

Determining Receiving Waters in the State of Nebraska Industrial Storm Water General Permit (ISW-GP) Guidance

Step 1. Determine how run-off will leave the property.

To do this, on-site observations may be necessary in combination with referencing USGS topographical maps. In most cases, run-off will leave the property and enter a conveyance of some sort. This conveyance may be a ditch, storm drain, or an intermittent waterway.



Step 2. Determine the direction this run-off will flow.

Locate a USGS Topographical map for the location. Use the map and the known location of the run-off discharge to determine which stream the run-off would flow to. (Several online resources are available which provide USGS topographical maps in a seamless format, one such resource is ACME Mapper 2.0, available at <http://mapper.acme.com>) Once you have identified at least an intermittent waterway, you will need to trace this waterway to a higher order of stream. You may need to trace the flow for several miles before reaching the solid blue lines which indicate a flowing stream.

(note: the stormwater discharge may not flow to a stream, it is possible that the discharge will flow to a closed basin or a lake. In these instances, the receiving waters should be identified as such.)



Step 3. Determine the receiving stream.

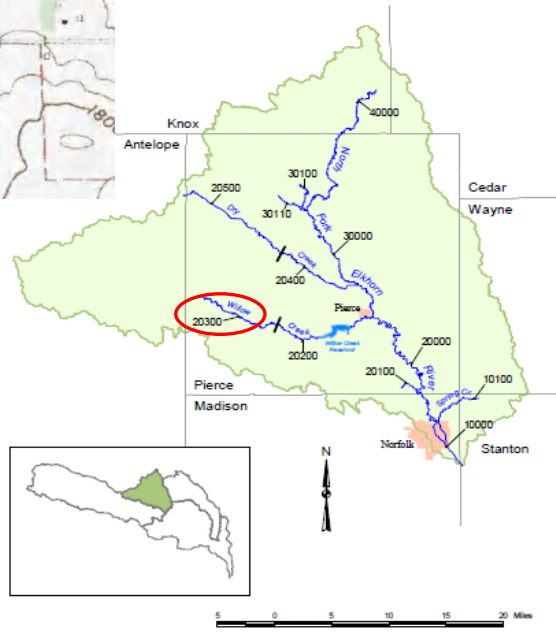
After tracing the flow to a stream, determine the name of the stream. The name of the stream should be identified on the topographical map. After determining the name of the receiving stream, refer to Nebraska State Title 117, Chapter 5 – Stream Classification by Basin. Title 117, Ch. 5 contains maps which outline the major basins in the state, county lines are also identified on these maps.

(note: You will need to compare both the name of the water and the location to assure that you identify the correct receiving stream, multiple streams may be given the same name, i.e. Silver Creek may be the name of 5 different streams throughout the state)

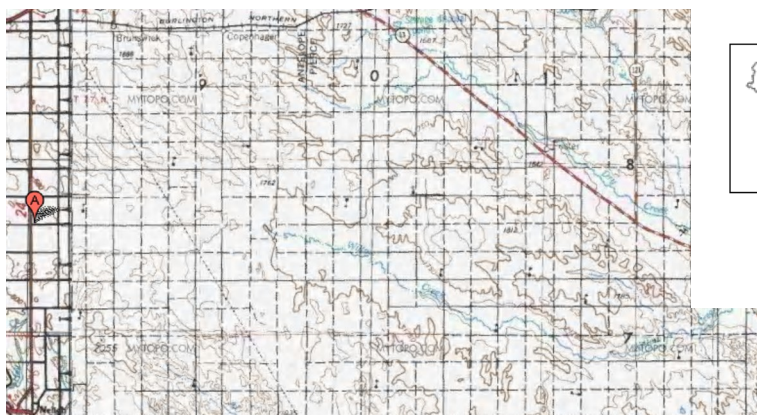
If the stream you identified does not appear in Title 117, you will need to continue to trace the flow to a higher order of stream and compare to Title 117 again. After locating the receiving stream within Title 117, determine the Segment Number from the table.

In this example, the receiving water would be 'Un-designated Tributary of Willow Creek, EL3-20300', or 'Un-des. Trib. of EL3-20300'. It may also be important to know the distance from the discharge point to the designated (numbered) segment as some pollutants degrade during transport.

Before moving to Step 4, determine if the receiving water is identified as a public drinking water supply or a State Resource Water – Class A or B.



Subbasin EL3



Step 3. continued

RIVER BASIN: Elkhorn

Subbasin: EL3

STREAM SEGMENT	SEGMENT NUMBER	USE CLASSIFICATION								COMMENTS
		STATE RESOURCE WATER	RECREATION	AQUATIC LIFE		WATER SUPPLY		AESTHETICS	KEY SPECIES	
				COLDWATER	WARMWATER	PUBLIC DRINKING WATER	AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIAL			
North Fork Elkhorn River - Spring Creek to Elkhorn River	10000		•		A		A		•	
Spring Creek	10100				B		A		•	
North Fork Elkhorn River - Dry Creek to Spring Creek	20000		•		A		A		•	f,i
Hadar Creek	20100				B		A		•	
Willow Creek - Sec 32-26N-3W to North Fork Elkhorn River	20200		•		A		A		•	f,i
Willow Creek - Headwaters to Sec 32-26N-3W	20300		•		A		A		•	f,i
Dry Creek - Sec 33-27N-3W to North Fork Elkhorn River	20400		•		B		A		•	10 Sensitive Species
Dry Creek - Headwaters to Sec 28-27N-3W	20500				B		A		•	10 Sensitive Species
North Fork Elkhorn River - West Branch North Fork Elkhorn River to Dry Creek	30000				B		A		•	

Not a State Resource Water

Not a Public Drinking Water

EL3-20300

Step 4. Determine if the receiving stream has any impairments.

Refer to the latest publicly available Water Quality Integrated Report. (The Integrated Report is published every other year, even numbered, 2010, 2012, 2014. The report may not be publicly available until close to the end of the year based on EPA approval. The latest publicly available version is available from the Department's website.) Determine if the stream is impaired, if so, for what parameters.

Waterbody ID	Waterbody Name	Recreation	Aquatic Life	Public Drinking Water	Agriculture Water Supply	Industrial Water Supply	Aesthetics	Overall Assessment	2008 IR	Impairments	Parameters of Concern	Impaired Monitoring required Not Impaired Monitoring not required Comments/Action
EL2-40300	Perrin Creek								3			
EL3-10000	North Fork Elkhorn River								3			
EL3-10100	Spring Creek								3			
EL3-20000	North Fork Elkhorn River	I	I		S		S	S	5	E. coli Selenium	E. coli, Selenium	Reassessment of aquatic community from 2006
EL3-20100	Hadar Creek								3			
EL3-20200	Willow Creek								3			
EL3-20300	Willow Creek								3			
EL3-20400	Dry Creek	NA	S		NA		NA	S	2			Aquatic community assessment

(Note: In the example used here, the receiving stream is actually 'Un-des. Trib. of EL3-20300', not EL3-20300. The discharge point is several miles from the designated stream. Dischargers located within 1 mile of the designated stream, discharging through a conveyance which discharges to the impaired waterbody should consider themselves discharging to an impaired segment)

Title 117, Chapter 5 & the latest publicly available Water Quality Integrated Report are available on the Department's website at: <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/>

Additional resources are available:

EPA Water Locator Tool: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/tmdltool.cfm>

NDEQ Interactive Mapping Tool: <http://degims.deq.state.ne.us/DEQ/Disclaimer.jsp>

(From the homepage, under Maps & Data)