



BUREAU OF NONPOINT POLLUTION CONTROL
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
MUNICIPAL STORMWATER REGULATION PROGRAM
Improving Water Quality and the Quality of Life**

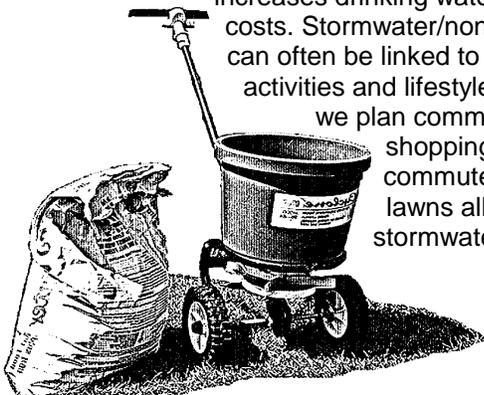
Background

As result of USEPA's Phase II rules published in December 1999, the Department has developed the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program. This program addresses pollutants entering our waters from certain storm drainage systems owned or operated by local, county, state, interstate, or federal government agencies. These systems are called "municipal separate storm sewer systems" (MS4s). The Department's Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program will be issuing NJPDES permits to municipalities throughout the state, public complexes, and highway systems. Public complexes include large public colleges, prisons and hospital complexes. Highway systems include those operated by counties or by entities such as the NJ Department of Transportation, NJ Turnpike Authority, and the South Jersey Transportation Authority.

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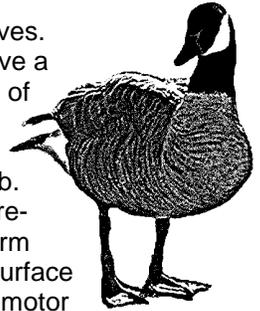
Why is this happening ?

It is now believed that stormwater/nonpoint sources are the largest remaining major source of pollutants in our waters. It is estimated that up to 60% of our existing water pollution problems are attributable to stormwater/nonpoint pollution. The quality of our surface waters has a direct correlation to the health of our ecosystems and the quality of our lives. Opportunities to engage in boating, swimming and fishing are diminished if water quality is impaired. Impaired water quality impacts shellfish production, tourism at beaches and coastal communities, and increases drinking water treatment costs. Stormwater/nonpoint pollution can often be linked to our daily activities and lifestyles. The way we plan communities, build shopping centers, commute, and maintain lawns all impact stormwater quality.



Many times people do not know or

understand that there are alternatives. For example, homeowners can have a green lawn without massive doses of fertilizers and pesticides; pet owners should dispose of pet waste properly and not leave it at the curb. Often there is a lack of public awareness. People are unaware that storm drains often discharge directly to surface water bodies. When people allow motor oil, trash, and their pet's waste to enter the storm sewer in their street, they don't realize that it may end up in the lake down the block. Individually these acts may



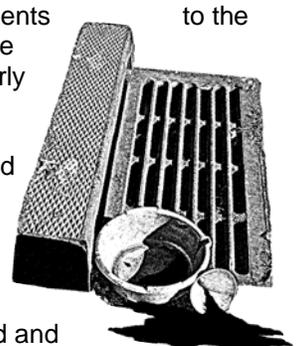
seem insignificant, but the cumulative impacts of these activities contribute to stormwater/nonpoint source pollution and reduce water quality.

USEPA and the State of NJ realize the critical importance of substantially

reducing stormwater/nonpoint pollutant contributions into the waters of the state. Phase II of the Stormwater Permitting Program attempts to do just that through the implementation of best management practices including public education.

Who does this affect?

USEPA's Phase II Rules, which implement Section 402(p)(6) of the Federal Clean Water Act, were published December 8, 1999. The Department has adopted amendments to the NJPDES Rules in response to these regulations. By March 3, 2004 nearly all of New Jersey's municipalities; State, county and interstate transportation entities; and large public complexes were required to apply for NJPDES permits.



How will this happen?

The Department has developed and implemented the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program with the input from members of the regulated community, affected governmental agencies, and the

public. An advisory group has been established which includes representatives from municipalities and groups such as the NJ State League of Municipalities, NJ County Planners Association and the Association of NJ Environmental Commissions. A Best Management Practice Subcommittee has also been formed which includes representatives of municipal and county public works departments, highway authorities, and NJDOT.

Permit Requirements

On February 2, 2004 the Department issued, as final, four general permits: the Tier A Stormwater Permit (Tier A Permit); the Tier B Stormwater Permit (Tier B Permit); the Public Complex Stormwater Permit (Public Complex Permit); and the Highway Stormwater Permit (Highway Permit). The Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program has assigned New Jersey municipalities into Tier A or Tier B. Tier A Municipalities are generally located within the more densely populated regions of the state or along or near the coast. Tier B municipalities are generally located in more rural areas and in non-coastal regions.

The permits address stormwater quality issues related to new and existing development and redevelopment by requiring the preparation of a stormwater program and implementation of specific permit requirements referred to as Statewide Basic Requirements (SBRs). SBRs may also require the permittee to implement related best management practices (BMPs). All SBRs and related BMPs contain minimum standards, measurable goals, and implementation schedules. New development and redevelopment is addressed, in part, by requiring municipalities to adopt and enforce a stormwater management plan and ordinance in accordance with the Department's Stormwater Management Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8. Existing development is addressed through broad topics including: Local Public Education, Improper Disposal of Waste, Solids and Floatable Controls, Maintenance Yard Operations and Employee Training. For more specific information on SBRs please refer to the appropriate SBR summary sheet for each permit.

The Tier A Permit, Tier B Permit, Public Complex Permit

and Highway Permit may require the implementation of Additional Measures (AMs). AMs are measures that may modify or be in addition to the SBRs required by the permits, and whose inclusion in a stormwater program may be required by an adopted areawide or statewide Water Quality Management Plan (WQM plan). The Tier A Permit, Public Complex Permit and Highway Permit allow for Optional Measures (OMs), which are recommended ways to further enhance a stormwater program and improve water quality.

Deadline for Applying for a Permit, and How to Apply

Under New Jersey's NJPDES rules

(N.J.A.C. 7:14A) the deadline to apply was March 3, 2004. The Department will mail affected parties the appropriate general permit, and a Request for

Authorization (RFA) form (a form used for applying for a general permit). The RFA is a simple one page form with a certification, which may be completed in a few minutes. In accordance with each general permit, the RFA requests only the most basic information. The Department will not take enforcement action for failure to comply with the USEPA deadline of March 10, 2003 against those who comply with the NJPDES deadline.

Global Perspective

The Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program is a critical component of the broader watershed management based initiatives being undertaken by the Department, as well as other States. These initiatives will protect drinking water, ensure that healthy ecosystems exist in the future, and the residents of New Jersey enjoy a sustained quality of life.

More Information

Additional information, including copies of the adopted NJPDES rule amendments and the general permits can be found at the website address below. If you have additional questions please contact Bruce Friedman, Project Manager for the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program at (609) 633-7021 or by email at Bruce.Friedman@dep.state.nj.us.



BMPs are designed to control or minimize stormwater/nonpoint source pollution and improve water quality.

How Do I Get More Information?

For further information, write to:
NJDEP - Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
PO Box 029
Trenton, NJ 08625-0029

or check our website at:
www.njstormwater.org

