

# **ENVIRONMENT CANADA**

# EFFLUENT REGULATORY REPORTING INFORMATION SYSTEM (ERRIS)

TRANSITIONAL AUTHORIZATIONS APPLICATION
USER GUIDE

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### 1.0 Who Should Apply for a Transitional Authorization?

If a wastewater system is not designed to achieve a secondary level of treatment, the wastewater system owner or operator may apply to the authorization officer to request a transitional authorization (WSER subsection 24(1)). A transitional authorization establishes the conditions under which such a system may continue to operate and sets the timeline to meet the effluent quality standards. If the owner or operator of a wastewater system that does not meet the effluent quality standards for CBOD and/or suspended solids (i.e. is not at secondary level of wastewater treatment) chooses not to apply for a TA, the deposit of effluent from the final discharge point of the wastewater system would not be authorized and the owner or operator would be in contravention of subsection 36(3) of the Fisheries Act.

#### 1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to explain how to enter and submit a Transitional Authorization Application in the Effluent Regulatory Reporting Information System (ERRIS). Please consult the document "How to Apply for a Transitional Authorization" for a more detailed explanation of the transitional authorization requirements and duration. This document is available upon request at ww-eu@ec.gc.ca.

Additional information about the monitoring, record-keeping and reporting requirements for the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations (WSER) can be found on the <a href="mailto:Environment Canada Wastewater">Environment Canada Wastewater</a> web site.

# 2.0 APPLYING FOR A TRANSITIONAL AUTHORIZATION

In order to apply for a **Transitional Authorization**, an **Identification Report** must be submitted and approved for your wastewater system. If required, consult the main ERRIS User Guide which contains information on SWIM as well as completing the Identification Report for your wastewater system.

For a Transitional Authorization Application the following user role privileges apply:

- An account with the **WSER Regulatee** role can enter and save the application;
- Any account with the **WSER Signing Authority** role can submit an application, in addition to entering/saving them.

Ensure that each wastewater system has at least one account with the **Signing Authority** user role associated to it.

# 3.0 How to access the transitional authorization APPLICATION

This section provides the steps necessary to access a Transitional **Authorization** application form from the Effluent Regulatory Reporting Information System (ERRIS) home page.

Once you have logged into ERRIS via SWIM, the ERRIS home page is displayed.

1. Select the **Applications \ Transitional Authorization** option from the menu at the top of the ERRIS Welcome page.

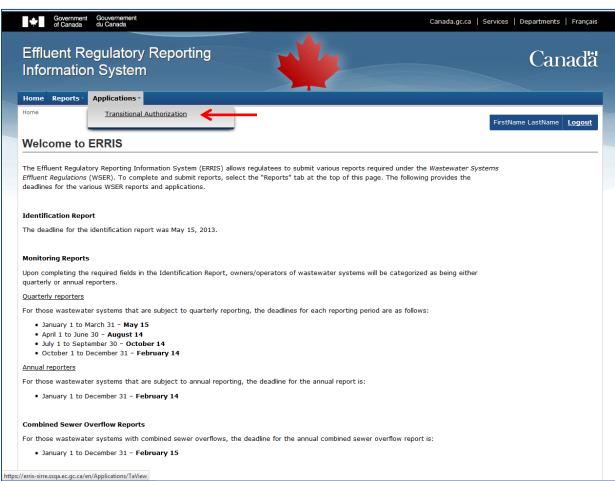


Figure 3-1: ERRIS Home Page - Select Applications

- If you have access to more than one wastewater system (i.e. more than one Facility was entered in SWIM), ERRIS will automatically display the Choose an Owner and a Wastewater System page so that you can select the desired wastewater system.
- If you are associated with more than one Owner in ERRIS (i.e. your account has access to more than one Organization in SWIM), select the **Owner** from the drop-down menu;
- Select the **Wastewater System** from the second drop-down menu.
- If only one facility is associated with the Owner, you will automatically be taken to the **Transitional Authorization** application form.

Figure 3-2: Select Wastewater System



Click Save and Continue.

