



City of Cañon City

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Fourth Quarter 2016 Stormwater Management Program News

Stormwater Permit Update

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) issued the final revised General Permit COR090000 Stormwater Discharges Associated With Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), generally referred to as the Phase II General Stormwater Permit, effective July 1, 2016. The permit has been revised to clarify many requirements contained in the previous permit and has added some new requirements, along with a timeline to meet the new requirements. This issue and future issues of the newsletter will discuss the changes in the permit.

The permit contains three parts: Part I which is the bulk of the requirements, Part II which contains language standard to all permits concerning notification requirements and permittee responsibilities and Part III which is specific to the City of Boulder and Boulder County. The information contained in this and subsequent newsletters will focus only on sections of Part I of the permit which are new or have been considerably revised.

Part I of the permit contains eleven sections: Coverage Under This Permit; Control Measures; Program Description Document (PDD); Public Involvement/Participation; Pollutant Restrictions, Prohibitions, and Reduction Requirements and Recordkeeping; Other Terms and Conditions; Program Review and Modification; Compliance Schedule; Reporting Requirements; Definitions; and General Requirements.

Part I.B. Control Measures is a new addition to the permit. “Control Measures” are defined as any best management practice (BMP) or other method used to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the state. Control measures include, but are not limited to best management practices. The previous permit required best management practices and defined BMPs as schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the State. “Control Measures” is used in place of “BMPs” in the new permit and includes the following requirements to be met.

1) Good Engineering, Hydrologic and Pollution Control Practices: Control measures must be selected, designed, installed, implemented, and maintained in accordance with good engineering, hydrologic and pollution control practices as defined.

2) Maintenance: Control measures must be maintained in effective operating condition.

3) Inadequate Control Measures: Any control measure shall be considered an “inadequate control measure” if it is not designed, implemented, or operating in accordance with the requirements of the permit.

4) Control Measure Requiring Routine Maintenance: Any control measure shall be considered a “control measure requiring routine maintenance” if it is still operating in accordance with its design and the requirements of this permit, but requires maintenance to prevent associated potential for failure during a runoff event.

5) Minimize: The term “minimize” for the purposes of implementing control measures of this permit, means reduce and/or eliminate to the extent achievable using control measures that are technologically available and economically practicable and achievable in light of best industry practice. This definition further clarifies the term “maximum extent practicable (MEP) used in the previous permit.

Control measures can be non-structural such as good housekeeping, standard operating procedures and maintenance procedures. They can also be structural such as sediment control logs and fences and vehicle tracking control pads on construction sites to permanent stormwater quality infrastructure including detention basins, grass swales and underground water quality vaults.

The inclusion of this section in the revised permit further clarifies the baseline of what the CDPHE is expecting of stormwater permitted entities in regards to designing or accepting designs for control measures and for inspections of control measures on construction sites and permanent control measures.

Part I.C. Program Description Document (PDD) is a revised requirement to the permit. Under the previous permit, the City of Cañon City, as well as all other permitted entities, had to submit a stormwater management program describing what procedures would be used to meet the requirements of the permit to CDPHE for approval. Once approved, changes to the procedures described in the document could only be made by formally submitting a request for change to the CDPHE. The revised section in the permit still requires a program description document, but it will be a living document – written and maintained to reflect current implementation of the stormwater management program. The document will not need to be submitted to CDPHE for approval. The document does need to be available to the public at reasonable times during regular business hours and maintained in a format that can be submitted to CDPHE within ten business days of a request.

The PDD will contain specific content required by sections of the permit as well as lists of citations for documents and electronic records used to comply with the permit requirements and an organizational chart. The PDD must be completed by January 1, 2019.

Future editions of this newsletter will discuss the changes in requirements for Public Education and Outreach, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Sites, Post-construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.

Fall and Winter Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips:

- Remember to bag leaves and put them out for pick up by your waste disposal company. The City of Cañon City's Streets Department will again be picking up bagged leaves toward the end of November and the beginning of December. The schedule will be announced on local radio stations. Leaves and yard waste can be washed into storm drains causing clogging. As the leaves decay they release nutrients which can end up in the river or another waterway. Excess nutrients in waterways can lead to harmful algae blooms.
- Place snow shoveled from sidewalks and driveways onto your lawn or landscaped areas. As the snow melts it will provide extra water for the area rather than running down the street into the nearest storm drain, carrying trash and pollutants with it to local waterways. Businesses with parking lots should make sure plowed snow is not piled on top of storm drains.
- Use deicer sparingly; sweep up excess deicer and dispose of it in the garbage. Consider using non-chloride, non-sodium chloride or low/mixed chloride deicers which are friendlier to pavement and the environment.

Just For Fun: Top Ten Stormwater Myths (From the Forester Network)

10. Stormwater is clean.
9. Stormwater drains lead to treatment plants.
8. The pollutants in stormwater are not really harmful.
7. Stormwater flows only to local streams.
6. Stormwater is mainly an urban problem.
5. Industries are the greatest source of water pollution.
4. Roads are responsible for most of the state's stormwater runoff.
3. The state should take care of all stormwater pollution.
2. Stormwater pollution will eventually go away.
1. No real solutions exist to solve our stormwater problem.



“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.” – John Muir

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.