

DEC Statement issued to WaterFront Oct. 15, 2018

DEC is charged with protecting the State's vast natural resources. New York's agricultural community depends on a clean environment and understand the critical importance of protecting our natural resources.

New York's CAFO permits were developed with significant input from the agricultural and environmental communities. These permits have many requirements designed to ensure proper management of nutrients and prevent surface runoff and groundwater infiltration in order to protect water quality. The ECL permit includes provisions that go beyond those of the CWA permit and is more environmentally protective. The ECL CAFO permit is due to expire in 2022, at which time the state will consider revisions to the terms of that permit.

Regardless of the type of CAFO permit, permitted facilities are required to report manure spills and overflows to the DEC Regional office within 24 hours and submit a CAFO incident report within 5 business days of becoming aware of the discharge or overflow. DEC investigates these spills to evaluate potential violations and environmental and public health impacts. Manure spill reports are also sometimes reported to DEC's Spills hotline after normal business hours and on weekends.