



City of Cañon City

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Second Quarter 2013 Stormwater Management Program News

Announcements:

- ∞ Electronics and Computer Waste Disposal: Starting July 1, residents may no longer dispose of electronic waste by placing it in their trash dumpsters. Items covered by this law include, but are not limited to, computers and monitors, televisions, printers, fax machines, DVD and VCR players, computer keyboards and mice, radios and stereos, video game consoles, laptops and notebooks, ultrabooks, netbooks, and tablets. Office Depot does have a recycling service for small electronics which requires the purchase of a recycling box for \$5 to \$15. For more information contact the store at 269-7466. The School District also has an electronics recycling program called Tiger Print Recycling. They are located at the corner of Cherry and Cottonwood in the old Harrison School building. Their hours are from 8:00 to 10:30 am Monday through Thursday. They may be contacted at 276-6121 for more information. You may also obtain more information on the new regulation at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-HM/CBON/1251615964355>.
- We have always encouraged Cañon City residents to dispose of items such as excess landscape materials and yard waste by bagging the items and placing them with your trash for pick up or composting the biodegradable materials. We have contacted the local waste disposal companies to assure there had been no change in what they would accept. Both companies still allow yard waste such as leaves, twigs and branches. Twin Enviro asks that branches be cut into no more than 5-foot lengths and bundled for ease of pick-up. Howard Disposal asks that residents do not place moderate to large amounts of dirt in the dumpsters and that bricks, rocks and concrete not be placed in the dumpster at any time.

State News:

Most of our newsletters have discussed topics which relate to the Phase II General Stormwater Permit which the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) issued to the City of Cañon City, effective as of 2003. This permit is issued by the State to many municipalities and counties throughout Colorado based on specific criteria the EPA and the State set and which the City of Cañon City meets. The general permit was renewed statewide in 2008 and is due for renewal this year. The Permits Unit of the Water Quality Control Division has temporarily extended the permit for all Phase II permittees while personnel make revisions to the existing permit.

There are six areas the current permit covers, and which permitted municipalities and counties (MS4s) must have programs to address. These are called Minimum Control Measures which are listed below.

1. MCM 1: Public Education and Outreach
2. MCM 2: Public Participation/Involvement
3. MCM 3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. MCM 4: Construction Site Runoff Control
5. MCM 5: Post-Construction Stormwater Management
6. MCM 6: Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

CDPHE personnel are considering revising many of the requirements for all MCMs except MCM 2. Many of the suggested revisions include stronger and more stringent requirements and more record keeping. CDPHE is also looking at adding requirements for a more detailed Program Description Document which would describe how each MS4 will meet each requirement in the new permit. Another suggested addition to the new permit is a requirement for monitoring the discharge from stormwater pipes which flow all year round for *E. coli* bacteria and selenium in areas where stream

segments are considered impaired for these contaminants. The Arkansas River is not on the impaired stream segment list (303d list) for these contaminants at this time.

CDPHE staff held a series of meetings for permitted MS4s from November, 2012, through May, 2013 to present their ideas for revisions and to obtain feedback. The City of Cañon City participated in these meetings and has been working closely with the statewide Colorado Stormwater Council to provide feedback to the State. The State is currently working on the revised permit and anticipates releasing the draft permit for Public Review and comments in early September, 2013.

We would like to encourage anyone that has an interest to visit the Water Quality Control Division's website and review the current permit and then review the new draft permit when it is published for Public Review. Any person or entity can submit comments on the draft permit during the Public Review. To obtain a copy of the current permit please visit the website at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-WQ/CBON/1251596875370> . When the new draft permit is released it will be announced in the Denver Post and on the above website. Interested parties may also contact the Cañon City Stormwater Program for updates.

The Royal Gorge Fire:

The recent fire in the Royal Gorge area has had immediate and wide ranging impacts on everyone in the City of Cañon City and Fremont County. Many may not realize the potential future impact on the Arkansas River. When an area is burned, even moderately, vegetative cover is destroyed which normally helps to control erosion from storm runoff. With the vegetation removed there is an increased likelihood of erosion and debris being washed into the river. It can take from three to more than ten years for the vegetation to become reestablished and for erosion from storm runoff to decline. We may see more sediment and debris in the river after storm events for many years down the road. Steering committees formed after the fire have recognized that there will be impacts to the river and will be pursuing avenues such as revegetation to reduce or eliminate the impacts storm runoff will have.

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. You may also write to The City of Cañon City's Stormwater Program, P.O. Box 1460, Cañon City, CO 81215-1460.



Remember: 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. Please make wise choices.