

NON-CONTACT COOLING WATER
ANTIDegradation EXEMPTION

The exemption regarding non-contact cooling water in the 8-4-08 draft antidegradation rule is the following:

(11) A new or increased discharge of noncontact cooling water that will not do the following:

(A) Increase the temperature of the receiving water or waters outside of the designated mixing zone, where applicable.

(B) Increase the loading of BCCs.

(C) Require numeric water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs) for toxic substances or WET as determined under 327 IAC 5-2-11.5.

This exemption is in the existing rule found at 327 IAC 5-2-11.3(b)(1)(C)(iii)(HH). To qualify for this exemption, the discharger must demonstrate that all three conditions are met. IDEM conducts a review of the information to confirm that the proposed new or increased loading of heat meets all three conditions as follows:

(A) A computerized model is used to determine if an increase in the temperature of the discharge will result in an increase in the temperature at the edge of the mixing zone. If the model shows that the temperature will be increased at the edge of the mixing zone, then this exemption no longer applies.

(B) There must not be any increase in the loading of a BCC to the receiving stream. This exemption only applies to a discharger that withdraws their source water from the same body of water because there is not an increase in loading to the receiving stream unless the discharger takes a deliberate action to increase the loading of a BCC. If the discharger uses a source of water other than the receiving stream, then the discharger will be increasing the loading of Mercury to the receiving stream and this exemption will not apply.

(C) If the discharger uses a toxic chemical that has numeric water quality criteria to calculate a WQBEL, such as chlorine or bromine, then the permit may contain WQBELs effluent limits for a toxic substance and this exemption will not apply.

If the discharger is required to conduct whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing as required by 327 IAC 5-2-11.5, then this exemption will not apply.

This exemption applies to a discharger on a large stream or to Lake Michigan where the thermal mixing zone is large, the water source is the receiving stream and they do not use any toxic chemicals that require a WQBEL or WET testing.