Before you can continue, there must already be an approved **Identification Report** in ERRIS for your wastewater system. If there is not, the following **Error** is displayed:

Government Gouvernement du Canada Canada.gc.ca | Services | Departments | Français Effluent Regulatory Reporting Information System Canadä<sup>\*</sup> Home Reports Applications FirstName LastName <u>Logout</u> Choose an Owner and a Wastewater System Errors • Error 1: There is no approved Identification Report. Please ensure that it is submitted and approved by your signing authority. Selecting an Owner (if more than one is available), will update the list of Systems available for selection. Owner: New Organization-Owner A Owner not found? Click here to register Organization (in SWIM). Wastewater System(required): • System not found? Click here to register the Facility (in SWIM). Save and continue Version: 2.0.1.821 Terms and conditions | Transparency Stay connected About us News Contact us HEALTH healthycanadians.gc.ca TRAVEL travel.gc.ca SERVICE CANADA servicecanada.gc.ca ECONOMY actionplan.gc.ca

Figure 3-3: Identification Report Error Page

Canada.gc.ca

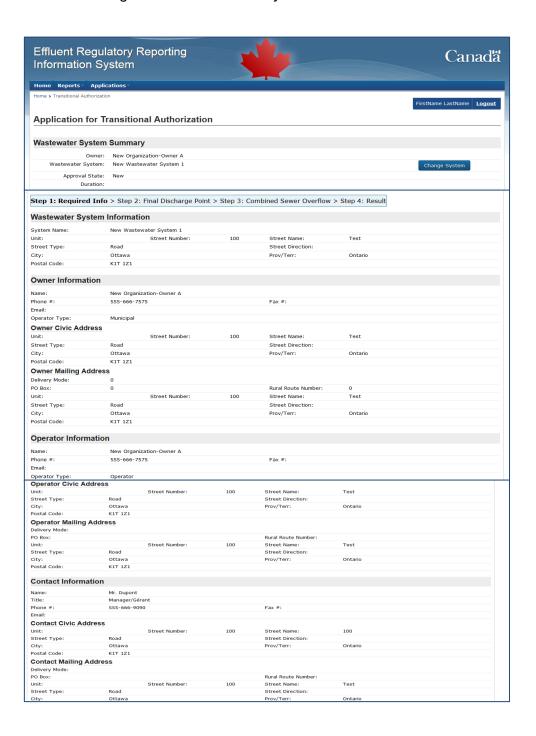
# 3.1 HOW TO COMPLETE A TRANSITIONAL AUTHORIZATION APPLICATION

After you have selected the **Applications \ Transitional Authorization** option from the menu, you will be presented with the Application for Transitional Authorization page. The application form is broken down into steps, each one representing a different category of information that is required for the Transitional Authorization application.

### Step 1 - Required Information

- The contact and system information previously entered in the Identification Report is presented in the first part of Step 1 (see Figure 3-4).
- If any changes are to the contact or system information, those changes must be made in the Identification Report. The Identification Report must then be re-approved by the Signing Authority for your wastewater system. It is preferable to enter and approve any Identification Report updates prior to completing this application form for a transitional authorization.

Figure 3-4: Wastewater System Information

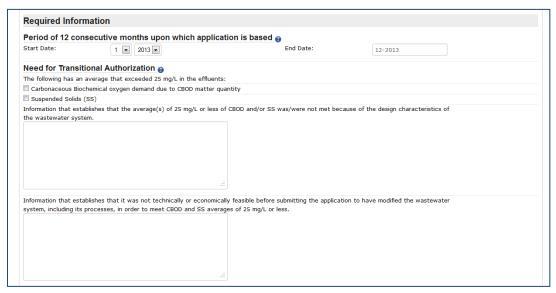




All of the following data requirements in Step 1 are mandatory fields.

- 2. In the section **Required Information**, the "**Start Date**" for the period of 12 consecutive months upon which the application is based is required. Select the start month and year from the pick list provided. The "**End Date**" is automatically calculated based on the Start Date.
  - Both Start and End dates need to be prior to the current month.
- In the Need for Transitional Authorization section, select the appropriate checkboxes if the average of 25 mg/L was exceeded for carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD) and/or suspended solids (SS).
- 4. The following question requires information that establishes that the average(s) of 25 mg/L or less of CBOD and/or SS was/were not met because of the design characteristics of the wastewater system.
- Enter information that establishes that it was not technically or economically feasible before submitting the application to have modified the wastewater system, including its processes, in order to meet CBOD and SS averages of 25 mg/L or less.

