

RE: Addendum to Stormwater Annual Report

Town of Poughkeepsie Stormwater SPDES No. NYR20A198

As part of the Town's ongoing stormwater management plan, public comment has been compiled on the draft Stormwater Management Annual Report. Public comments received on the May 18th meeting of the Town Board were addressed at that meeting, and members of the public informed that additional comments could be submitted in writing to the Supervisor. The following will address those comments received in writing after the May 18th meeting.

In regards to comments on the Stormwater Draft Annual Report from Doreen Tignanelli, of the Town of Poughkeepsie, dated May 25, 2005:

1. MM #1 Public Education

- a. The Town did not intend to take credit for identification of the waterbodies, only to recognize that it had been accomplished. Steps to reduce the pollutants of concern will be delivered to 11,000 town residents in September 2005 as part of their school tax bills and receipts. Please see the attached brochure that will be included in the mailing.
- b. Low impact development techniques are commonly integrated in site design and include but are not limited to such practices as bioretention, permeable pavements, soil amendments, and open space preservation. LID techniques can be incorporated in development planning on a case by case basis as the opportunity presents itself. The town currently provides provisions for cluster subdivisions to limit the impact of development.
- c. Members of the town's planning, engineering, and building department will continue to attend educational training to be aware of low impact design and stormwater management techniques that are available for consideration in land development projects.
- d. The DCSWCD has taken a role outside of any single municipality to provide regional assistance in conformance to MS4 permit requirements. The public education initially reported to the Town of Poughkeepsie by the DCSWCD was at the Dutchess county Fair August 25-29, 2004. Additional details of the DCSWCD activities have been included in Schedule A of the final annual report which has been made available through the town website.
- e. Outreach to residents of the Town of Poughkeepsie will include mailings included in school tax bills and receipts as well as activities planned by the DCSWCD.

2. MM #2 Public Involvement

- a. The Town board has a regular method of announcements at public meetings, which was used to inform interested parties of the availability of the Draft Annual report at the Town Clerk's office. It was later recommended to additionally place the draft annual report on the town's website for public review and the body of the draft report was made available on the town website. The body of the final report submitted to the DEC as well as the appendices is currently available on the town website. The town will continue to make documents available for public review on the town website as soon as possible.
- b. Tree and shrub plantings were reported by the DCSWCD for inclusion in the Annual Report. On an annual basis the DCSWCD conducts tree and shrub seedling sales to provide large quantities of vegetative material primarily for use as riparian buffers by private landowners. The DCSWCD has prepared their estimate of 2.17 acres of plantings based on the number of seedlings sold to residents of the Town of Poughkeepsie. Details of the DCSWCD activities have been included in Schedule A of the final annual report which has been made available through the town website.
- c. The draft annual report was completed and presented to the Town Board at the May 4th meeting, at which point the public was invited to provide comments on the draft document. After the meeting of the Town board on the 18th, the end of the public comment period, the draft Annual Report was revised and submitted as the Annual Report to the Department of Environmental Conservation which included comments and responses to those comments from the meeting on the 18th. Additional public comment was received on the annual report after the 18th and was included in the annual report submitted to the DEC. This response to those comments received after May 18th will additionally be provided to the DEC as an addendum.

3. MM #3 Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

- a. The notification procedure for detected illicit discharges has been established in the Stormwater Discharge Management law recently passed by the Town Board, which is available in the annual report. The Stormwater Management officer may order compliance by written notification of violation. Additional provisions for the enforcement are included in Section 14 of the local law. Visual inspections of existing discharges have been conducted by the office of the Town Engineer using:
 - i. "The Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination Manual", January 2003 as prepared by the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
 - ii. "Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination", October 2004 as prepared by The Center For Watershed Protection

