



Department of Public Works

Highways Solid Waste Engineering

Steven D Haskins – Superintendent

MS4 – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Glossary of Stormwater Management Terms

Best Management Practice (BMP): A structural or non-structural device designed to temporarily store or treat urban stormwater runoff in order to mitigate flooding, reduce pollution and provide other amenities.

(Also called Stormwater Practice.)

Building: Any structure, either temporary or permanent, having walls and a roof, designed for the shelter

of any person, animal or property, and occupying more than 100 square feet of area.

Channel: A natural or artificial watercourse with a definite bed and banks that conducts continuously or periodically flowing water.

Clearing: Any activity that removes the vegetative surface cover

Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC): A committee formed by the local legislative body under

NYS General Municipal Law Article 12-F, section 239-x that prepares a natural resource inventory of the

municipality and advises other local boards on environmental issues.

Cluster or Open Space Development: The use of designs that incorporate open space into a development

site. These areas can be used for either passive or active recreational activity or preserved as naturally

vegetated land.

Construction site operator: the person, persons or legal entity that owns or leases the property on which

the construction activity is occurring.

Developer: A person who undertakes land development activities.

Drainage Area (Watershed): All land and water area from which runoff may run to a common (design) point.

Grading: Excavation or fill of material, including the resulting conditions thereof.

Impervious Cover: Those surfaces, improvements and structures that cannot effectively infiltrate rainfall,

snow melt and water (e.g. building rooftops, pavement, sidewalks, driveways, etc.).

Land Development Activity: Construction activity including clearing, grading, excavating, soil disturbance or placement of fill that results in land disturbance of equal to or greater than one acre, or

activities disturbing less than one acre of total land area that is part of a larger common plan of development or sale, even though multiple separate and distinct land development activities may take place

at different times on different schedules.

Larger Plan of Development or Sale : a situation in which multiple construction activities are occurring,

or will occur, on a contiguous area. Permit coverage is needed if disturbance of one or more acres is

occurring or is anticipated to occur in conjunction with the initial disturbance. For discrete construction projects that are located within a larger common plan of development or sale that are at least one-quarter mile apart, each project can be treated as a separate plan of development or sale provided any interconnecting road, pipeline or utility project that is part of the same "common plan" is not concurrently disturbed.

MCM: Minimum Control Measures that the MS4 community has to address in their individual SWMP. There is a total of six MCM's

MS4: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems

Maintenance Agreement (Easement): A legally recorded document that acts as a property deed restriction, and which provides for long-term maintenance of stormwater management practices.

NPDES: National Pollution Discharge Elimination System

Outfall: The point where water flows from a conduit, stream, or drain.

New York State 303(d) list: DEC prepares this list under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act. It

identifies waters where designated uses are not fully supported by existing water quality. These "303(d)

waters" are listed with the pollutant that is the cause of the water quality problem. If stormwater discharges

to a 303(d) listed water, the stormwater management program must ensure no increase in the listed

pollutant of concern to the water. The 303(d) list is updated every two years and is available on the DEC

web site at www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/303dcalm.pdf

Nonstructural Stormwater Practices: Stormwater runoff treatment techniques that use natural measures

to reduce pollution levels, do not require extensive construction efforts, and/or that promote pollutant

reduction by eliminating the pollutant source.

SPDES: State Pollution Discharge Elimination System

Stormwater: Rainwater, surface runoff, snowmelt and drainage.

Stormwater Management: The use of structural or non-structural practices that are designed to reduce

stormwater runoff and mitigate its adverse impacts on property, natural resources and the environment.

Stormwater Management Facility: One or a series of stormwater management practices installed,

stabilized and operating for the purpose of controlling stormwater runoff

Stormwater Management Officer: An employee or officer designated by the municipality to accept and

review stormwater pollution prevention plans, forward the plans to the applicable municipal board and

inspect stormwater management practices.

Stormwater Management Practices (S WMPs): Stormwater Management Plan is a program each MS4 community has to implement to improve the quality and quantity of stormwater discharging from their community.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP): A plan for controlling stormwater runoff and pollutants

from a site during and after construction activities.

Structural Stormwater Practices: Devices that are constructed to provide short-term storage and treatment of stormwater runoff.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): A numerical limit on the amount of a particular contaminant that

can be discharged to a waterbody from all sources. If a TMDL requiring reduction of a pollutant associated

with stormwater is approved by the US EPA for any waterbody or watershed into which the MS4

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discharges, the stormwater management program (six minimum measures) must ensure reduction of the pollutant of concern specified in the TMDL.

Urbanized area: An area is automatically designated as urbanized for purposes of Phase II coverage if the population is at least 50,000 and there is an overall population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile, based on the 2000 US Census.