Figure 3-5: Required Information for Transitional Authorization

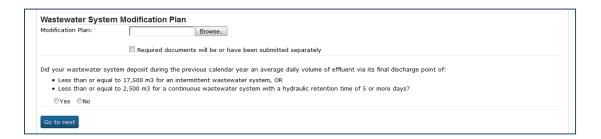


6. The next section asks you to either upload, mail or email a Wastewater System Modification Plan. A plan for the modifications is needed in order to bring the wastewater system to a secondary level of treatment. The plan must include a description of the changes that will be made to the system's processes so that the effluent is not acutely lethal and the averages for CBOD and SS do not exceed 25 mg/L. These changes

may include adding new treatment processes to the existing system or building a new facility to achieve the required effluent quality. The plan must include a schedule with a timeline indicating when the changes will be made.

7. The Wastewater System Modification Plan can be uploaded as part of the application by clicking the "Browse" link and then selecting the file from your computer. The valid upload formats are MS-Word, RTF or PDF. The maximum file upload size is 30 MB.

Figure 3-6: Wastewater System Modification Plan



- If you cannot upload your Wastewater System Modification Plan, you must email the plan or forward it by regular mail to the Authorization Officer.
- 8. The final question of **Step 1** asks you to respond "**Yes**" or "**No**" to the question:

Did your wastewater system deposit during the previous calendar year an average daily volume of effluent via its final discharge point of:

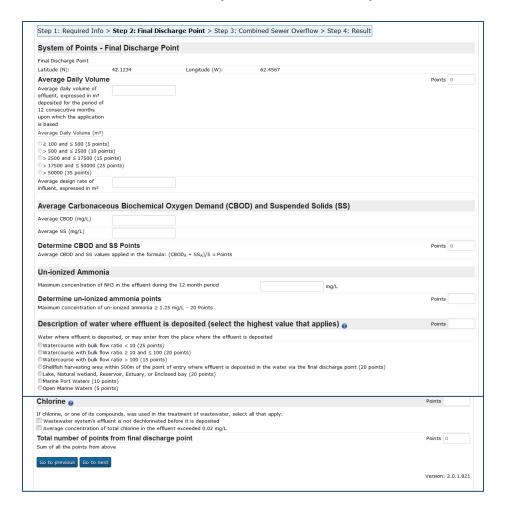
- Less than or equal to 17,500 m<sup>3</sup> for an intermittent wastewater system, OR
- Less than or equal to 2,500 m<sup>3</sup> for a continuous wastewater system with a hydraulic retention time of 5 or more days?
- If your wastewater system is a continuously discharging wastewater system without a hydraulic retention time of 5 days or more, please ensure that you select "No" as your response.
- 9. Click on "Go to Next" to proceed to Step 2. An error message will appear if any required data is missing.

### **Step 2 – Final Discharge Point**

The duration of a transitional authorization based on the final discharge point is determined by a System of Points that is set out in Schedule 2 of the WSER. The following will describe the various questions asked to determine the points associated with a Final Discharge Point.

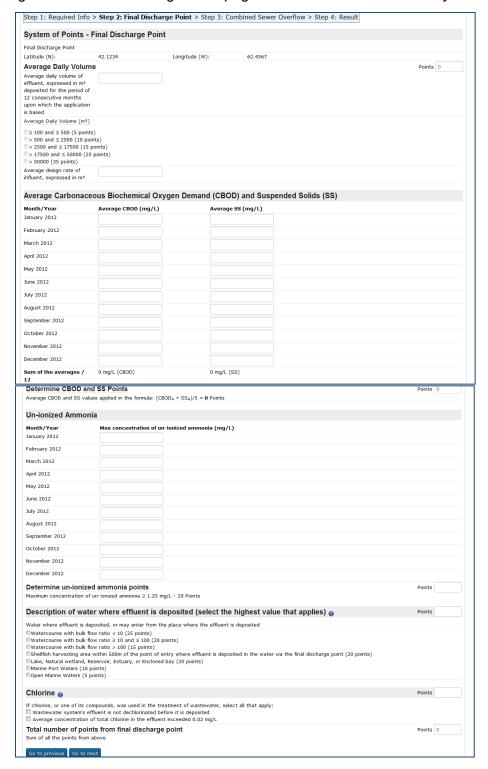
- The Final Discharge Point latitude and longitude for the wastewater system is displayed. This information is obtained from the Identification Report.
   Enter the average daily volume of effluent, expressed in cubic metres, deposited for the period of 12 consecutive months upon which the application is based. The number of points assigned for this question will be displayed by the system and the corresponding range of effluent volumes will be highlighted.
- 2. Enter the **average daily volume of influent**, expressed in cubic metres.
- 3. For an **intermittent wastewater system** or a **continuous wastewater system with HRT ≥ 5 days** (if you responded "Yes" to the final question in Step 1), the average CBOD and average SS concentration determined over the 12-months upon which the application is based must be provided. For these systems, the exception for SS during the summer months applies for the application (refer to WSER Subsections 6(2) to (6) regarding calculating the averages). The number of points allotted based on the **average CBOD** and **average SS** concentration in the effluent will be calculated automatically and displayed in the "Points" section on the right side of the page, using the following formula: (CBOD<sub>A</sub> + SS<sub>A</sub>)/5 = # of Points.

