



February 1, 2025

To anyone inquiring about dewatering requirements for a construction project in Salt Lake City:

As a reminder, dewatering is defined as: "the act of draining rainwater and/or groundwater from building foundations, vaults, and trenches, or other similar points of accumulation" and can include dewatering of uncontaminated groundwater or surface water sources due to construction activities, hydrostatic testing of pipelines or other fluids vessels, water used in disinfection of drinking water vessels and other similar discharges in the State of Utah that do not include a discharge of process wastewater. If that drained water is pumped off of the property into an adjacent parcel, directly to a waterbody, or into a storm sewer system, then a state permit is required. Salt Lake City ordinance further requires that any parties that obtain a state permit (under the Utah Pollution Discharge Elimination System, or UPDES) must also obtain a City Discharge Permit that corresponds with the State permit. With that in mind, below are some details of the dewatering permitting process. This is the order of what needs to be done to obtain coverage from the state and the city for dewatering.

*\*\*NOTE: if the dewatering discharge can remain on-site and percolate back into the ground without discharge off-site, known as "land-application," then no permit is needed but you must contact (and retain documentation of this communication) the State's Ground Water protection division (David Jamison [djamison@utah.gov](mailto:djamison@utah.gov) 385-260-4607) to receive approval to land-apply.\*\**

**FIRST** (for State permit coverage)

- ***If the quality of the groundwater is unknown***
  - You may need to test the water for contaminants (to determine if it needs to be a Treated Groundwater permit or a General Construction Dewatering Permit)
    - Contact [stormwaterquality@slc.gov](mailto:stormwaterquality@slc.gov) or 801-483-6729 for inquiries
    - But if there is no reason to suspect contamination then it is not necessary (read on);
  - The way the City attempts to confirm any potential contamination is, as follows:
    - Go to the State's website for determining if there is known contamination at a property: <https://enviro.deq.utah.gov/>
    - Under "Select Map Data"
      - Go to the "Environmental Response and Remediation" dropdown, and make sure that all of those are selected (except "Water Rights Points of Diversion")
      - Go to the "Waste Management and Radiation Control" and make sure that all of those are selected
    - Under "Open Advanced Filter"
      - Go to "Select Filter Type" and enter "Salt Lake City" (this will prevent you from having to download the entire state)
    - Click "Search 16 Layers"
    - Zoom to the location of your project and look at the types of records associated with it;

- If any of them imply the site is contaminated (or was at some point), then you will need a Treated Ground and Surface Water permit (UTG790000);
  - If there are no known contamination issues on-site (or if a plume from an adjacent site is not suspected of reaching the property in question) then you will need a Construction Dewatering & Hydrostatic Testing (CDHT) permit (UTG070000)
- **If contaminated** (or if potential/historic contamination has been identified by research):
  - Apply for a UTG790000 permit through the State of Utah (DWQ) by first going to their website (<https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/current-permits-and-forms-updes-permitting-program>), scrolling down to “General Permits” and then “Treated Ground Water UTG790000” and do the following:
    - (1) Develop a Dewatering Control Plan (DCP) for treating the discharge (in compliance with the permit requirements of the UTG790000)
      - While not directly required by the UPDES permit, a DCP provides a format for documentation that allows inspectors (and permittees) to quickly ascertain the treatment strategies and responsible parties associated with the permit, so Salt Lake City requires this to be filled out
      - Salt Lake City has a DCP template that was edited to make it applicable to the treated ground water permit, in addition to the construction dewatering permit it was originally written for:
        - [https://www.slcdocs.com/utilities/Stormwater/Stormwater%20Quality%20and%20Permitting/Salt%20Lake%20City%20Dewatering%20Permit%20Forms/Additional%20Documents/2022\\_SLCD\\_PU\\_CDHT-and-TG\\_DewateringControlPlan\\_Template.docx](https://www.slcdocs.com/utilities/Stormwater/Stormwater%20Quality%20and%20Permitting/Salt%20Lake%20City%20Dewatering%20Permit%20Forms/Additional%20Documents/2022_SLCD_PU_CDHT-and-TG_DewateringControlPlan_Template.docx)
      - Fill this out and remove and references to the CDHT (UTG070000), particularly in the “5.3 – Sampling” section, which has tables of required sampling for both the CDHT and the Treated Groundwater (TG) Permit
      - Be sure to include a description of the treatment system, including any design specifications for that system
    - (2) Submit a Notice of Intent (NOI: <https://lf-public.deq.utah.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=10899&eqdocs=DWQ-2022-022580>) to the State (following instructions found on that form)
      - The NOI requires sampling data and discharge locations, as well as receiving waters so make sure you have everything in order before submitting; for questions, contact Linsey Shafer (DWQ) [lrshafer@utah.gov](mailto:lrshafer@utah.gov)
    - (3) Make fee payment and receive approval letter from the State which will dictate specific monitoring requirements (usually there is a 30-day public notice/comment period for these applications but can be done more quickly if the NOI is filled out correctly);
      - Save the authorization letter and the NOI forms provided by the State (via email) as they will be used when applying for the City Discharge Permit
- **If uncontaminated:**
  - Apply for a Construction Dewatering and Hydrostatic Testing (CDHT) Permit (UTG070000) permit from the state by completing the following:

