

RESPONSE SUMMARY
GENERAL PERMIT 3-9050 FOR OPERATIONAL STORMWATER PERMITTING

DRAFT GENERAL PERMIT 3-9050

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation (Department or DEC), proposes to issue General Permit 3-9050. The Department placed Draft General Permit 3-9050 on public notice from September 20, 2019 through December 2, 2019. The Department held three public meetings during the public comment period.

The Department received both verbal and written comments on draft General Permit 3-9050. The following is a summary of the public comments on the draft permit and the Department's responses to those comments. Comments have been paraphrased and combined where appropriate. Where comments during this public comment period were directed at the "Stormwater Rule," the Department presumes they were intended for draft General Permit 3-9050.

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On the other hand, the Lake Champlain watershed in Vermont is over 8,000 square miles and includes over a hundred municipalities. Unlike in the Long Creek watershed where almost all owners of impervious surface are required to have stormwater permit coverage, in the Lake Champlain watershed the 700 or so "three-acre sites" include, very roughly, under 5% of landowners. In other words, the vast majority of property owners in Vermont are not "three-acre sites" and may lack a compelling reason to participate in any sort of collective approach to stormwater management. Addressing this issue—the potential lack of demand for broader collective solutions—is beyond the scope of both the General Permit and the Stormwater Permitting Rule.