

2016

GLOSSARY OF STORM WATER TERMINOLOGY

Authorized Non-Storm Water Discharges – Authorized non-storm water discharges are certain categories of discharges that are not composed of storm water but are not found to pose a threat to water quality. They include: water line flushing; landscape irrigation; diverted stream flows; rising ground waters; uncontaminated ground water infiltration (as defined at 40 CFR §35.2005(20)) to separate storm sewers; uncontaminated pumped ground water; discharges from potable water sources; foundation drains; air conditioning condensate; irrigation water that is not reclaimed treated wastewater; springs; water from crawl space pumps; footing drains; lawn watering that is not reclaimed treated wastewater; individual residential car washing; flows from riparian habitats and wetlands; dechlorinated swimming pool discharges; and discharges or flows from emergency fire fighting activities. If any of the above authorized non-storm water discharges (except flows from fire fighting activities) are found to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality standards or cause or threaten to cause a condition of nuisance or pollution, the category of discharge must be prohibited.

BMP (Best Management Practice) – Permit condition used in place of or in conjunction with effluent limitations to prevent or control the discharge of pollutants. May include schedule of activities, prohibition of practices, maintenance procedures, or other management practices. BMPs may include, but are not limited to, treatment requirements, operating procedures, or practices to control plant site runoff, spillage, leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) – A discharge of untreated wastewater from a combined sewer system at a point prior to the headworks of a publicly owned treatment works. CSOs generally occur during wet weather (rainfall or snowmelt). During period of wet weather, these systems become overloaded, bypass treatment works, and discharge directly to receiving waters.

Combined Sewer System (CSS) – A wastewater collection system which conveys sanitary wastewaters (domestic, commercial and industrial wastewaters) and storm water through a single pipe to a publicly owned treatment works for treatment prior to a discharge to surface waters.

Design Storm – A theoretical storm event with pre-determined parameters of a given return period, such as a 2-Year Storm, a 5-Year Storm, a 100-Year Storm. A 2-Year Design Storm, for example, is a storm of a magnitude that it would be expected to occur once every two years.

Detention Facility – A surface impoundment (pond) or underground tank used to capture and detain (store) wet weather runoff, releasing it at a regulated, reduced rate to minimize downstream flooding.

Effluent Limitation – Any restriction imposed on quantities, discharge rates, and concentrations of pollutants which are discharged from point sources into waters of the United States, the waters of the contiguous zone, or the ocean.

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Flood Plain – An area that becomes inundated with water in the event of a flood. (i.e. a 100 year flood plain is an area that becomes flooded when a 100 year storm occurs).

EPA (or USEPA) – United States Environmental Protection Agency.

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Foundation Drain -- A drainpipe, typically of perforated pipe, laid under or next to a building footer to drain the surrounding soil. Foundation drains, being the lowest pipe in the building, are often tapped into the sanitary sewer lateral.

General Permit – An NPDES permit issued under 40 CFR 122.28 that authorizes a category of discharges under the CWA within a geographical area. A general permit is not specifically tailored for an individual discharger.

Geographic Information System (GIS) – A system for storing, organizing and manipulating real world physical features and related data electronically. It can be used for planning, problem solving, decision making and mapping.

Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) – A surveying method that uses a set of 24 satellites in position high above the earth. Specially designed GPS receivers, when positioned at a point on the Earth's surface, can measure the distance from that point to three or more satellites to an accuracy level within several millimeters.

Hydraulic Capacity – The flow capacity of a sewer flowing full, usually expressed in gallons per day (GPD), million gallons per day (MGD) or cubic feet per second (CFS).

Infiltration – Excess groundwater that gets into the sewer system through open joints, cracks and breaks in the pipes and manhole walls. Also the process of surface water being absorbed into the ground by percolation.

Impervious – A description of a material that means it does not allow liquids to flow through it.

Long-Term (CSO) Control Plan – A plan to reduce CSOs consisting of three major steps: system characterization, development and evaluation of alternatives, and selection and implementation of long-term controls as provided in the 1994 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Policy (59 Fed. Reg. 18688), which established a national approach under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program for controlling discharges into the nation's waters from combined sewer systems (CSSs).

Manhole – A vertical structure intended to allow access to the sewer system for cleaning and maintenance. By state regulation, a manhole must be provided at every change in alignment or slope, and at a maximum spacing of 400 feet between manholes.

Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP) - MEP is the technology-based standard established by Congress in CWA section 402(p)(3)(B)(iii) that municipal dischargers of storm water must meet. Technology-based standards establish the level of pollutant reductions that dischargers must achieve. MEP is generally a result of emphasizing pollution prevention and source control best management practices (BMPs) primarily (as the first line of defense) in combination with treatment methods serving as a backup (additional line of defense). The MEP approach is an ever evolving, flexible and advancing concept, which considers technical and economic feasibility. As knowledge about controlling urban runoff continues to evolve, so does that which constitutes MEP. The way in which MEP is met varies between communities. The individual and collective activities elucidated in their Storm Water Management Program becomes their proposal for reducing or eliminating pollutants in storm water to the MEP.

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Measurable Goal – Measurable goals or Performance Standards, are definable tasks or accomplishments that are associated with implementing best management practices.

Minimum Control Measure – A minimum control measure is a storm water program area that must be addressed (best management practices implemented to accomplish the program goal) by all regulated Small MS4s. The following six minimum control measures are required to be addressed by the regulated Small MS4s: Public Education and Outreach on Storm Water Impacts, Public Involvement/Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control, Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment, and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) – A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, manmade channels, or storm drains) owned by a state, city, town or other public body, that is designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water, which is not a combined sewer, and which is not part of a publicly owned treatment works. Commonly referred to as an “MS4” [40 CFR 122.26(b)(8)].

Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (Small MS4) – A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains) that are:

- (i) Owned or operated by the United States, a State, city, town, boroughs, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, storm water, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the CWA that discharges to waters of the United States.
- (ii) Not defined as “large” or “medium” municipal separate storm sewer systems.
- (iii) This term includes systems similar to separate storm sewer systems in municipalities, such as systems at military bases, large hospital or prison complexes, and highways and other thoroughfares. The term does not include separate storm sewers in very discrete areas, such as individual buildings.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) – The national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under Sections 307, 318, 402, and 405 of CWA.

Nine Minimum Controls – Operational and structural controls that can reduce CSOs and their effects on receiving water quality, do not require significant engineering studies or major construction, and can be implemented in a relatively short period.

Non-Point Source - A discharge that is distributed over a wide land area, induced by natural process, including precipitation, seepage, percolation, and runoff; Runoff from city streets, parking lots, home, lawns,

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agricultural land, individual septic systems and construction sites that finds its way into rivers, lakes, and streams is generally considered a non-point source.

Notice of Intent – (NOI) – Once this is submitted for a NPDES Permit you can assume coverage under the permit being applied for until a letter confirming coverage is received from the permitting authority.

Outfall – 40 CFR §122.26(b)(9) defined outfall as a point source at the point where a municipal separate storm sewer discharges to waters of the United States and does not include open conveyances connecting two municipal separate storm sewers, or pipes, tunnels or other conveyances which connect segments of the same stream or other waters of the United States and are used to convey waters of the United States.

PADEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Point Source – Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well discrete fixture, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, vessel, or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) – Untreated or partially treated sewage overflows from a sanitary sewer collection system.

Sanitary Sewer System – A sewer system intended to only carry wastewater. 57 of the 83 ALCOSAN communities have sanitary sewer systems.

Separate Sewer System – A sewer system utilizing both storm sewers to convey storm water and sanitary sewers to carry wastewater.

Sewershed – A distinct and separate drainage network of sewers serving a specific area, typically an entire watershed or portions thereof.

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code - A code or number system used to identify various types of industries. The code of numbers are published by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC 20402. A particular industry may have more than one SIC code if it conducts several types of commercial or manufacturing activities on site.

Storm Water – Drainage runoff from the surface of the land resulting from precipitation, snow, or ice melt.

Storage Facility – An underground tank used to capture and store wet weather flows until they are can be released back into the system at a regulated rate, preventing overflows.

3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program (3RWWDP) – A non-profit organization, funded by Federal, State and local resources, and in-kind services from the partnership of the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) and the Allegheny County Health Department.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) – The amount of pollutant, or property, from point, nonpoint, and natural background sources, that may be discharged to a water quality limited receiving water. Any pollutant loading above the TMDL results in violation of applicable water quality standards.

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Treatment Facility (Swirl Concentrator) – This structure provides primary treatment by creating a vortex, forcing solids to the center where they proceed to the treatment plant. The remaining water is discharged into a receiving body.

Water Quality Criteria – Comprised of numeric and narrative criteria. Numeric criteria are scientifically derived ambient concentrations developed by EPA or states for various pollutants of concern to protect human health and aquatic life. Narrative criteria are statements that describe the desired water quality goal.

Water Quality Standards (WQS) – A law or regulation that consists of the beneficial use or uses of a waterbody, the numeric and narrative water criteria that are necessary to protect the use or uses of that particular waterbody, and an antidegradation statement.

Watershed – The entire region or area drained by a river or other body of water, whether natural or artificial.

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