

Thornbury Township's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) Permit and Reporting Responsibilities

NPDES PHASE II

The acronym stands for National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems. This is a stormwater management program developed by the state offices of the Department Of Environmental Protection to address pollution and flooding. State laws require municipalities to obtain state permits, and to strictly regulate water quality and quantity from construction sites, new development, illegal dumping to storm sewer systems and to educate the public (residents and business owners) on the importance of pollution prevention. One aspect of the NPDES Phase II requirements is the MS4 program.

The MS4 Program in Thornbury Township

Under PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) rules the Township now has the responsibility of completing an annual report and submitting it to the PA DEP for review.

This annual report addresses 6 Minimum Control Measures (MCM) that the Township must demonstrate compliance with at the end of each permitting year.

MCM # 1: Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Impacts

The Township is required to reach out to its residents to inform them of storm water issues in the Township. Keep an eye out in your mailings, on our website, and in the Township Newsletter, "Take a Gander" for the latest and greatest storm water information!

MCM # 2: Public Involvement and Participation Plan

The Township is required to put together a plan to solicit the Township's residents into helping with storm water related issues. Such activities include stream clean ups, storm water outfall monitoring and storm drain stenciling. Please see our website for more information.

MCM # 3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDD&E)

The Township is required to map all stormwater outfalls that discharge any Township "owned" stormwater. This includes water that runs off of Township maintained roads, right-of-ways, or other owned property. If you have a stormwater outfall near or on your property you may have seen a representative of our engineering firm Yerkes Associates,

Inc. measuring, taking photos and notes at the outfall. Also if that outfall has constant flows of water that water must be tested for water quality including, fecal coliform, phosphates, detergents, chlorine, phenols, copper, pH, and temperature. Rest assured all of our outfalls with constant flows have been tested once and have come back clean!

DEP's regulations require us to do this twice during the 5-year permitting period, so if you see our engineering firm out testing and screening outfalls do not be alarmed, in fact, if you please, stop and say "Hi".

Part of MCM 3 also requires that the Township pass an ordinance to help satisfy this MCM. The Township's ordinance 2003-11 based on a Watershed Plan for the Chester Creek has been adopted and aimed at addressing IDD&E issues.

MCM # 4: Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

The Township is required to implement an ordinance, implement regulation of Erosion and Sedimentation Control plans, provide education and outreach for developers and builders, control construction site waste, and implement procedures for the receipt and consideration of information submitted by Township residents.

MCM # 5: Post-construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment

The Township is required to implement an ordinance and to ensure that all Post Construction Stormwater Best Management Practices are built as designed and operated and maintained properly.

MCM # 6: Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

The Township is required to implement an operation, maintenance, inspection and repair program for all municipally owned storm water facilities, implement a pollution prevention operation and maintenance program for all municipal vehicles and equipment, and conduct training for appropriate municipal employees.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTINUE BROWSING OUR WEBSITE UNDER THE STORMWATER INFO LINK