

# Storm Water Regulatory History

For many years, urban storm water runoff has been a source of great concern because of its potential to carry harmful pollutants into nearby watercourses. Some pollutants in urban storm water can damage lakes and streams, harm aquatic life and disrupt sensitive wetland habitats. As a result of these concerns, the 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act required the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to address storm water runoff in two phases.

- Phase I of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Storm Water Program began in 1990. Phase I of the NPDES Storm Water Program applied to large and medium municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and eleven industrial categories including construction sites disturbing five or more acres of land.
- Phase II of the NPDES Storm Water Program began March 10, 2003 and applies to small MS4s and construction sites disturbing between 1 acre and five acres of land. Phase II also expands the industrial "no exposure" exemption covered under Phase I.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is in charge of implementing both phases of the NPDES Storm Water Program.

Since Urbana is defined as a small MS4, the City was required to comply with Phase II of the NPDES Storm Water Program by submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) by March 10, 2003 to the Illinois EPA. The NOI serves as the application for the NPDES Phase II Permit that covers storm water discharge from sewers under City jurisdiction. The NOI outlined a plan to implement six minimum control measures that target the improvement of storm water quality. The six minimum measures outlined in the NOI included the following items:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation and Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping



The City of Urbana plans to address the six minimum measures by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are identified in the NOI plan. As part of the NOI, the City defined each BMP, outlined measurable goals for each BMP, documented procedures and is recording all compliance efforts. Full implementation of the six minimum measures is required at the end of a five-year permit cycle.

Urbana has been working jointly with other small MS4s such as The City of Champaign, Village of Savoy, University of Illinois, Village of Rantoul and Champaign County in an effort to share costs and fulfill the requirements of NPDES Phase II.