



National Association of Conservation Districts

Stormwater Management

NATIONAL

US Environmental Protection Agency – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater

Stormwater discharges are generated by runoff from land and impervious areas such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops during rainfall and snow events that often contain pollutants in quantities that could adversely affect water quality. Many stormwater discharges are considered point sources and require coverage under an NPDES permit, including Municipal Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), construction activity, and industrial facilities.

The municipal stormwater program covers more than 6000 communities across the country - home to over 197 million people or 70% of the U.S. population. Municipalities are responsible for developing and implementing comprehensive stormwater programs that: educate citizens, manage construction sites, implement permanent stormwater controls, track down illicit discharges, and more. The construction stormwater program requires operators of construction sites one acre or larger (including smaller sites that are part of a larger common plan of development) to obtain authorization to discharge stormwater under an NPDES construction stormwater permit. The construction stormwater program covers an estimated 400,000 sites nationally each year. The industrial stormwater program requires approximately 100,000 industrial facilities to develop and implement stormwater pollution prevention plans at their facilities.

The stormwater program is, generally, a pollution prevention program and relies on a combination of structural controls or Best Management Practices (BMPs) (e.g. silt fence, wet ponds, bioretention, etc.) and non-structural controls (e.g. street sweeping, good housekeeping, etc.) to prevent contamination of stormwater runoff.

The Water Permits Division (WPD) within the US EPA's Office of Wastewater Management leads and manages the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program in partnership with EPA Regional Offices, states, tribes, and other stakeholders. To ensure the NPDES permit program is effective, WPD performs a wide variety of activities, including: shaping the direction of the national NPDES permit program; producing policies and regulations; developing technical and administrative tools to support permit issuance; tracking and managing critical information related to permit issuance, permit quality, and point source pollution abatement; overseeing the programs managed by the states and regional offices; and providing access to information on NPDES permitting to promote increased awareness and involvement in the NPDES permitting process.

STATE

State NPDES Stormwater Programs

www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/authorizationstatus

Most states have been authorized to implement the NPDES stormwater program, which means they assume permitting authority in lieu of EPA. Most stormwater sources are regulated under "general permits" which are "umbrella" permits that cover all activities in a certain category (e.g. all construction activities in a given state). Operators of regulated facilities should read the general permit, determine if they are eligible for coverage and file a form, often called a "notice of intent," to gain permit coverage. For the list of state NPDES contacts, go to www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwatercontacts.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

EPA's National Menu of BMPs

www.epa.gov/npdes/menuofbmps

Over 120 fact sheets on all aspects of the stormwater program. These fact sheets cover a multitude of program issues, concepts, and BMPs.

Stormwater Phase II Fact Sheet Series

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swfinal.cfm>

This series of plain English fact sheets explains the features of the Phase II rule that covers Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) and Construction sites.

EPA's Nonpoint Source Website

www.epa.gov/owow/nps

This website contains valuable information for urban stormwater managers, including the Urban Management Measures document and the NPS Outreach Toolbox

Center for Watershed Protection

www.cwp.org

The CWP is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation that provides local governments, activists, and watershed organizations around the country with the technical tools for protecting some of the nation's most precious natural resources: our streams, lakes and rivers.

Stormwater Manager's Resource Center

www.stormwatercenter.net

This CWP-sponsored site is designed specifically for stormwater practitioners, local government officials and others that need technical assistance on stormwater management issues.

EPA's Green Infrastructure Website

www.epa.gov/npdes/greeninfrastructure

This website highlights a new partnership effort to promote "green infrastructure" techniques that use natural features and processes to manage stormwater close to where it falls and encourage infiltration.

GETTING YOUR DISTRICTS INVOLVED

Nationwide, conservation districts' roles in stormwater management range from outreach and education to conservation planning to site reviews to enforcement. Here are suggested steps if they are not engaged or wish to become more so.

- ✓ Visit with your state lead agency about urban stormwater management programs and resources, and learn how districts can contribute.
- ✓ Work with your state agency and EPA to educate your districts about stormwater management programs, resources, and how these complement their conservation goals and services.
- ✓ Help your districts educate key decision-makers and others about stormwater management requirements and needs.
- ✓ Encourage district employees to seek training and certification in stormwater management.
- ✓ Partner with local governments (MS4s) to assist in the development and implementation of the stormwater management program.