

FACT SHEET
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PROPOSED RE-ISSUANCE OF PERMIT FOR THE ROOT RIVER GROUP
MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS (MS4s)
WPDES Permit No. WI-S050059-2
September 25, 2008

Purpose

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (the Department) is proposing to re-issue the Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit for discharges of storm water to waters of the state from the Root River Group municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). The Root River Group includes the City of Racine, City of New Berlin, City of Franklin, Village of Greendale, Village of Hales Corners, Village of Mount Pleasant and Village of Caledonia. This permit requires the Root River Group municipalities to implement storm water management practices to reduce pollutants that are discharged from the MS4s to waters of the state. Waters of the state includes surface waters, groundwater and wetlands.

Background

On January 7, 2004, the Root River Group was issued WPDES permit No. WI-S050059-1. This permit will expire on October 1, 2008.

On March 31, 2008, the Root River Group municipalities submitted applications to the Department for re-issuance of the municipal storm water discharge permit. WPDES permit No. WI-S050059-2 is the proposed re-issued permit.

Applicability

This permit covers all areas within the jurisdiction of the Root River Group municipalities contributing to the municipal separate storm sewer systems. This permit authorizes storm water point source discharges to waters of the state in the Root River, Fox River, Pike River, Oak Creek and Lake Michigan watersheds from the municipal separate storm sewer systems in the permitted area.

Compliance with water quality standards will not be determined by numeric effluent limits. Rather, compliance will be addressed by adherence to narrative-type storm water discharge limitations and implementation of storm water management programs and practices. This approach recognizes the highly variable nature of storm water discharges and the difficulty associated with the measurement of storm water discharges at numerous outfall locations with the precision necessary to establish effluent limits and monitor compliance.

Permit Conditions

The permit conditions include the following general categories:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Involvement and Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

- Construction Site Pollutant Control
- Post-Construction Storm Water Management
- Pollution Prevention
- Storm Water Quality Management
- Impaired Water Body & Total Maximum Daily Load
- Storm Sewer System Map
- Annual Report

Due to the fact that this is a re-issued permit, most of the permit conditions are essentially implementation of programs and procedures that were developed and approved during the initial permit period. Notable exceptions are the “Storm Water Quality Management” and “Impaired Water Bodies & Total Maximum Daily Loads” permit conditions:

- This permit requires compliance with the developed urban area performance standards of s. NR 151.13(2), Wis. Adm. Code. Specifically, the Root River Group municipalities must implement storm water management practices necessary to achieve a 40% reduction in the average annual total suspended solids load discharged to waters of the state by March 10, 2013. Compliance with this permit condition will be determined using WinSLAMM. WinSLAMM is a computer model developed to calculate storm water pollutant concentrations and loadings from storm water outfalls in urban areas.
- The Root River Group MS4s discharges to several impaired water bodies. As such, the Root River Group municipalities are required to implement management practices and control measures that will control the discharge of the pollutants of concern that are causing the impairment. However, only the Root River currently has known pollutants of concerns and sources of impairment. Thus, the permit requires the Root River Group to identify and implement specific storm water management practices to control the discharge of sediment and phosphorus from MS4 outfalls to the Root River.

For Further Information

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