

Stormwater Management Program Annual Report
In Accordance With G.S. 143-214.7(e)
October 2007

The Environmental Management Commission (EMC), through the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the N.C. Division of Water Quality (DWQ), implements state and federal programs to control the water quality impacts of stormwater runoff from development activities and urban and developing areas. These programs include the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program for stormwater discharges that requires permits for point source discharges of stormwater from industrial activities and from certain urbanizing and developing areas. In addition the EMC and DWQ implement state stormwater permitting programs that are designed to control stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment activities occurring near sensitive waters (Water Supply Watersheds, High Quality and Outstanding Resource Waters, Nutrient Sensitive Waters, Coastal Waters).

The Division continues to implement regular permit activities within both the NPDES and state stormwater program areas. Previous reports have outlined changes that have been occurring in the program, especially through the Phase II program. Under the NPDES program DWQ issues permits that regulate stormwater discharge from individual industrial and construction activities as well as comprehensive stormwater permits issued to municipal, state and federal entities for control of stormwater within their jurisdictional areas. The state stormwater program requires stormwater permits for new development and redevelopment and is implemented through a combination of state and local government administration with state oversight. As programs have changed DWQ has recognized the need for more technical resource for the implementation of the program. Major efforts have included:

- A comprehensive update of the Division's Stormwater Guidance Manual. The updated manual and other support information can be downloaded from the Division's website at: http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/bmp_forms.htm
- Development of an online Mapping Tool. Working with NC Center For Geographic Information and Analysis the DWQ has establish an interactive web-based mapping system to help development activities determine whether they are covered by the post-construction permitting program or other Stormwater permitting requirements. This system can be accessed at: http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/msi_maps.htm
- Finalization of the Universal Stormwater Management Program (USMP). The EMC and DWQ have finalized the development of a voluntary stormwater management effort, the USMP, that allows local governments to consolidate some of their current stormwater programs under one set of requirements. One local government has adopted this program. For more information see: <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/usmp.htm>

Previous reports have outlined ongoing activities associated with implementation of the phase II municipal (MS4) NPDES stormwater program. This program is implemented under S.L. 2006-246 and continues to be a major emphasis. Permits under this program currently regulate 107 entities across the state. A number of other entities have received waivers or been exempted in accordance with SL 2006-246. The Session Law also established a process for considering other entities for "designation" under the MS4 program. The EMC and DWQ have reviewed several

River Basins in this process and six additional entities have been designated and are required to submit applications for permit coverage.

Along with the MS4 program, the state began implementing the post-construction program outlined in the Session Law in areas adjacent to regulated entities in July of 2007. Information on the implementation of this program can be found at: http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/msi_post-construction.htm. Two counties (Guilford and Gaston) have requested and received delegation to implement the post-construction provisions within their jurisdiction, including some municipal areas. The Division has participated in a large number of meetings and workshops across the state to share information about the stormwater programs, especially those related to phase II implementation. This includes four workshops coordinated by DENR. Workshops and meetings have included participation from local governments, the development community, the environmental community and from the consulting industry.

Another major initiative has been the response to stormwater program studies that have been discussed in previous reports and in presentations to the ERC. Specifically the EMC has worked with the Division to address results of reviews of the state's current coastal stormwater program. Proposed rule changes for this program have been developed submitted for public review and comment. Four public hearings were held on the proposed changes and the hearing officers are reviewing comments and considering modifications at this time. It is anticipated that the hearing officers will present their recommendations to the full EMC in early 2008. The proposed rules include provisions that would strengthen the existing coastal stormwater measures across the twenty coastal counties. These changes would be similar to the phase II stormwater measures applicable to the coastal areas.

In the industrial permitting program the Division has recently reissued six general stormwater permits covering a variety of industrial activities. These permits allow for continued stormwater permit coverage for around 1,100 industrial facilities across the state. Eight other stormwater general permits will be up for renewal over the coming year.