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GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORM WATER DISCHARGES FROM
SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS IN THE
STATE OF DELAWARE

PHASE II MS4 TIER I GENERAL PERMIT FACT SHEET

NPDES Permit Number: DE 0051195
State Permit Number: WPCC 3212/20
Permit Effective Date: October 1, 2020
Permit Expiration Date: September 30, 2025

The State of Delaware has developed a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for storm water discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). The General Permit addresses the federal requirements under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to reduce polluted storm water runoff that is contributed by the MS4 and which ultimately discharges to local rivers and streams without treatment.

This fact sheet provides details on permit history, statutory authority, water quality, the MS4 Remand Rule and the Storm Water Management Program's six minimum control measures, Pollutant Reduction Plans, contact information and procedures for submitting comments.

Background and Permit History

The State of Delaware NPDES Phase II MS4 Tier I General Permit (permit) will provide coverage for those entities that were identified as small MS4s under the criteria provided in 40 C.F.R.122.32 and currently maintain coverage under an individual Phase II MS4 permit.

Prior to the issuance of this Tier I permit, the State of Delaware permitted four Phase II small MS4s to discharge storm water: the City of Newark (DE 0051152), the City of Dover (DE 0051161), the Town of Middletown (DE 0051209), and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) for infrastructure maintained and operated in Kent County (DE 0051144). The Department issued individual permits to Newark, Dover, and DelDOT in 2003 and issued an individual permit to the Town of Middletown in 2013. All four of these individual permits have since expired but have been administratively extended pursuant to State and federal regulations and are enforceable. These four individual Phase II permits provided the foundation on which this General Permit was formed.

The Phase II Final Rule requires coverage of all small MS4s that are located within the boundaries of a Bureau of the Census-defined "urbanized area" (UA) based on the latest decennial Census [40 C.F.R. § 122.32(a)]. (If a small MS4 is not located entirely within an urbanized area, only the portion that is within the urbanized area is regulated; *id.*). Under the 2010 Census, fourteen (14) new MS4s were identified as requiring permit coverage.

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To address the differences between the four currently permitted small MS4s and the municipalities identified as new small MS4s, Delaware's General Permit is divided into two tiers: permittees with an existing Phase II MS4 permit (Tier I) and new permittees that were identified under the 2010 Census (Tier II).

Under this tiered system, the Tier I permit provides discharge authorization to all existing Phase II MS4 permittees. The Tier II permit will be issued as an initial Phase II MS4 permit to those entities identified as new small MS4s through the results of data from the 2010 census that were not granted a waiver from NPDES coverage. It will also be used for future small MS4s requiring permit coverage. Permittees that obtain coverage under the Tier II permit will apply for a Tier I permit after the first permit cycle.

Statutory Authority and Notice of Intent

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (the Department) proposes to issue this Tier I General Permit to those designated entities subject to the discharge limitations, terms and conditions outlined in the permit. Section 402 of the Federal CWA of 1977, as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987 and as subsequently modified, and 7 Del. C., Chapter 60 provide the statutory authority for permit issuance.

The operator of a regulated MS4 must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage to the Department within sixty (60) days after the effective date this General Permit, unless granted an extension in writing by the Department. The NOI must include the name of the discharging entity, the operator responsible for the management of the MS4 program and descriptive information about the waters to which the MS4 drains. This information must include the names of all known waters that receive a discharge from the MS4, the designated use and the impairment status of each of these water bodies. A copy of the NOI form is provided on the Department's website at:

<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/water/surface-water/npdes/municipal-storm-sewers/>

The Department may require future NOI submittals to be executed electronically in accordance with 40 CFR Part 127. Upon written notification from the Department all permittees and co-permittees must transition to eNOI submission in lieu of hardcopy submittals. The eNOI must be electronically signed.

Small MS4 Definition

Permittees required to seek coverage under this permit include those entities that own or operate and maintain a portion of a municipal separate storm sewer system that is either located in an urbanized area as determined by the decennial Census, or is designated by the Department and have an existing MS4 permit. EPA defines "municipal separate storm sewer system" as "...a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains): (i) owned or operated by a State, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body...having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, storm water, or other wastes...; (ii) Designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water;" [40 C.F.R. § 122.26(b)(8)]. Under this definition, any area that a regulated jurisdiction "owns or operates" infrastructure that conveys runoff can be covered under this NPDES MS4 permit.

