The Permit (cont.)

How can sites be designed to reduce pollution after construction is completed?

• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Stormwater Website—EMK’s website contains links to information such as the Construction General Permit (CGP), frequently asked questions, downloadable publications that you may easily reproduce, and SWPPP guidance and training information at www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/construction

• Construction Industry Compliance Assistance Center—This is a free environmental compliance assistance website for contractors, builders, and developers that developed EMK’s grant-funded Construction Industry Best Management Practices (BMPs) program. It emphasizes dealing with stormwater close to where it falls, using management techniques such as infiltration and pollution prevention rather than construction of large collection, conveyance, and storage systems. This approach provides significant protection to surface watersheds and helps to reduce the size and frequency of flood events. Coupled with Smart Growth approaches—which look at growth and development at a broader scale—you could improve water quality and quantity benefits at both the local and watershed scale.

How do federal NPDES requirements relate to local requirements?

Many local governments have their own requirements for construction sites (erosion and sediment controls, clearing and grading requirements, etc.). Construction site operators are encouraged to use materials, such as erosion and sediment control plans, that can satisfy both local and NPDES requirements. (Or, vice-versa, unless the local program has been designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Qualifying local program. You can find your EPA Regional Stormwater Coordinator at www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/construction)

Local Programs

Local Programs

Relationships

Due to the large number of active construction sites, our success in addressing both the local and watershed scale.

Approximately 6,000 local governments across the country operate municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) that are required to develop programs to oversee construction projects. A key objective of these programs is to ensure that construction site operators eliminate or minimize the volume of stormwater and the discharge of pollutants, including sediment, to the MS4. In turn, this helps to protect local watersheds. Local governments are required to review and approve erosion and sediment control plans and to conduct inspections of construction sites to ensure compliance with local requirements.

How can local governments ensure that their own requirements for construction sites (erosion and sediment controls, clearing and grading requirements, etc.) are consistent with requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)? How can I find my local EPA Regional Office to learn more about stormwater in my area?

EMK’s website contains links to information such as the Construction General Permit (CGP), frequently asked questions, downloadable publications that you may easily reproduce, and SWPPP guidance and training information at www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/construction.

For more information, you can contact the EPA’s Construction Manager at your local EPA Regional Office.

Qualifying local programs

If a community has a strong erosion and sediment control program, EPA may designate it as a Qualifying local Program. In these cases, construction site operators would follow the local requirements. A qualifying local erosion and sediment control program must have equivalent provisions to EMK’s NPDES program, including requirements for:

• Appropriate erosion and sediment control BMPs
• Control of all other construction site wastes
• Development and implementation of a SWPPP
• Review of the erosion and sediment control portion of the SWPPP
• Inspection of construction activities
• Other NPDES requirements applicable to the municipality

Municipal stormwater managers are encouraged to work with their EPA Regional Office to learn more about how to be designated as a qualifying local program. You can find your EPA Regional Stormwater Coordinator at www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/construction.

Construction Stormwater Resources

• EPA’s Stormwater Management’s Resource Center (SWMRC) is designed specifically for stormwater practitioners, local government officials, and others who need technical assistance on stormwater management issues. Created and maintained by the Center for Watershed Protection, the SWMRC has everything you need to know about stormwater in a single site at www.stormwaterrunoffguide.org. You can also visit the Center for Watershed Protection’s main website at www.cwp.org.

• EPA’s Low Impact Development Website—The EMK LED website provides information and links to information about Low Impact Development ideas and techniques at www.epa.gov/lowimpact.

• Smart Growth—EMK’s Smart Growth Webpage contains guidance documents, tools and resources for understanding and applying smart growth ideas to urban planning at www.epa.gov/smartgrowth.

The Smart Growth Network is a partnership organization dedicated to raising public awareness of how growth can improve community quality of life. The Network seeks to promote smart growth best practices, develop and share innovative, creative strategies at the local and county levels, and advocate for policies and programs that address barriers to and advance opportunities for smart growth at www.smartgrowth.org.

Getting the Word Out...

The Role of Local Governments in Implementing the NPDES Stormwater Program for Construction Sites

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Printed with vegetable-based ink on paper that contains a minimum of 50% post-consumer fiber content processed chlorine-free. EPA 833-F-06-002 February 2006. Cover photo, top right: courtesy Ron Nichols, NRCS, 1997.
Operators of smaller sites that are part of a larger, common plan of development should manage clearing and grading in phases to minimize the potential for spills of materials such as fuels and hazardous liquids and to control construction site wastes.

A stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) is a written document that lists the potential sources of stormwater pollution, describes practices that will be implemented to control them, and is required by the Construction General Permit (CGP) issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The operator of a construction site is responsible for obtaining NPDES stormwater permit coverage.

The operator of a construction site is responsible for obtaining NPDES stormwater permit coverage. If construction sites are not properly managed, large amounts of soil will be washed away from the site. As algae die and decompose, oxygen levels decrease, harming or killing fish, plants and other organisms. It scours streambeds and stream banks, causing additional erosion. Excess nutrients in runoff and stormwater also contaminate rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. Excess nutrients lead to overgrowth of algae, which can block sunlight from reaching underwater plants and animals, and block submerged aquatic vegetation.

What does “permit coverage” mean? A Notice of Intent (NOI) is a form that operators file to get permit coverage. To get more detailed information about the CGP, visit the EPA website www.epa.gov/npdes/cgp.

The Permit

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues something called a Construction General Permit (CGP) for construction activities. This permit covers pollution from construction activities. The EPA issues the CGP to ensure that operators formally submit their SWPPPs for approval. They must be kept on file at the construction site and made available to government officials and the public. The CGP lists the potential sources of stormwater pollution, describes practices that will be implemented to control them, and is required under the CGP. The CGP is effective for up to five years, or until the date EPA determines that it is no longer needed.

The CGP requires that operators:

• Implement the SWPPP:
• Stabilize areas as soon as possible after land-disturbing activities. Sediment in water bodies can create a serious hazard for fish, shellfish, and other aquatic life.
• Ensure the protection of endangered species and critical habitat.
• Implement other Best Management Practices (BMPs) as appropriate to minimize the potential for spills of materials such as fuels and hazardous liquids and to control construction site wastes.
• Consult with municipal and county authorities to ensure compliance with local requirements.
• Obtain permit coverage:
• To obtain permit coverage, the operator(s) submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the EPA. To get permit coverage, operators must file an online permit application called “eCGP” on the EPA website www.epa.gov/npdes/ecdgp. The eCGP is the fastest and easiest way to get permit coverage. The Construction General Permit requires a 7-day waiting period before a Notice of Intent is filed and posted. If you want to file your NOI, visit the EPA website www.epa.gov/npdes/notice.
• Implement the SWPPP:
• Before construction begins, the operator must implement the SWPPP. The SWPPP must be maintained for all permits during each stage of the project.

What are the problems and solutions associated with stormwater runoff? Stormwater runoff is caused when rainfall runs off of a natural surface or impervious surfaces and flows over the land into a water body. Stormwater runoff can carry both sediments and pollutants from a wide range of activities into waterbodies such as rivers, lakes, and coastal waters.

How can you help?

You can help by distributing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)’s Construction General Permit (CGP). For more information, visit www.epa.gov/npdes/cgp.

Your municipality is in a state where EPA is the permitting authority (many states delegate their permitting authority to state agencies) or where the Construction General Permit (CGP) is not in effect. EPA’s Construction General Permit allows you to help prevent stormwater pollution by taking the following steps:

• Obtain, read, and understand the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA)’s website (www.epa.gov/npdes/menuofbmps) on best management practices (BMPs) that can help prevent stormwater pollution and protect the environment.
• Implement the Construction General Permit (CGP) by:
• Installing sediment trapping devices and perimeter controls. Establishing sediment basins near roadsides or construction sites. Implementing SWPPPs on the construction site. Establishing sediment basins near roadsides or construction sites. Establishing sediment basins near roadsides or construction sites.
• Gather basic information about the site, such as:
• Site description (including a map of existing conditions, soils, slopes, the name and address of the owner, the location of waterbodies, and storm drains)
• To get more detailed information about BMPs, visit the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System website (www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater) or the EPA website (www.epa.gov/npdes/cgp).

What does the swppp mean? A stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) is a written document that lists the potential sources of stormwater pollution, describes practices that will be implemented to control them, and helps ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Construction General Permit (CGP). EPA does not require that operators formally submit their SWPPPs to EPA. However, it is important that operators manage stormwater runoff on the construction site and make available to government officials and the public. The operator(s) must do the following:

•实施SWPPP：Before construction begins, the operator must implement the SWPPP. The SWPPP must be maintained for all permits during each stage of the project.

What should we be concerned about stormwater runoff? Runoff from construction and development is the most significant source of water pollution today. Stormwater carries sediment, oil, grease, pesticides, and other pollutants into storm drains and then directly into nearby streams, lakes, and coastal waters. Municipal drainage water systems may face higher costs if they must treat water contaminated by stormwater.