



City of Cañon City

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Fourth Quarter 2014 Stormwater Management Program News

STATE NEWS:

Stormwater Permit Renewal Update

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has finished reviewing the comments received on the draft renewal Phase II General Stormwater Permit. A revised draft has been written and reviewed by the Water Quality Control Division. The Division has decided to postpone the second Public Comment period until next spring while they review the stakeholder and public participation process to ensure that all interested parties have the opportunity and ability to participate. The revised draft will be posted on the City of Cañon City's website when it is available.

Clean Water Fee Structure

CDPHE has been hosting a series of stakeholder meetings in regards to the fee structure for various water quality discharge permits and programs. The fee structure for permits issued by the Water Quality Control Division (Division) Clean Water Program is set by Colorado statute and has been since 1983. Fees collected are deposited into the State's General Fund for distribution among several different State programs. The Division is proposing that the fee structure for water quality permits and programs be removed from the statute allowing the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) to set the fees for the various funds, categories and subcategories of the Clean Water Program. The Division's intent is to allow for greater flexibility in addressing emerging needs, customer demands and establishing new fees or eliminating obsolete fees without having to engage in the formal legislative process currently required to adjust fees and fund balances to cover program costs. Earlier this year the Joint Budget Committee introduced Senate Bill 14-134 for this purpose. The bill has been postponed indefinitely while the Division solicits stakeholder input in the effort to modernize the fee structure and make the Clean Water Program sustainable. For more information, visit the Clean Water Fee Structure Stakeholder Process website at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/clean-water-fee-structure-discussion>.

Sediment Guidance Policy 98-1

CDPHE Policy 98-1 *Implementation Guidance for Determining Sediment Deposition Impacts to Aquatic Life in Streams and Rivers* (in accordance with the narrative sediment standard contained in the WQCC Regulation 31: The Basic Standards and Methodologies for Surface Water 5 CCR 1002-31) expires at the end of this year. The policy is designed to provide guidance for evaluating the State's surface waters' attainment of the narrative (non-numeric) sediment standard. The policy has been undergoing review by a Technical Advisory Committee with stakeholder input to update the methodologies in the guidance. A Public Administrative Action Hearing on the revised policy was held on November 10. To view the policy and comments received prior to the hearing please visit the CDPHE's website at ftp://ft.dphe.state.co.us/wqc/wqcc/98-1SedimentPolicyAAH_2014/.

FEDERAL NEWS:

Waters of the United States Proposed Rule

In April of this year the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) published a proposed rule change to the definition of the "Waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act in the Federal Register. Due to U.S. Supreme Court cases challenging the agencies' interpretation of the Waters of the U.S., they have proposed the changes with the purposes of ensuring protection of the nation's aquatic resources and to make the process of identifying Waters of the U.S. less complicated and more efficient. The proposed rule redefines the existing definition of Waters of the U.S. and adds definitions of several terms. The agencies have held public meetings, teleconferences and webinars explaining the changes and accepted comments on the proposed rule change until November 14, 2014. Many feel this rule change will actually expand the numbers of Waters of the U.S. and will create more uncertainty as to which waters are covered and which are not. To view the proposed rule change and associated documents visit the EPA's website at <http://www2.epa.gov/uswaters/documents-related-proposed-definition-waters-united-states-under-clean-water-act>.

LOCAL NEWS:

Highway 50/Royal Gorge Blvd

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) began milling and applying a new overlay on Highway 50 through town this fall. During this process the storm pipes and inlets were replaced from 10th Street to 14th Street. In anticipation of the project the City replaced storm pipes south of Highway 50 at 11th and 13th Streets. The outlets of these pipes were lowered to facilitate drainage. CDOT also adjusted the height of the storm sewer manhole lids from 4th Street to 9th Street.

City of Cañon City Projects

Projects on 10th and 11th Streets south of Highway 50, Industrial Street, Greydene Avenue and East Main Street, Main Street at 4th Street and on South Street east of Field Avenue have all included storm sewer improvements. Improvements in storm drainage are also planned this winter for Myrtle Lane to alleviate a local flooding issue.

Dawson Ranch

The City of Cañon City Engineer and Stormwater Program have been meeting with members of the Dawson Ranch Home Owner's Association to identify and prioritize solutions to local flooding. The HOA members have formed committees tasked with presenting prioritized areas to the City Engineer for consideration of potential future improvements.

Public Service Announcements on KRLN

The Stormwater Program has been working with KRLN Radio Station to develop a new series of stormwater announcements. The first three began airing on October 23. We will continue to develop new ones to air in the spring and summer of 2015.

2015 Regional Stormwater Seminar

The City of Cañon City, the City of Pueblo, Pueblo County and Pueblo West Metro District are hosting a stormwater educational seminar on Thursday February 5, 2015 at the Colorado State Fairgrounds in Pueblo. The seminar will run from 8 a.m. to noon with a continental breakfast provided. Please check the City of Cañon City's website at www.canoncity.org in January for speaker and registration details or contact the Stormwater Program at 276-5265 to be added to the email distribution list.

WATER FACTS: 17 Facts about Water

1. 70.9% of the earth's surface is covered by water.
2. Only 2.5% of that water is freshwater and of that, only 0.3% is available for use by humans, animals and plants. The rest is frozen in glaciers and ice caps or is underground.
3. Freshwater holds over 10% of all life on earth and 35% of all vertebrates.
4. The average American residence uses over 100,000 gallons of water, inside and out, in one year.
5. Each day, Americans use more water flushing the toilet than from any other activity.
6. Residential Europeans use about half the water each day that residential Americans do.
7. Approximately 800 million people on Earth do not have access to clean water.
8. In Africa, women and girls spend up to 6 hours per day fetching water.
9. People in sub-Saharan Africa use only 2-5 gallons of water each day.
10. A person will drink 2-4 liters of water and eat 2000-5000 liters of "virtual" water embedded in food each day. One hamburger takes more than 600 gallons of water to produce; one gallon of milk takes 1000 gallons and one slice of bread takes 10 gallons.
11. The availability of water is expected to decrease in many areas.
12. Water use has been increasing at more than twice the population growth rate in the last century. However, a new report from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reports that water use in the US has dropped to its lowest level in 45 years. The overall drop was 13% with the largest decrease coming from changes in electricity generation and much of the rest from new efficiencies in irrigation. Public use only decreased by about 5%. To see the report visit http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=4048&from=rss_home#.VGY-6U1OWU1.
13. More than a billion people live in regions where water is scarce. As many as 3.5 billion could be affected by water scarcity by 2025.
14. Approximately 70% of global freshwater withdrawals are used by agriculture. In some fast-growing economies agriculture can account for up to 90% of withdrawals.
15. Industry uses make up about 20% of global freshwater withdrawals.
16. Meat and dairy products require more water to produce. The shift in diets to more of these products has had the greatest impact on water consumption over the last 30 years and will likely continue.
17. As much as 90% of waste water in developing countries flow into waterways untreated.

To view these facts and learn more about water conservation visit <http://www.care2.com/greenliving/18-crazy-inspiring-facts-about-water.html>.



"We live in a global environment, which is a closed system. Environmental contamination affects us all. "Richard Radcliff

Please feel free to direct any concerns or questions to Glenda DeBekker, City of Cañon City Stormwater Program at either 276-5265 or grdebekker@canoncity.org.