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Regulatory History of Storm Water Management and Water Quality

Section 402 of the Federal CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, prohibits the discharge of any pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source, unless that discharge is authorized by a NPDES permit. Similarly, 7 Del. C., Chapter 60, § 6003(a)(2), prohibits the undertaking of any activity “in a way which may cause or contribute to the discharge of a pollutant into any surface or ground water” without first having obtained a permit from the Secretary of the Department.

Efforts to improve water quality under the NPDES program have traditionally focused on reducing pollutants in discharges of industrial process wastewater and municipal sewage. As pollution control measures have been implemented for these discharges, it has become evident that diffuse sources of water pollution (*i.e.*, those occurring over a wide area) are also major contributors to water quality degradation. Research has shown that storm water runoff from urban and industrial areas typically contain the same general types of pollutants that are often found in industrial wastewater discharges, with similar impacts on surface water quality. Pollutants commonly found in storm water runoff include nutrients, heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic organic compounds such as fuels, waste oils, solvents, lubricants and grease. These compounds can have damaging effects on both human health and aquatic ecosystems. In addition, the high volumes of storm water discharged from municipal separate storm sewer systems in areas of rapid urbanization have had significant impacts on aquatic ecosystems due to physical modifications such as bank erosion and widening of channels.

With the growing concern and realization that storm water runoff, including both urban storm water and runoff from industrial sites, greatly contributes to surface water quality impairment, Congress added specific provisions to the CWA in 1987 (the Water Quality Act of 1987) to address storm water. To view these provisions, see section 402(p) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p). Congress directed the EPA to develop regulations and require NPDES permits for discharges of storm water from sites of industrial activities and from large and medium sized urbanized areas.

In 1990, EPA published Phase I of its municipal storm water regulations for medium and large cities or certain counties with populations of 100,000 or more (55 Fed. Reg. 47990 [Nov. 16, 1990]). The Phase II MS4 program, issued in 1999, requires small MS4s in urbanized areas, as well as small MS4s outside urbanized areas that are designated by the permitting authority, to obtain NPDES permit coverage for their storm water discharges (64 Fed. Reg. 68722 [Dec. 8, 1999]).

Phase II Remand Rule

On December 9, 2016, EPA published regulatory changes affecting NPDES small MS4 General Permits, known as the “Remand Rule” (81 FR No. 237). The new rule was promulgated in response to a remand from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Environmental Defense Center et al. v. EPA*. The Court determined that provisions of the Phase II regulations lacked an opportunity for public comment on NOIs submitted by MS4 permittees. In addition, the Court found that Phase II regulations must be revised to preclude permittees from determining on their own the actions necessary to meet the MS4 permit standard. The Court emphasized that the permitting authority is responsible for establishing requirements that meet the standard of reducing pollutants to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). The Remand Rule under 40 CFR § 122.34(a) specifies that “the NPDES permitting authority must include

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permit terms and conditions to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the maximum extent practicable (MEP), to protect water quality and satisfy the appropriate water requirements of the Clean Water Act.” In addition, this regulation specifies that permit requirements “must be expressed in clear, specific, and measurable terms.” To address the regulatory changes in the Remand Rule and associated guidance, the Department has developed this Tier I General Permit to meet the “Comprehensive General Permit” option as provided in 40 CFR § 122.28(d)(1) with the additional requirement for the Department to public notice their proposed Pollutant Reduction Plan as required by 40 CFR § 122.28(d)(2)(ii). This hybrid approach allows the Department to offer a general permit with clear, specific, and measurable terms and conditions while still providing the flexibility permittees need to develop appropriate Pollutant Reduction Plans for their respective watersheds and meet their water quality requirements.

The Remand rule applies to permit terms and conditions established for the six minimum control measures (MCMs), evaluation and reporting requirements, and water quality-based requirements. This can be expressed as either narrative, numeric, or other types of requirements. EPA further notes that implementation of best management practices (BMPs) designed to control storm water runoff from the MS4 is generally the most appropriate approach for reducing pollutants to satisfy the MEP standard (FRL-13-006 and 9779-7).

Pursuant to 40 CFR §122.44(k), the Tier I General Permit requires MS4 operators to control storm water discharges through BMPs, including development and implementation of a comprehensive storm water management program (SWMP) as the mechanism to achieve the required pollutant reductions.

