

Understanding the EPA Form 2A Application

In 2002, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued Form 3510-2A (Form 2A) to be used for the issuance and re-issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System discharge permits to Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). Compared to previous applications for POTWs, the Form 2A required additional analytical testing, especially for major POTWs.

The EPA allowed states to use discretion in the implementation of the Form 2A. Existing facilities are required to submit the Form 2A at least 180 days prior to the permit expiration date. If the submitted Form 2A was deficient in the new sampling requirements, the MDEQ allowed additional time after permit issuance for the required sampling to be performed. The permits issued were subject to being re-opened and modified based on the results of the subsequent analytical testing.

EPA no longer allows this discretion. Facilities must submit a complete application Form 2A at least 180 days prior to the existing permit expiration date to have permit protection. A complete application is one in which all required information, including the analytical data, is submitted to the MDEQ. Existing permits cannot be re-issued until a complete application is submitted.

Proper planning for the submittal of a complete and timely application is absolutely necessary. The required analytical testing, including metals testing and bioassays, require months to complete. It is imperative that you know the permit expiration date for your facility and begin the required analytical testing well in advance of that date.

Since the implementation of the Form 2A, MDEQ staff has provided instruction and outreach opportunities to the regulated community to explain the Form 2A. MDEQ outreach included direct mailings and seminar presentations to assist municipalities in planning, preparing and completing renewal applications using the Form 2A. However, MDEQ staff has noted common deficiencies in many application submittals.

A brief explanation of the most common mistakes made on the Form 2A can be obtained by clicking [here](#).

To further improve the quality of the applications submitted and to re-inforce the importance of timely and complete submittal of the Form 2A, MDEQ staff will meet onsite with the responsible official (usually the Mayor) of the facilities that have expanded monitoring requirements. For other facilities utilizing the Form 2A, MDEQ staff will be available to discuss and explain the Form 2A and how each section of the application applies to your individual situation.

