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# Small MS4 Stormwater Program Overview

## Informational Bulletin No. 1

### Phase II (MS4) Stormwater Program

#### Hanover County, Virginia

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Polluted stormwater runoff is often transported to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and ultimately discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. EPA's Stormwater Phase II rule requires an MS4 stormwater management program that is intended to improve the nation's waterways by reducing the quantity of pollutants that storm water picks up and carries into storm sewer systems. Common pollutants include oil and grease from roadways, pesticides from lawns, sediment from construction sites, and carelessly discarded trash, such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, and plastic bottles. When deposited into nearby waterways through MS4s discharges, these pollutants can impair the waterways, thereby discouraging recreational use of the resource, contaminating drinking water supplies, and interfering with the habitat for fish, other aquatic organisms, and wildlife.

In 1990, EPA promulgated rules establishing Phase I of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater program. The Phase I program for MS4s requires operator's of "medium" and "large" MS4s, that is, those that generally serve populations of 100,000 or greater, to implement a stormwater management program as a means to control polluted discharges from these MS4s. The Stormwater Phase II Rule extends coverage of the NPDES stormwater program to certain "small" MS4s but takes a slightly lesser approach to how the stormwater management program is developed and implemented.

#### What are the County's Phase II Small MS4 Program Requirements?

Hanover County's Phase II small MS4 program is designed to:

- Reduce the discharge of pollutants to the "Maximum Extent Practicable"
- Protect water quality, and
- Satisfy the requirements of the Clean water Act

The Phase II Rule defines a small MS4 stormwater management program as a program comprised of six elements that, when implemented in concert, are expected to result in significant reductions of pollutants discharged into receiving water bodies.

Hanover County's six MS4 program elements, termed "minimum control measures", are summarized below:

#### 1. Public Education and Outreach

Implement a public education program to distribute educational materials to the community or to conduct equivalent outreach activities about the impact of stormwater discharges on water bodies and the steps the public can take to reduce pollution in stormwater runoff. This includes providing information on the County's MS4 program on the Department of Public Work's website, housing a library of reference materials, and presenting information through County seminar programs.

#### 2. Public Involvement and Participation

Comply with applicable state, tribal and local public requirements when implementing the stormwater management program. This includes conducting public meetings and/or hearings as part of the County's ordinance adoption process.

**3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

Develop a storm sewer system map, showing the location of major outfalls and the names and location of all surface waters that receive discharges from those outfalls; by ordinance, prohibit non-stormwater and illicit discharges into the storm sewer system and implement appropriate enforcement procedures and actions; develop and implement a plan to detect and address non-stormwater discharges, including illegal dumping to the storm sewer system; and inform public employees, businesses, and the general public of hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper waste disposal. This includes field locating and taking inventory of major outfalls, adopting an illicit discharge ordinance prohibiting non-stormwater discharges, developing and implementing a screening and inspection program to detect the presence of non-stormwater discharges, providing information on the Department of Public Work's website about the impact of illicit discharges, and continue to promote the County's recycling and household hazardous waste collection programs.

**4. Construction Site Runoff Control**

Develop, implement, and enforce Erosion and Sediment Control and Chesapeake Bay Preservation programs for construction activities that disturb 10,000 square feet or more of land or 2,500 square feet or more of land in a designated Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area. This includes modifications to existing County ordinances and continued enforcement of these programs, as well as implementing the tracking of all applicable land disturbing activities.

**5. Post-Construction Runoff Control**

Develop, implement, and enforce Chesapeake Bay Preservation and County Stormwater Management programs for post-construction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. This includes modifications to existing County ordinances and continued enforcement of these programs, as well as requiring private owner maintenance agreements for Best Management Practices (BMPs) and the tracking of permanent BMPs.

**6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations**

Develop and implement a program with the goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations. This includes training of County staff on pollution prevention measures and techniques, and developing operation and maintenance plans for County facilities that discharge stormwater to the MS4 and those that have operations that create the potential for adverse water quality impacts.

**Where can I obtain additional information on the County's MS4 program?**

If you are interested in learning more about the County's MS4 program or what you can do to prevent pollution to the County's water bodies, please contact the Hanover County Department of Public Works at (804) 365-6181. Additional information about other County Environmental Programs may be obtained at <http://www.co.hanover.va.us/works/envirmnt.htm>