EPA views the MEP standard in the CWA as an iterative process. MEP should continually adapt to current conditions and BMP effectiveness. To satisfy this requirement, the Tier I permit includes requirements for tracking data collected through implementation of the six MCMs. MS4 Operators must analyze this information to identify trends, patterns, areas of concern, and common problems. Based on the analysis, operators can then effectively adjust the program to focus their resources on areas of greatest concern. For example, the permit requires MS4 operators to collect and track information on illicit discharges and annually evaluate the information to focus their efforts on areas with the greatest number of past illicit discharges and also on the sources of illicit discharges most commonly found. As information on sources of illicit discharges becomes available, additional public outreach should be focused on these areas and illicit discharge sources.

Permit Term and Conditions

The Department proposes to issue this Tier I General Permit to eligible small MS4 entities for a period not to exceed five (5) years, unless administratively extended, subject to the discharge goals, limitations, monitoring requirements, and operational requirements as outlined in the permit.

Conditions of this permit require eligible entities to possess the legal authority to: (1) control non-point source pollutants that enter the storm sewer system, (2) monitor storm water discharges, (3) provide mapping of the storm sewer system, and (4) develop and implement management programs to minimize the pollutant contribution to and from the MS4.

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The Department developed the terms and conditions of this Permit to further the purposes of Title 7, Del. C., Chapter 60 and to achieve the water quality protection goals of the federal CWA and its implementing regulations.

The statutory provisions governing discharges from MS4s are contained in Section 402(p)(3)(B) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p)(3)(B), as amended. In general, Congress provided that permits for discharges from MS4s:

- may be issued on either a system-wide or jurisdiction-wide basis;
- shall effectively prohibit any non-storm water discharges into the MS4s; and
- shall require controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants from MS4s to the MEP.

Clear, Specific, and Measurable Requirements

This permit largely follows the Phase II regulations put forth in 40 C.F.R. 122.34 and is based on the implementation of six MCMs. Any permittee receiving coverage under this Tier I General Permit shall continue to maintain, update, and report progress on working toward these measures in MS4 annual reports. Annual reports will show continual progress toward program goals and shall demonstrate full implementation of all permit requirements by the end of the five-year permit term. It is anticipated that during the permit period, permittees will be required to submit Annual Reports electronically through an E-reporting system currently being developed. Details and instructions will be provided to permittees by the Department.

This Tier I General Permit also includes provisions that require permittees to maintain both adequate legal authority to control discharges to and from the MS4 and sufficient resources – financial, staff, equipment and support –to implement the storm water management program and administer it effectively. In addition, permittees must undertake appropriate monitoring and reporting to assess progress and overall program effectiveness.

The Department may specify additional requirements or compliance schedules for any and all components of the permittees' comprehensive Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) to meet the intent of the NPDES MS4 program and to achieve the level of implementation and progress deemed necessary to achieve water quality protection. This would include any area-specific or site-specific requirements identified through the Department's whole-basin or watershed assessment activities (i.e., the development of any applicable TMDLs and/or pollution control strategies to address specific ambient water quality problems).

Storm Water Management Program Plan

Permittees under this Tier I General Permit must maintain their current SWMP plan and will be required to update their plan. In prior individual MS4 Phase II permits, a final SWMP plan was submitted to the Department within twelve (12) months from the date of the NOI Authorization to Discharge from the Department. Annual Reports detailing the implementation, assessment and evaluation of the SWMP plan are to be submitted to the Department by July 1 of each year.

The General Permit includes the requirement to update, continue to implement, and assess the six MCMs of the SWMP plan as required in 40 CFR § 122.34. A description of each measure and permittee requirements are detailed in the following sections.

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Public Education and Outreach

Permittees are required to update, implement, and maintain a written public education and outreach program to reduce the discharge of pollutants caused by storm water runoff [40 CFR §122.34(b)(1)]. The permit contains specific requirements to assist the permittee with successfully implementing this program element, including:

- Establish a process by which the public can report water quality complaints that must include a phone number.
- Determine the target audience within the MS4 jurisdiction and develop materials to educate the audience on the impact of storm water pollution.
- Conduct at least two educational events per year that may include distributing educational materials describing the impacts of storm water discharges on receiving waters and methods of reducing storm water pollution.
- Develop an employee training program that addresses appropriate topics to prevent or reduce discharge of pollutants into the storm drain system.
- Describe in annual reports to the Department how the educational programs complement and strengthen other programs of the MS4.