- b. Inspections by the Town Engineer will be completed in the Fallkill, Wappinger and Hudson River Basins by May 2006.
 - c. The process of identifying methods to reduce the potential of risk and inform the public is ongoing. The first step in that process would be the identification of municipal facilities with potential to create illicit discharges.
4. MM #4 Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
- a. The town will continue to strive to comply with water quality regulations.
 - b. The threshold of disturbance established by the DEC that would require a SWPPP for erosion control during active construction is 1 acre. The threshold of disturbance established by the DEC that would require a SWPPP including both active construction and post construction controls (water quantity and quality) is 5 acres for projects involving the construction of single family homes, and 1 acre for other land development activities. Further conditions can be found in Article 2, section 2.2.2 of the recent local law for Stormwater Control.
 - c. Construction sites are inspected weekly and after 0.5" storm events. Small construction projects are inspected by the town engineer. Sites larger than 4,000 square feet, or involving the construction of greater than 5 lots are inspected by consultants hired by the town. Violations of the SWPPP are reported to site operators as detailed in the recent local law for Stormwater control. Please see Article 3 of the local law for Stormwater control for additional enforcement provisions. Records of violations are available at the office of the building inspector.
5. MM #5 Post construction Stormwater Management
- a. The retrofit is a joint project between the Town of Poughkeepsie and the DCSWCD. The project involves the replacement of stormwater control devices and construction of stormwater quality and quantity control measures. It was the only project identified by the municipality.
6. MM #6 Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping
- a. The town is currently in the process of addressing means to reduce the potential of the discharge of pollutants from municipal operations after having identified those facilities that potentially may be at risk to discharge pollutants as part of the ongoing operation and maintenance program.

This response to comments completes the Town's requirements for reporting stormwater management activities for the second year of general permit coverage and as noted above, will be submitted to the DEC as an addendum to the annual report.

What's the big deal about stormwater?

If you live in one of the Dutchess County municipalities listed below, your community has been designated a **regulated MS4** (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) under the new Phase II Stormwater Regulations.

City of Beacon	Village of Pawling
Town of Beekman	Town of Pleasant Valley
Town of East Fishkill	City of Poughkeepsie
Town of Fishkill	Town of Poughkeepsie
Village of Fishkill	Town of Wappinger
Town of Hyde Park	Village of Wappingers Falls
Town of Pawling	

This means that the town, city or village in which you live needs a permit under the State-wide Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) in order to discharge **stormwater**. **Stormwater runoff** is the rainwater that falls onto lawns, rooftops, roads, driveways, parking lots, and other outdoor surfaces, and is not soaked up by the soil.



What happens to all of this water? Most of it flows into storm drains, which often flow directly into a stream or lake, and ultimately, to a river such as the Hudson. It can carry with it sediment, trash, oil and hydrocarbons, metals, nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, potentially

harmful bacteria, and toxic substances into these water resources. This water may then become muddy, harmful to fish and wildlife, and unsafe for recreation. This is known as **nonpoint source pollution**. Although you may think of a stormwater discharge pipe as a point source because the outflow enters a stream at a single point, contaminants in the pipe are accumulated from all over the surface of the **watershed** (area of land drained by a given stream



or outfall pipe): Rain or snowmelt picks up pollutants and carries them downhill in pathways that flow together to one location.

How can I minimize stormwater pollution?

Many people do not realize it, but there are a number of simple things that homeowners can do to minimize water pollution.



Home repair

If you are a do-it-yourselfer, use non-toxic, biodegradable products. Before you begin an outdoor project, locate storm drains and be sure that they are protected from any

materials that the work may produce, including mortar, concrete, debris, and other substances. Paint brushes and other application tools should be cleaned indoors rather than washed outside with the hose.



Your lawn and yard

When applying pesticides, do so in dry, calm weather. Follow the recommended application rate on the label.

Spread grass clippings back on the lawn. This returns nutrients to the soil. Otherwise, sweep up yard waste rather than spraying it off the driveway with a hose. Plant debris can be used as mulch or turned into compost.



Don't apply fertilizer right before rain, it will be washed out and wasted. It takes time for biochemical processes in the soil to incorporate fertilizer.

Select native grasses and other plants—they tend to require less water and less fertilizer.

Test your soil - do you really need fertilizer?