Figure 3-7: Final Discharge Point page for an intermittent wastewater system or a continuous wastewater system with HRT ≥ 5 days



4. For a continuous wastewater system (If you responded "No" to the final question in Step 1), the average CBOD and average SS concentration must be provided for **each month** during the 12-month period upon which the application is based. The page will display each Month/Year of the period of the application. The number of points allotted based on the average CBOD and average SS concentration in the effluent will be calculated automatically and displayed in the "Points" section on the right side of the page, using the following formula:  $(CBOD_A + SS_A)/5 = \#$  of Points.

Figure 3-8: Final Discharge Point page for continuous wastewater system



5. The maximum concentration of un-ionized ammonia must be entered in the next section. For an **intermittent wastewater system** with an annual average daily volume of ≤ 17 500 m³ or a **continuous** wastewater system with HRT ≥ 5 days with an annual average daily volume of ≤ 2 500 m³, the maximum concentration of NH₃ determined during the 12-month period must be provided. For a **continuous wastewater system**, the maximum concentration of NH₃ in each month during the 12-month period upon which the application is based must be provided.

ERRIS will determine the number of points automatically based on the maximum concentration(s) of NH3 entered. If the maximum concentration of NH3 during the 12-month period, or any of the monthly maximum concentrations during the 12-month period, as applicable, is equal to or greater than 1.25 mg/L, then 20 points will be allocated. Otherwise, 0 points will be allocated.

- 6. The next question requires the applicant to select a description of the water where effluent is deposited. Several options are provided. All the descriptions of the water that apply should be considered, and the description with the highest point value should be selected.
- 7. The final question in Step 2 asks if chlorine, or one its compounds, was used in the treatment of wastewater. If one or both of the options provided is/are selected then 10 points are allocated. Even if both options are selected, the number of points is 10. If neither option is selected, no points are allocated for this question.

## Step 3 - Combined Sewer Overflow

# This section of the application is optional.

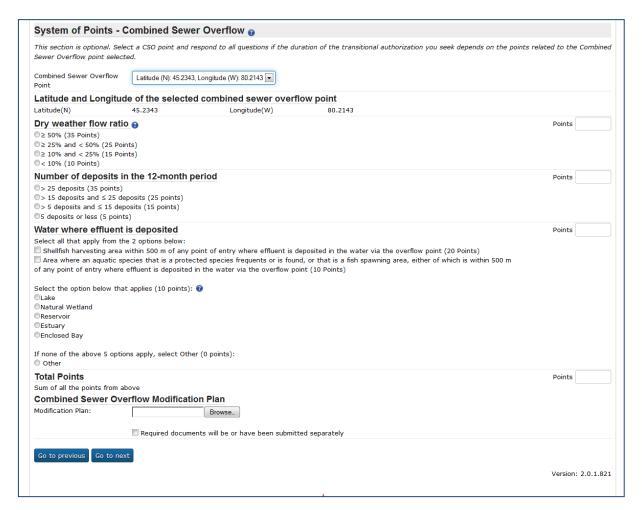
Points can also be allocated for any Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) point in a wastewater system according to the system of points described in Schedule 3 of the WSER. If the number of points allocated for a CSO point is greater than or equal to the number of points for the final discharge point and the final discharge point has more than or equal to 50 points, then the points allocated for the CSO point can be used to apply for a TA that would expire on December 31, 2040.

This section of the application should only be completed if the duration of the transitional authorization sought relies on points due to a CSO point.

The information used to fill out this section of the application must be the 12-month period upon which the application is based.