The education and outreach program should be integrated with the other program elements and adjusted to address issues brought to the permittee from the public and from lessons learned in implementing other program elements.

Public Involvement and Participation

Public involvement in the permitting process and participation in storm water pollution prevention projects benefits the program by raising community awareness, sustaining pollution prevention practices, and saving valuable resources through volunteerism. Permittees are required to update, implement, and maintain a public involvement and participation program [40 CFR §122.34(b)(2)]. The permit contains specific requirements to assist the permittee with successfully implementing this program element, including:

- Comply with all State and federal public notice requirements for any regulated activity associated with this Tier I General Permit.
- Promote and perform public participation events within the jurisdiction such as adopt-a-stream program, storm drain stenciling, stream clean-ups, litter pick-up days, tree plantings, volunteer water quality monitoring, and other pollution prevention events.
- Determine the target audiences within the MS4 jurisdiction to promote public involvement and participation activities. Identify key individuals and groups - public and private, who are interested in or affected by the SWMP plan.
- Allow public access to the annual progress reports and consider incorporating public comments when making improvements to the storm water management program.

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Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

An illicit discharge is any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water except that which is sanctioned by a NPDES permit under 40 CFR §122.34(b)(3) and Part 2.D.3 of this general permit. Adequately preparing for, identifying, responding to, and mitigating illicit discharges will minimize the risk to water quality and human health.

Permittees are required to update, implement, and maintain a program to identify and eliminate illicit storm drain system connections and non-storm water discharges. Permittees are required to include public education and outreach activities aimed at reducing pollution from entering the MS4. The permit contains specific requirements to assist the permittee with successfully implementing this program element, including:

- Maintain a map of the permittee's storm drain system identifying all outfalls, inlets, storm water management structures, and State waters that receive storm water discharges.
- Field verify outfall locations and map new conveyances, outfalls and storm water management facilities as they are constructed or newly discovered.
- Adopt an ordinance or other regulation that prohibits illicit discharges into the storm drain system.
- Develop standard operating procedures that specify prioritizing outfall screening locations, inspection frequency and checklists, spill control, and illicit discharge investigation and elimination procedures.
- Develop a system for the public to report illegal dumping or spills and procedures to inform the public of the occurrence of an illegal discharge or improper waste disposal.
- Maintain documentation of illicit discharge screening efforts and investigations.
- Report follow up investigations and status as a result of any suspected illicit discharge.
- Report remedial actions to address any water quality problems identified during illicit discharge screening efforts.

Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control

Storm water discharges from construction activity can cause significant discharges of sediment and other pollutants to State water bodies if not properly controlled.

Permittees are required to update, implement, and maintain a construction site storm water runoff control program [40 CFR §122.34(b)(4)]. This program is intended to ensure consistency with Delaware's Sediment and Stormwater Regulations and Title 7, Delaware Code, Chapter 40, through controlling storm water runoff from construction activities.

The Department has delegated the authority to administer the program to Delegated Agencies,

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listed on the Department website here:

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/Drainage/Pages/DelegatedAgencies.aspx>

The permittee shall implement and enforce a program to reduce the discharge of pollutants from active construction sites that result in land disturbance of greater than 5,000 square feet. The permittee may fulfill this requirement through a cooperative agreement with a Delegated Agency in accordance with Delaware Administrative Code 5101, Sediment and Stormwater Regulations. If the permittee chooses to rely on a Delegated Agency, it must indicate this in the SWMP plan and ensure that the fully executed cooperative agreement with the Delegated Agency clearly describes each of the participants' responsibilities to coincide with 40 CFR Part 122 and that the cooperative agreement is appended to the SWMP.

