

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE OF GEORGIA

INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

DATE January 20, 2012



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

TO Program Delivery, Engineering, Permits/Operations, Construction, Local Grants/Field Services, P3

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

On January 3, 2012, EPD issued the Department's first MS4 permit that regulates the discharge of stormwater from roadways and properties owned and operated by GDOT into waters of the State of Georgia. The permit only applies to GDOT roadways and facilities that fall within the counties and cities currently designated by EPD as "MS4 Permitted Areas", listed on pages 38 and 39 of the permit. The permit is published on EPD's website at: http://www.georgiaepd.org/Files_PDF/techguide/wpb/Final_DOT_SW_NPDES_Permit_MS4_Dec_2011.pdf

The permit has six minimum control measures: (1) Public Education, (2) Public Involvement, (3) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, (4) Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control, (5) Post Construction Stormwater Management, and (6) Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Type Operations.

This is to initiate the planning and design for minimum control measure No. 5 above. **Post Construction Stormwater Management** involves the design and construction of stormwater structures such as vegetative swales, wetlands and filter strips, and detention structures. Linear roadway projects that disturb 1 acre or more of land, or site development that creates or adds 5,000-sqft or greater of new impervious surface area are required to comply with section 4.2.5.1a of the permit. Section 4.2.5.1a of the permit requires design of stormwater structures at outfall locations that provide:

- Removal of 80% of total suspended solids (TSS) from the first 1.2-inches of rainfall;
- Detention storage for the 1 year 24 hour storm event;
- Match pre-developed flow rates for the 25 year 24 hour storm event; and
- Control the 100 year 24 hour storm event.

Projects excluded from section 4.2.5.1a of the permit include:

- Projects that have environmental approval by June 30, 2012;
- Projects that have right of way plans submitted for review and approval by June 30, 2012;
- Design Build and P3 projects that have been awarded or received environmental approval by June 30, 2012.
- Maintenance and safety improvements: Examples include repaving, driveway access paving, shoulder paving and building, fiber optic line installation, sign addition, safety barrier, and sound barrier installations.
- Safety projects whereby the sites are not connected and the individual site disturbs less than one acre.

I am directing GDOT Project Managers and engineers to begin the process of designing for this new criterion immediately for projects that fall within a MS4 Permitted Area and do not meet the exclusion conditions above. The *Georgia Stormwater Management Manual* (Blue Book) and the *Costal Supplement* are the current reference guidelines used for MS4 design.

The Office of Design Policy and Support will be managing the Department's MS4 Permit program and will provide advice and instruction to GDOT engineers designing MS4 water quality structures. Project Managers should contact Brad McManus at (404) 631-1630 immediately, to schedule a sit-down review and assessment of MS4 requirements on projects that are not excluded from section 4.2.5.1a of the permit.

GMR:RRM:BAS