- (1) Develop a Dewatering Control Plan (<https://if-public.deq.utah.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=394928&eqdocs=DWQ-2024-004376>), in compliance with the UPDES permit document (<https://if-public.deq.utah.gov/WebLink/DocView.aspx?id=424298&eqdocs=DWQ-2024-004884>)
- (2) Submit an NOI to the state (via the CDX [NeTRDHT](https://npdes-ereporting.epa.gov/net-rdht)) for the UTG070000 (<https://npdes-ereporting.epa.gov/net-rdht>)
  - For assistance in obtaining access to the CDX NeTRDHT, and applying for permit coverage see the “Help Files” section of the state’s website for CDHT Permit (<https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/general-construction-storm-water-updes-permits>)
- (3) Make payment and obtaining proof of coverage under the UPDES UTG070000 by downloading the NOI form for this permit and receiving/downloading the Authorization to Discharge letter from the State; these will be provided to the City during the City permit process.

**THEN** (for City permit coverage)

- Apply for a Salt Lake City Public Utilities City Discharge Permit for Dewatering Activities, by completing the following:
  - (1) Submit a City Discharge Permit for Dewatering Activities NOI Form
    - Form is attached for your convenience, this must be filled, signed, and submitted to [stormwaterquality@slc.gov](mailto:stormwaterquality@slc.gov)
    - If you do not know the receiving waters for this discharge, or have any questions about filling out the form (or the DCP), please contact [stormwaterquality@slc.gov](mailto:stormwaterquality@slc.gov) or 801-483-6729.
  - (2) Submit the Dewatering Control Plan that was developed for the UTG070000 (or the UTG790000) to SCLDPU-SWQ
    - It will need to be reviewed for compliance prior to issuance of the City Discharge permit;
    - Submit to [stormwaterquality@slc.gov](mailto:stormwaterquality@slc.gov) along with the NOI and Authorization to Discharge Letter(s) from the State
  - (3) Remit \$132 fee payment to the PUT# which will be provided upon acceptance of the Dewatering Control Plan and process of the permit application (NOI)

Once the state dewatering permit is issued, the Dewatering Control Plan (DCP) is reviewed/approved by SCLDPU-SWQ, the City dewatering NOI is processed, the City Discharge Permit Number (PUT#) is issued, and fee payment is made, then a City Discharge Authorization Letter will be provided to you, which will allow for dewatering operations to begin. CDHT permits are good for one year but can be renewed no less than 60-days before the annual expiration date. TG permits are only good for one year; if dewatering under a TG must continue beyond the 1-year, then an Individual Permit with the State will be needed, which requires a different process.

Please let us know if you have any questions/comments.

Regards,

Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities - Division of Stormwater Quality  
801-483-6729