Any modifications or updates to state regulations shall be implemented as required. The permittees must modify and update their SWMP plan to meet all the requirements of the Sediment and Stormwater regulations. The permit contains specific requirements to assist the permittee with successfully implementing this program element, including:

- Requirements for the review and approval of Sediment and Stormwater Plans to ensure compliance with standards in the Delaware Sediment and Storm Water Regulations (7 Del. C. Ch. 40) and Special Conditions for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (7 Del. C. Ch. 60).
- Requirements for the use and maintenance of appropriate structural and nonstructural sediment and erosion controls and other BMPs to reduce polluted discharges to the MS4 during the time when construction is underway and post-construction.
- Requirements and procedures for the inspection and enforcement of sediment and erosion controls and BMPs during and after construction to ensure long-term operation and maintenance; and enforcement if necessary.
- Requirements for construction site operators to control wastes such as discarded construction or building materials, concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter, oil, and sanitation waste in consideration of potential water quality impacts.
- Requirements to ensure adequate training of site contractor in accordance with the current Delaware Sediment and Storm Water Regulations (DE Admin Code 5101) and Special Conditions for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (7 Del. C. Ch. 60).
- Inspection requirements to ensure that BMPs are properly constructed and installed.
- Procedures for receipt and consideration of information submitted by the public.

Post Construction Storm Water Management

Inspection, proper operation, and maintenance of post-construction control structures will keep them functioning properly to protect State water bodies from pollution. Permittees are required to update, implement, and maintain a post construction storm water management program [40 CFR §122.34(b)(5)]. This program is intended to ensure consistency with Delaware's Sediment

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and Stormwater Regulations and Title 7, Delaware Code, Chapter 40, to address long term post-construction storm water discharges from new construction and redeveloped sites.

The Department has delegated the authority to administer portions of the Post-Construction Stormwater Management program to Delegated Agencies throughout the State. The permittee may fulfill this requirement through a cooperative agreement with a Delegated Agency in accordance with Sediment and Stormwater Regulations. If the permittee chooses to rely on a Delegated Agency, it must indicate this in the SWMP plan and ensure that the fully executed cooperative agreement with the Delegated Agency clearly describes each of the participants' responsibilities to coincide with 40 CFR Part 122 and that the cooperative agreement is appended to the SWMP plan.

The Delaware Sediment and Stormwater Regulations specify the requirements for any construction activity that disturbs 5,000 square feet or more of earth. Since Delaware's program regulates more earth disturbing activities than the NPDES storm water program, the Department considers compliance with the State statute to be a qualifying local program and in compliance with this MCM. The permit contains specific requirements to assist the permittee with successfully implementing this program element, including:

- Conduct annual visual inspections of all stormwater management systems and develop a maintenance program to prioritize repairs.
- Conduct a visual inspection of 10% of stormwater management systems after multiple concurrent wet weather days. Submit a summary of inspections and findings in the annual report.
- Update, implement, and enforce a program to address post-construction runoff from new development and redevelopment projects to ensure adequate long-term operation and maintenance of BMPs.
- Ensure staff is appropriately trained in proper BMP design, performance, inspection, and routine maintenance.

Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

Efficient operations and properly planned and tracked maintenance of municipal facilities and work activities will help to protect receiving water quality by ensuring equipment and storm water structures are operating as intended. Pollution prevention and good housekeeping can also create cost savings for the MS4 operator by reducing repair and replacement costs of equipment and storm water control structures.

Permittees are required to update, implement, and maintain pollution prevention and good housekeeping techniques and procedures to reduce pollutants from all municipal operations (40 CFR §122.34(b)(6)). Components of this MCM include updating or developing new policies and procedures to effectively reduce pollutant discharges to the storm drain system from activities located at municipal properties such as: water and wastewater treatment facilities, fleet yard operations, maintenance garages, parks and recreation sites, street and infrastructure maintenance operations, and grounds maintenance. The permit contains specific requirements to assist the permittee with successful implementation of this program element, including:

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- Ensure that staff and contractors receive appropriate training designed to address the importance of water quality protection through pollution prevention and good housekeeping measures.
- Develop and implement pollution prevention plans at all facilities that outline good housekeeping procedures to detect and correct any pollutant discharge, release, leak, or spill on site.
- Street sweeping and catch-basin cleaning and inspections
- Document any spill, discharge, or release and efforts related to containment and clean up.
- Track and quantify efforts to reduce fertilizers, pesticides, and winter deicing materials.
- Ensure the permittee maintains proper coverage under the General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity. As a result, municipal facilities may require additional NPDES permit coverage beyond this MS4 permit.
- Evaluate and document the feasibility of incorporating cost effective runoff reduction techniques and green infrastructure when upgrading storm water systems.
- Implement procedures for ensuring new or upgraded flood management projects assess the impacts on water quality.

