

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

DATE September 29, 2011


FROM Gerald M. Ross, P.E., Chief Engineer/P3 Director

TO Commissioner's Office, Chief Engineer's Tech Staff, Planning Director, Engineering,
Permits and Operations, Construction, Local Grants & Field Services, P3, IT, Communications

SUBJECT **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit**

This is to notify Department staff of the impending GDOT MS4 Permit. In order to comply with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act and the Federal Clean Water Act, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Environmental Protection Division (EPD) initiated coordination with GDOT in November 2010, to develop permit terms to regulate future storm sewer discharge by GDOT into waters of the State of Georgia.

The MS4 Permit will apply to roadways and properties owned and operated by GDOT that are located inside counties and municipalities designated as MS4 Permitted Areas. The designation is determined by EPD and focuses on urbanized areas that may not have sufficient natural buffers to preserve water quality. The MS4 Permit will establish requirements for:

1. **Public Education** (i.e., training GDOT employees, develop website, marking storm drain covers);
2. **Public Involvement** (i.e., presenting displays at PIOHs, adopt-a-highway);
3. **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination** (i.e., mapping and inspection of all outfall locations, and inventory of MS4 drainage systems determined to have illicit discharges);
4. **Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control** (implementation of ESPCP and reporting of inspections);
5. **Post Construction Stormwater Management** (use and maintenance of water quality structures such as vegetative swales, stormwater ponds, wetlands, and filter strips); and
6. **Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Type Operations** (vehicle maintenance, storage and disposal of maintenance materials, treatment of building and roadway run-off, and annual inspection and maintenance of drainage structures and reporting from GDOT to EPD).

EPD has scheduled a 30 day public notice of the Draft MS4 Permit beginning on September 29, 2011. GDOT has developed an implementation and compliance schedule that is contingent on the results of EPD's public notice period and EPA approval of the Permit. If approved, EPA/EPD is expected to issue the Permit around January 1, 2012.

After the Permit is issued, GDOT's implementation schedule will include a 180 day period to develop a Stormwater Management Program that will detail how GDOT will accomplish the MS4 Permit requirements. During the 180 day period, projects with an approved Environmental Document, and P3 and Design Build projects that have been awarded will be exempt from the requirements in the MS4 Permit.

The Office of Design Policy and Support, Roadway Hydraulics Group, is coordinating with EPD and will provide further guidance once the MS4 Permit is issued by EPA/EPD. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brad McManus, at (404) 631-1978.

GMR:RRM:BAS