facilities in the State of Illinois. The tool, called the “eDMR” (electronic Discharge Monitoring Report) System, was developed so that NPDES permittees with a computer and an Internet connection can complete, sign, submit, edit, and re-submit eDMR forms online.

The eDMR system is, at this time, completely voluntary, but the Illinois EPA is “strongly encouraging” NPDES permittees to use this reporting method. NPDES permit holders who choose to use the eDMR system will not have to type monitoring data onto hard copy DMR forms. In addition, the Illinois EPA believes that the system will result in reduced paperwork, improved speed and accuracy in reporting, and convenient form completion.

The eDMR system will also benefit the Illinois EPA by reducing the time needed to review the reports, by eliminating inputting by hand (and mistakes!), and by providing easier and more convenient storage of this information.

Registration for the eDMR system includes five simple steps:

- Step 1: Make sure you have a personal computer with 256MB RAM, Internet access (preferably a DSL or Broadband connection) using Internet Explorer 6.0, Service Pack 1 or newer. (Netscape or other browsers will not work).
- Step 2: Register for a digital identity by accessing the State of Illinois Digital Identity Registration website at: <https://autora02.cmc.state.il.us>. While completing the registration form, **do not check the box that states** "Do not pass my name and address to other Sate applications." If that occurs, the eDMR system will not receive your name and address information.

- Step 3: Log into the eDMR system at:
<https://dmrext.admop.epa.state.il.us/edmr> using your digital credentials, and immediately log out.
- Step 4: Complete, print, sign, and mail the User Registration/Terms and Conditions Form(s) (www.epa.state.il.us/water/edmr/registration-form.pdf). The Illinois EPA allows multiple persons to have entry, query, and signing rights for each NPDES facility – with the permittee specifying the rights for each individual registered. Note, though, that it is necessary to complete one User Registration Form for each NPDES facility permitted with the first person/user specified, and then additional forms must be submitted for each additional user at that same facility for which you want to use the eDMR system.
- Step 5: Once the Illinois EPA has processed the User Registration Form(s), it will email a notification to the user that they may begin using the eDMR system.

The eDMR system appears to be a useful tool for maintaining compliance with facility NPDES permits. For more information about the eDMR system or to obtain the User Registration/Terms and Conditions Form(s), please call any of the ES&H attorneys at Seyfarth Shaw LLP, or access the Illinois EPA's eDMR web site at: www.epa.state.il.us/water/edmr/index.html, or contact the Agency's eDMR Coordinator at 217-782-9720.

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