SWMP Assessment and Evaluation Requirements

As part of the annual report, the permittees shall evaluate progress towards achieving compliance with all permit requirements and review the appropriateness of implemented BMPs as required by 40 CFR § 122.34(g). Based on the evaluation, permittees shall review all programs, BMPs, and MCMs outlined in the SWMP plan to determine their effectiveness and make program adjustments as necessary. The permittee is required to document any areas where additional measures or BMPs are needed and submit an implementation schedule.

Pollutant Reduction Plan

A Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP) is a planning document prepared by the permittee which guides the selection and implementation of specific BMPs to reduce pollutant loading to surface waters. The objective of a PRP is to improve the condition of surface waters such that the waters eventually attain water quality standards, including designated and existing uses, in accordance with Delaware Water Quality Standards.

This permit does not contain numeric effluent limits relating to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and, instead, focuses on the development of the PRP. As part of the PRP, the permit requires the identification of TMDLs and the pollutants of concern. Permittees will identify targeted controls, BMPs, or other Department approved methods to address these pollutants. The PRP will also include information on existing and proposed storm water management strategies, general information on BMPs currently employed and proposed to be implemented, modeling or other quantification methods describing BMP effectiveness in reducing pollutant loads, and a schedule for BMP implementation (if needed). Since progress towards addressing

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TMDLs is iterative and the PRP's implementation schedule may extend beyond this permit's term, the permittee will be required to provide any updates or modifications of the PRP in each annual report.

As part of the PRP, permittees may utilize partnerships or existing programs to help address impaired waters and TMDLs. The Department has developed Pollution Control Strategies (PCSs) for several watersheds that identify potential BMPs to address TMDL Waste Load Allocations. As part of the PRP, permittees may incorporate any of the specific plans, strategies, or BMPs associated with an existing PCS. Available PCSs can be found on the Department's website:

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/wa/Pages/PollutionControlStrategiesandTributaryActionTeams.aspx>

The Department also encourages permittees to consider MS4 TMDL guidance documents offered by other states as resources and examples of successful PRP implementation. Many of these documents will also be available on the Department's website:

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/wa/Pages/PollutionControlStrategiesandTributaryActionTeams.aspx>.

Analyzing Pollutant Loads

The permittees can review existing federal and state permitting resources for assistance in using existing literature or developing methods to analyze the expected pollutant load reductions from selected BMPs and to provide a preliminary indicator of anticipated progress toward achieving TMDL loads. EPA Region 3's Fact Sheet *Understanding Impaired Waters and TMDL Requirements for Municipal Stormwater Programs* (Jan. 2008) (available on the Department's website) provides a step-by-step approach for addressing water quality in MS4 storm water management programs, including selecting and implementing BMPs to address TMDL requirements. The Chesapeake Bay Program Expert Panel Reports are another resource for analyzing pollutant load reductions from selected BMPs which can be found at https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/bmp_expert_panels

The State of Delaware is also actively working to establish a Nutrient Banking, Offset, and Trading Program as an additional way to help permittees comply with NPDES, TMDL and water quality requirements. This approach would allow small MS4 permittees to offset or trade nutrient load requirements with wastewater treatment plants, farmers, and public/private property owners implementing BMPs for credit. Since this program has yet to be established in the state of Delaware, the permit states: "Trading with other sectors may also be considered as another method to achieve pollutant reductions, once a Banking, Offset, and Trading Program is established."

Public Notice and Process for Reaching a Final Decision

The public notice of the Department's issuance of the Tier I General Permit outlined herein will be published in the Wilmington News Journal and the Delaware State News on July 6, 2020. Interested persons are invited to submit their written views on the permit and the tentative determinations made with respect to this permit. The Department will not hold a public hearing on this application unless the Department receives a meritorious request to do so or unless the notice of this proposal generates substantial public interest. A public hearing request shall be deemed meritorious if it exhibits a familiarity with the application and a reasoned statement of the permit's probable impact.

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The request for a public hearing shall be in writing and shall state the nature of the issues to be raised at the hearing. All comments received by the close of business at 4:30 pm on September 6, 2020 will be considered by the Department in preparing the final permit.

Department Contact for Additional Information

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