

June 28, 2001

Dear Storm Water Discharger:

Ohio EPA is contacting those small municipal separate storm sewers systems (MS4s) which may be required to obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage for storm water discharge as a result of U.S. EPA's Phase II storm water regulation.

The Storm Water Phase II rule is the next step in an effort to preserve, protect and improve the nation's water resources from polluted storm water. The Phase II program is intended to further reduce adverse water quality impacts by regulating MS4s. The Ohio EPA plans to issue a general permit covering storm water dischargers from MS4s on or before December 9, 2002. The Phase II rule requires that designated MS4 operators obtain permit coverage by March 10, 2003.

MS4s will be required to design a storm water management plan (SWMP) to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). The SWMP will be required to satisfy each of the six minimum control measures through the implementation of best management practices (BMPs).

The operator of a regulated MS4 has the flexibility to select the BMPs that are most appropriate for its system. The six minimum controls, when implemented in concert, are expected to result in reductions of pollutants discharged into surface waters. The six minimum controls are:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation/Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

To comply with these Phase II requirements, operators of regulated MS4s must: submit a notice of intent (NOI) to Ohio EPA for general permit coverage by March 10, 2003; develop and submit a SWMP with the NOI that addresses at a minimum, the six minimum controls; and fully implement a SWMP according to the terms of the permit by December 7, 2007.

Additional Phase II program information can be obtained from the OEPA website <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/storm/index.html> and from U.S. EPA's websites <http://www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2> or <http://www.epa.gov/owm/sw/toolbox>.

Access <http://stormwaterfiance.urbancenter.iupui.edu> for storm water funding information. You can also contact Judy Mentzer, Ohio Environmental Education Fund, at (614) 644-2048, <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/other/oeef/oeemain.html>, or Margaret Klepic, Environmental & Financial Assistance, at (614) 644-3665, <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/defa/defamin> for funding information.

Ohio EPA will be seeking stakeholder input regarding the development of the permit and Ohio Phase II rules. If you have any additional questions, please contact, Anthony Robinson at (614) 728-3392, anthony.robinson@epa.state.oh.us, or me (614) 644-2034, robert.phelps@epa.state.oh.us.

Sincerely,

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