

Stormwater Acronyms



303(d) list = Impaired Waters of the US

- Every 2 years, states submit their list of impaired waters to the EPA for approval
- For each water on the list, the state identifies the pollutant causing the impairment & assigns a priority for development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) based on the severity of the pollution & sensitivity of the uses to be made of the waters

BMP = Best Management Practice

- BMPs are controls, processes, policies, and/or tools to prevent the discharge of pollutants in stormwater
- Ex: staff training, preventing exposure of pollutant sources, & clearly identifying contents of outdoor containments

CAFO = Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation

- Lot or facility subject to NPDES permitting where:
 - Animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined & fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period
 - Crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residuals are not sustained in the normal growing season over any portion of the lot or facility.

CSO = Combined Sewer Overflow

- Combined sewer systems are designed to collect stormwater runoff & domestic sewage in the same pipe. Most of the time, combined sewer systems transport wastewater to treatment.

CWA = Clean Water Act

- Primary federal law in the United States governing water pollution. Its objective is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters.

FOG = Fats, Oils, Grease

- Occurs when cooking fats are poured down the drain & coat the inside of the pipes, eventually forming a blockage.

GP = General Permit

- A permit issued to a class or category of dischargers such as construction stormwater, industrial stormwater, or small municipal separate storm sewer systems. Dischargers may or may not be required to formally request to be covered under GPs.

IDDE = Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

- 1 of the 6 minimum control measures defined in MS4 stormwater permits
- Illicit discharges are "...any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater," with some exceptions.

LEED Certification = Leadership in Energy and Environment Design

- The U.S. Green Building Council, a nonprofit that certifies environmentally sustainable businesses, homes, hospitals, schools, & neighborhoods, also issues LEED certification.

LID = Low Impact Development (Or Green Development)

- A design approach to manage stormwater runoff as part of green infrastructure. Emphasizes conservation & use of on-site natural features to protect water quality & implements engineered hydrologic controls to replicate pre-development hydrology.

LOS/EOS/COS = Level of Service / Extent of Service / Cost of Service

- Utilities generally need to determine and document these measures & provide them to their customers.

MCM = Minimum Control Measures

- Small MS4s are required to implement the 6 MCMs as a condition of their NPDES permit. The 6 MCMs are:
 1. Public Involvement and Public Participation
 2. Public Education and Public Outreach
 3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
 4. Construction Controls
 5. Post Construction Controls
 6. Good Housekeeping

MEP = Maximum Extent Practicable

- Stormwater permits require the reduction of pollutants in stormwater discharges to the MEP, including management practices, control measures, & system design & engineering methods.

MS4 = Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

- A MS4 is a publicly-owned conveyance or system of conveyances (ex: streets, ditches, catch basins, curbs, gutters, & storm drains) that is designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater, & discharges to surface waters of the State.
- These public entities include ports, prison complexes, park districts, universities, or diking & drainage districts.

NOI = Notice of Intent

- A stormwater permit application.

NOT = Notice of Termination

- A formal notice that a permittee is no longer authorized to discharge stormwater & can be issued by a regulatory authority or it can be applied for by a permittee.

NOC = Notice of Coverage

- Notification from a permit authority that a stormwater source is covered under a general permit.

NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

- A permit program that addresses water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants to waters of the United States.
- Some states exchange “N(ational)” to brand their permit program:
 - LPDES=Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity Units

- Turbidity is the cloudiness or haziness of water (Ex: high turbidity results in water that is less clear)
- NTUs are the degree to which light is scattered by suspended particles in the water.

POC = Pollutant of Concern

- This usually refers to specific pollutants threatening or impairing a particular waterbody. For stormwater sources, POCs are often silt, bacteria, nutrients, or toxics.

P2 = Pollution Prevention

- P2 is any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents pollution at its source (also known as "source reduction.")

P2Rx = Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange

- The P2Rx is a national partnership of regional pollution prevention information centers funded in part through grants from EPA.
- P2Rx delivers pollution prevention information & measures program results by state, area of expertise, & program type. They provide pollution prevention information for businesses & government agencies, NOT for profits, schools, & the general public.

SCM – Stormwater Control Measure

- Same as BMP.

SIC = Standard Industrial Classifications

- A system for classifying industries by a four-digit code.
- Stormwater permits use SIC codes to designate the 29 industrial activities subject to NPDES permitting, & define regulations specific to each activity.

SMP or SWMP = Stormwater Management Plan

- SMPs/SWMPs are, in essence, SWPPPs for municipalities.
- They are written documentation submitted as required for stormwater discharges from MS4s that describe how the program will be implemented, managed, & measured.

SSO = Sanitary Sewer Overflows

- The discharge of sewage into the environment before it can reach treatment facilities.

SWPPP = Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (also referred to as SWP3)

- SWPPPs are site-specific documents required by Construction & Industrial stormwater permits to:
 - Identify potential sources of stormwater pollution on a construction, industrial &/or municipal site
 - Describe stormwater control measures & Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be used to reduce or eliminate pollutants in stormwater discharges from the project site
 - Identify the procedures the operator of the site will implement to comply with the terms & conditions of the permit.
- Permits define requirements of the SWPPP.

TMDL = Total Maximum Daily Load

- TMDLs describe a plan for restoring impaired waters by identifying & allocating the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive while still meeting water quality standards.
- TMDL allocations are established for all sources that discharge an impairment-causing pollutant to a waterbody.

VGP = Vessel General Permit

- Implemented jointly by EPA & the U.S. Coast Guard, this program provides NPDES permit coverage for discharges into waters of the United States from commercial (non-military and/or non-recreational) vessels greater than 79 feet in length, & for ballast water from commercial vessels of all sizes.
- Approximately 61,000 domestically flagged vessels & 8,000 foreign flagged vessels require VGP permit coverage.