

Q. Dear Dr. Galv: What has been happening with the Group Storm Water Permit for the Galvanizing Industry?

A. The short answer to this question is not much has been happening at the federal level because the revision to the model permit for group applications had to be extensively revised. The EPA was getting ready to release the permit, however, the Fish and Wildlife Commission decided that they needed to review the whole document before it could be published. This process is still underway and will probably take until sometime this summer before the EPA is ready once again to publish a model permit.

In the mean time, the states are operating their own permit programs for storm water. Many of them have decided that they will not accept the Federal Group Permit. In these instances, individual galvanizers will have to apply for permits under their state program. For more information on this, contact the AGA offices.

The first round of permitting was to cover the years of 1992-1997. The second round of permitting will begin some time next year. The EPA expects the states to incorporate the group permit sections in their 1997 guidelines but it will be at the discretion of each individual state.