

WSDOT Reissued a Stormwater Permit in 2014

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) permit authorizes the discharge of stormwater to waters of the State of Washington from municipal separate storm sewers owned or operated by WSDOT. Land uses covered include highways, maintenance facilities, ferry terminals, and rest areas. Ecology last issued this permit in 2009. The major changes between the 2009 permit and the 2014 permit are summarized below.

Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) Appendix 5

WSDOT's SWMP contains core requirements such as mapping, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction stormwater pollution prevention, stormwater management for new facilities, stormwater treatment retrofits for existing facilities, maintenance, staff training and public education and outreach. Ecology worked with WSDOT and key stakeholders to refine SWMP core requirements and remove redundant, outdated back ground information. In addition, the 2014 SWMP:

- Adds a notification and remediation response procedures for traffic accident related spills to Section 3.
- Eliminates the requirement in Section 5 for consultation with NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife for projects where ESA § 7 consultation is not a federal requirement. Since its inclusion in the 2010 WSDOT permit amendment, it only applied to one project and the Services had no comment on that project. The likelihood of the Services expending their limited resources to review and comment on projects lying outside of their federal purview is low.
- Adds TMDL-triggered stormwater retrofits to WSDOT's stormwater facilities retrofit program in Section 6.

WSDOT's Highway Runoff Manual (HRM)

WSDOT's HRM, incorporated as Appendix 1 of the permit, provides design standards required for development and redevelopment projects statewide. 2014 updates include:

- Low Impact Development (LID) designs incorporated where feasible for WSDOT facilities and road projects (Chapter 5).
- Guidance added for determining LID feasibility in Chapters 4 and 5

WHY IT MATTERS

Stormwater in urban waterways is Washington's lead water quality problem.



MORE INFORMATION

Ecology solicited public comment on the Draft Permit, Fact Sheet and Appendices from Nov. 6, 2013 until Jan.10, 2014.

Ecology hosted a public workshop on the Draft Permit on January 8, 2014, at Department of Ecology 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503 360 407-6000

For more information:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/wsdot.html

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- Best management practices (BMP) updated to reflect changes approved by Ecology since the last HRM revision. WSDOT submitted technical evaluation reports and white papers through Ecology's new technology assessment process (TAPE) to modify the Media Filter Drain (MFD) and Continuous Inflow Biofiltration Swale (CIBS) BMPs. The MFD and CIBS BMP design guidance was updated in the draft HRM to reflect the anticipated approved changes.
- Chapter 6 replaced with a new manual called Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control Manual (TESCM). Chapter 6 now introduces the TESCM and provides a web link to this new standalone manual. Chapter 6 of the HRM dealt with the design and inspection of temporary BMPs used during construction. These activities are covered under the NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit (CSGP). The CSGP permit is issued separately and at a different time than the NPDES MS4 permit. Because of the timing differences, timely updates to Chapter 6 were difficult. To remedy the situation, Chapter 6 was replaced by a new standalone TESCM. Chapter 6 now has a link to and information about the new manual.
- Edits to make the HRM clear to designers how to design functional stormwater systems. Information, such as regulatory, policy, and background information not needed for designers, was moved to appendices or removed from the manual. The regulatory and policy information necessary for project offices was transferred to the WSDOT Environmental Manual (formerly the Environmental Procedures Manual).

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Allocations - also called Water Clean-up Plans

The permit requires compliance with implementation actions assigned to WSDOT in applicable TMDLs. Ecology updated TMDL related action items and added EPA's newly approved TMDLs in S6 and Appendix 3, and clarified that for TMDLs listed in Part 1 and Part 2 of Appendix 3, compliance with the TMDL waste load allocation requires compliance with the action items identified in Appendix 3, in addition to applying the HRM in the TMDL area. Ecology eliminated the 18 month TMDL re-opener as it involved a lot of work for very minimal gain, but retains the authority to modify the permit as needed.

Monitoring

The 2014 permit continues the monitoring program for baseline stormwater discharge information from highway conveyances and BMP effectiveness. An end date is specified for the on-going baseline monitoring in September 2014 (S7.B). Toxicity testing requirements are eliminated. WSDOT completed the toxicity testing requirements in the 2009 permit and, after reviewing the test results, Ecology found information gained to be minimal. The 2014 requires inclusion of WSDOT in the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program for the status and trend monitoring in Puget Sound (S7. E).

Definitions

Ecology updated definitions for consistency with the definitions in the Phase I and II permits.