



City of Cañon City

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October 2008 Stormwater Management Program News

First I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. I am Glenda DeBekker and I am the new Stormwater Technician for the City of Cañon City as of October 13. I will be continuing the programs the City and the former technician began and look forward to working with each and every one of you to ensure a smooth transition. I will be happy to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have. Please feel free to contact me by phone, 276-5265, or by email at grdebekker@canoncity.org. In the following newsletters I will continue addressing the City of Cañon City's Stormwater Program components individually. If you have any ideas or subjects you would like to see specifically addressed please contact me. Now, on to the actual newsletter.

Where are the stormwater regulations enforced and not enforced?

These are the topics that will be covered in this final edition of the 2008 quarterly newsletter. As a recap, the topic of the first issue covered the "Why?" of the stormwater program. As pointed out in that issue, stormwater discharges from urbanized areas are considered pollution sources and therefore the EPA requires coverage by a permit, a condition of which is the implementation of a prescribed program to reduce pollutants in runoff. The second issue covered how funding is generated to pay for the stormwater program. The third issue addressed how that funding is used.

The question of where the City's stormwater regulations are enforced also encompasses the question of who is affected by these regulations. The simplest answer to this question is: Everyone located within the incorporated limits of Cañon City. Citizens, Businesses, Industries and the City of Cañon City itself. So, by default, the stormwater regulations are not enforced by the City outside of the city limits.

Now for the more detailed answer. As has been mentioned in previous issues, the City of Cañon City is issued a Stormwater Permit from the State of Colorado. In order to be in compliance with the permit there are six Minimum Control Measures (MCM) that must be met. These are: 1) Public Education and Information; 2) Public Involvement; 3) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination; 4) Construction Site Stormwater Management; 5) Post-Construction Stormwater Management; and 6) Municipal Operations Pollution Prevention. MCM's 3 – 6 require regulations which must be enforced and are explained in a little more detail below. As mentioned previously, subsequent issues of this newsletter will delve into each component individually.

MCM 3) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination:

This is the detection of unauthorized pollutants in the stormwater system and the removal of any found from the system. An illicit discharge is defined by the Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) as any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer (MS4) stormdrain that is not composed entirely of

stormwater and that has not been authorized under a discharge permit issued by the State of Colorado. These discharges can enter the storm system either through direct connections or indirect connections. Direct connections are from wastewater piping either mistakenly or deliberately connected to the storm drains. Indirect connections are from spills and materials dumped directly into a stormdrain. These discharges can result in stormwater that may have high concentrations of pollutants reaching our area's existing waterbodies leading to a degradation of water quality and threatening aquatic life, wildlife and our own health.

Some examples of illicit discharges include sanitary wastewater from improper sewer connections or leaking connections, leakage from improperly operating or designed septic tank systems and overflows from sanitary sewer systems. Other sources can include wastewaters from commercial car washes, radiator flushing, laundries, washing of concrete trucks, spills from roadways and other accidents, improper oil disposal and leaky underground storage tanks. The City's regulations provide for the sampling of suspected illicit discharges that have been reported by the public, City Staff or found through monitoring of the stormwater system, as well as the elimination of the discharges. Elimination of the discharge is accomplished by tracking its source and working with the person, business or industry responsible to remove it. More detailed information can be found in the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Manual on the city's website: www.canoncity.org/Utilities/Stormwater.htm.

MCM 4) and 5) Construction Site and Post-construction Stormwater Management:

Development and redevelopment (commercial, residential and municipal) provide the best opportunity to reduce the impacts on stormwater associated with increased runoff from growth and urbanization. To be in compliance with the City of Cañon City's stormwater permit from the State of Colorado there are regulations and procedures that must be met during and after construction. All construction and redevelopment which disturbs one acre or more of land or, if it disturbs less than one acre but is part of a larger project, is subject to the regulations and procedures detailed in the Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control (GESC) Manual. Also, any project determined to have a potential impact on the health, safety or welfare of the public or environment may be affected by the stormwater regulations. The regulations are designed to reduce or eliminate the chance of pollutants and excess sediment, which is considered by the EPA as a priority pollutant, of getting into our water ways and affecting aquatic life, wildlife and our own health. These procedures and regulations are detailed in the (GESC) Manual which can be obtained by visiting the city's website at www.canoncity.org/Utilities/Stormwater.htm.

MCM 6) Municipal Operations Pollution Prevention:

City facilities are not immune to the stormwater regulations. They are inspected annually and are held to pollution reduction and prevention regulations for runoff from their operations. Appropriate staff is trained to recognize potential discharges and instructed in construction stormwater runoff management.

Please consider that the responsibility for keeping our City's and State's waterways clean for all to enjoy ultimately falls to everyone in the choices they make.

In keeping with the intent of the program's Public Education, Outreach & Participation component, especially participation, please feel free to direct any further questions to Glenda DeBekker, City of Cañon City Stormwater Program at either grdebekker@canoncity.org or 276-5265.