



Department of Environmental Protection

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Charles D. Baker
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Commissioner

MAPD MS4 Backgrounder 4/15/16

WHY IS STORMWATER AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE?

Stormwater is the single largest source of water pollution statewide

- Over past decades we've reduced much of the pollution from industries and wastewater treatment plants
- Yet our data show that many rivers streams lakes and ponds are still too polluted
- And they show that the single largest source of pollution is stormwater

Rainfall washes pollutants off roofs, roads, parking lots into storm drains

- The storm drains go directly to rivers, streams, lakes and ponds
- unlike sewer systems, there is NO TREATMENT provided in storm drains

WHAT IS THIS NPDES MS4 PERMIT?

Since 2003 EPA has required about 2/3 of the largest MA Towns to get a municipal stormwater permit

- Called MS4 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
- this is a "general permit" with the same requirements for those 240 Towns
- exceptions: Boston and Worcester are large cities with their own individual stormwater permits

On Wednesday April 13, 2016 EPA issued a successor to the 2003 permit

- has been under development by EPA since 2010
- Requirements kick in on July 1, 2017
- Notices of Intent (NOIs) due on or before September 29, 2017
- Requires Towns to meet over 200 separate reporting requirements and actions
- Inside/outside the "urbanized area"
- Requirements kick in over time
- Annual Reports
- Still to come: DOT and DCR permits

This information is available in alternate format. Call Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Diversity Director, at 617-292-5751. TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

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Structure of permit

- Six minimum control measures
 - Public Participation
 - Public Outreach
 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
 - Construction sedimentation and erosion control
 - Post- Construction rules for New Developments and Redevelopments
 - “Good Housekeeping” for Town facilities
- Additional actions for “impaired waters” and “TMDLs”

Some Implications of the MS4 permit

- Impels municipal work across the silos
- Who leads? Who participates?
- Significantly increased reporting requirements and performance standards
- Requires changes in local bylaws
 - Planning? Subdivision? Building? ZBA? Con Comm? Others?
- Specifies land use planning as a stormwater pollution reduction tool
 - Section 2.3.6 pp. 43-47
 - Post-Construction section project rules
 - “retention on site”: Federal vs. state vs. local standards
 - Offsite credits
 - Street and parking lot rules and design
 - Assess local regs for allowing “green infrastructure”
 - 5 muni-owned sites suitable for “retrofits”

FOR MORE INFORMATION

MassDEP Stormwater Coordinator, Fred Civian 617-292-5821, Frederick.Civian@state.ma.us

MS4 Home Page: https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/MS4_MA.html

The Permit: https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/MS4_MA.html

Other topics: stormwater utilities/regional SW coalitions/RDAs/trading credits/TMDLs

INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOPS IN THE SPRING

Western Massachusetts (Co-Sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission)

May 9, 2016 9:30 - 11:30 am

Southeastern/Cape Cod Massachusetts (Co-sponsored by the Cape Cod Commission)

May 18, 2016 12:30 - 2 pm

Northeastern Massachusetts (Co-sponsored by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission)

May 19, 2016 8 - 10am

Central Massachusetts (Co-sponsored by the 495/MetroWest Partnership)

May 24, 2016 8:30 - 10:30am

Boston Area

June 6, 2016 9am - 12pm