Good farmers test their soil before they invest in fertilizer or manure. Find out the blend of nutrients your lawn needs. Call Cornell Cooperative Extension for an inexpensive soil test, at (845) 677-8223

x115. Excess fertilizer is not taken up by plants, but runs off into streams and lakes, where it leads to algae growth and fish kills. Fertilizer can also leach into groundwater, the drinking water supply for most of Dutchess County.



Conservation planting

When soil is washed off the surface of the land and into a water body, it becomes a pollutant itself. If you have planted grass seed in a bare soil area, keep it covered with a tarp or burlap until germination occurs, especially during the winter. Don't mow your lawn to the edge of a stream—maintain trees and shrubs near the edge of the bank. These plants have deeper roots more capable of holding soil in place.



Washing your vehicle

Do it on the lawn, not in the driveway. Soaps and accumulated "dirt" can harm our waterways, but lawns filter out these contaminants. **OR**



Better yet, go to a car wash where the dirty water can be properly discarded.

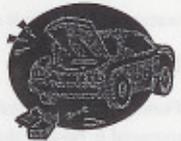
Maintaining your vehicle

Use only as much windshield washer fluid as you really need.

Check periodically for leaking oil, gasoline, engine coolant, and transmission, brake, and power steering fluids.

Use cat litter, sand, or other absorbent material to clean up oil or chemical spills.

Don't pour used automotive liquids into storm drains—have them recycled.





Don't litter. Recycle or dispose of trash properly.

This includes not only metals, plastics, paper, and glass, but also hazardous materials such as batteries, paints, and other household chemicals. Contact Dutchess County Resource Recovery at (845) 463-6020 to find out about County hazardous waste days, or visit their website at www.dccrra.org for more information.



Gutters and sump pumps

Collect roof runoff in rain barrels, and then utilize this water later on to water your garden. Rain barrels to which you can hook up a garden hose can be purchased or constructed. **OR**

Direct water to grassy or vegetated areas rather than down the driveway and into the street. Lawns will soak up much of the water and cleanse it of pollutants.

Pet waste

Flush it down the toilet. Animal waste material is rapidly absorbed by rainfall and carried into storm drains. The nutrients in it encourage the growth of pathogens and harmful bacteria in our waterways.



Swimming Pools

Before you drain your pool, test the water to make sure that chlorine is not detected. Then direct the drainage to a sanitary sewer, if possible.



Outdoor chemicals

Always store chemicals and cleaning products in a covered area, where any leaks can be contained.



Septic systems

Have your septic inspected at least every two years. A malfunctioning septic system can contaminate not only groundwater, but surface water as well. Generally, septic tanks must be pumped every 3 to 5 years at a minimum.

Don't plant trees or park vehicles over your septic absorption field—this can damage the pipes and lead to leaks.

Refrain from pouring any household chemicals, gasoline, oil, pesticides, or antifreeze down the drain or into toilets; these substances will inhibit the action of bacteria that keep the septic tank system functioning. Additionally, avoid disposing of diapers, cat litter, coffee grounds, cigarettes, feminine hygiene products, and grease into a septic system; they will clog the system's components.

For more information, check out these websites:

Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District
www.dutchess.ny.nacdnet.org

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - Division of Water Mainpage
www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/mainpage.htm
Phase II Stormwater Requirements
www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/futurereg.htm
Phase II General Permits and Information
www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/PhaseII.html

United States Environmental Protection Agency
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater
Polluted Runoff - Nonpoint Source Pollution
www.epa.gov/nps

US Department of Agriculture—Natural Resources Conservation Service: Backyard Conservation
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard>

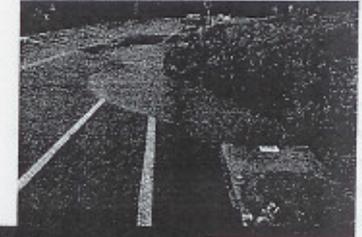
Center for Watershed Protection
www.cwp.org



Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District
2715 Route 44, Suite 3
Millbrook, NY 12545

Phone: 845-677-8011 x3
Fax: 845-677-8354
<http://dutchess.ny.nacdnet.org>

Preventing Stormwater Pollution



Tips for Home Owners



How you can help protect water quality in your community