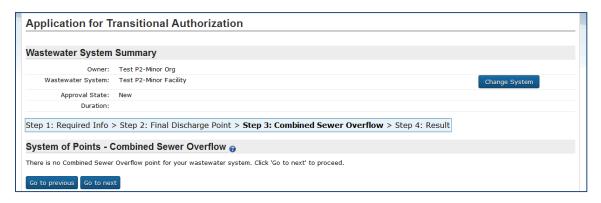
- Select the combined sewer point from the pick list that will be used as the basis of the CSO portion of the transitional authorization application. The list is derived from the latitudes and longitudes of the combined sewer overflow points entered in the Identification Report.
- The first item asks for the **Dry Weather Flow Ratio.** This ratio is calculated by dividing the estimated average dry weather flow that circulates in the combined sewer at the overflow point by the estimated average dry weather flow of effluent that is deposited via the final discharge point.
- 3. The next item requires the **number of deposits** made via the CSO point during the 12-month period based on the ranges provided.
- 4. The final item asks for information on the water where where efflent is deposited. Applicants can select one or both of the first two options and the the number of points that corresponds to the selected options will be automatically calculated. For the final component of this question, the user **must** select one of the following options: lake, natural wetland, reservoir, estuary, enclosed bay or other.
- 5. Click on "Go to Next" to continue to the "Result" section

Figure 3-9: Combined Sewer Overflow page (optional)



If a wastewater system does not have combined sewer overflow points, the system will provide the message, "There is no Combined Sewer Overflow" point for your wastewater system. Click "Go to next" to proceed.

Figure 3-10: No Combined Sewer Overflow points message



#### Step 4 - Result

The final step of the transitional authorization process summarizes the Total Points from the Final Discharge Point section and if applicable, the Total Combined Sewer Overflow Points. This page also presents, if and only once issued, the duration of the Transitional Authorizaton for your wastewater system.

Figure 3-11: Total Points summary



The duration of the transitional authorization is based on the number of points as described in the table below.

Table 3-1: Duration of Transtion authorization

Total for Final Discharge Point	Duration
Greater than or equal to 70 points	January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2020
Greater than or equal to 50 points but less than 70	January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2030
Less than 50 points	January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2040

- If your application also includes points for a Combined Sewer Overflow point, a Transitional Authorization will be issued with the duration of **January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2040** if:
  - a) The number of points for a CSO point is greater than or equal to the number of points for the final discharge point and
  - b) The number of points for the final discharge point is greater than or equal to 50 points.
- At this point, you can "Save" or "Save and Submit" the application. If you "Save" the application, the "Approval State" will switch to "Pending". The Transitional Authorization is yet submitted to the Authorization Officer, but you will be able to go back and make edits to the application if required.
  - If you "Save and Submit", you will be directed to the "Submit Application" page to complete the application process.
- 2. In order to submit the application, the **WSER Signing Authority** must select the checkbox beside "I approve this regulatory submission on behalf of ...." And then click on **Submit Form in the lower right of the page.**

Figure 3-12: Submit the application page



 The system will provide a message indicating that you have successfully submitted the Transitional Authorization application along with the date and time stamp. The approval state will also be switched to "Submitted".

Application for Transitional Authorization

You have successfully submitted the Transitional Authorization Application

Owner Information: New Organization-Owner A
Wastewater System: New Wastewater System 1

Approval State: Submitted

Submitted By: FirstName LastName
Date: 2013-09-20

Time: 15:57

Figure 3-13: Confirmation message

Once a transitional authorization application has been submitted, you will not be able to update the content of the application. If you need to make a change to the application, you must contact the Authorization Officer for further instructions.

Version: 2.0.1.821

### 4.0 Transitional Authorization Approval Process

- 1. Once the transitional authorization application is submitted to the Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations Authorization Officer, it will be reviewed to ensure all of the required information was submitted and the modification plans can reasonably be regarded as feasible for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the WSER (see Section 26(1)). The Authorization Officer may contact the applicant for clarification of the information submitted in the application.
- 2. If the Authorization Officer is satisfied that the application meets the criteria set out in Section 26 of the WSER, then a transitional authorization will be issued based on Schedule 4 of the WSER and include the duration of the transitional authorization and the site-specific conditions the applicant must meet (see the document "How to Apply for a Transitional Authorization" for details on how the site-specific conditions are determined).
- 3. The applicant will receive a signed and dated original of the transitional authorization from the Authorization Officer by mail.