

NPDES Stormwater Permit



The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a permit program authorized by the Clean Water Act to regulate point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. Sources regulated under the NPDES include certain **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4's)**.

History

The current regulations that protect U.S. waterways from pollution were prompted by the disastrous management practices of the past. In 1952, an oil slick on Ohio's Cuyahoga River caught fire, causing \$1 million dollars in damage to boats and riverfront property. This was the largest of *several* fires resulting from discharges of industrial waste. As public attitudes toward pollution shifted, Congress began to take action. Legislation to protect U.S. waterways in the 1970's led to the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) that protects our waterways today. The CWA is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The 1972 amendments to the CWA established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). In 1987 the NPDES was expanded to include discharges of stormwater to waterways via municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4's). Stormwater is a regulated discharge due to its potential impacts on water quality. Nearly 40% of U.S. waterways do not meet water quality standards due in large part to polluted stormwater runoff. Runoff in urban areas often picks up contaminants such as motor oil, lawn chemicals, and pet waste.

In 1990, Phase I of the stormwater permit program began requiring medium and large municipalities to obtain a comprehensive permit to discharge stormwater to waterways. In 1999, Phase II began requiring permit coverage for small municipalities in Urbanized Areas (UA's) and certain other municipalities as designated by the permitting authority. The City of Keizer is a Phase II regulated community. In Oregon, the EPA delegates permitting authority to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Components of the Phase II NPDES Stormwater Permit

Phase II Stormwater Permit holders must develop and implement a detailed Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) to guide the management of stormwater. The permittee's programs must:

Reduce the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent practicable" (MEP)

Protect water quality

Satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Every Phase II stormwater program includes six Minimum Control Measures (MCM's) intended to reduce pollutant levels in stormwater:

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

The permittee implements Best Management Practices (BMP's) to address each MCM. Measurable goals for evaluating the success of each BMP are also established. All of these elements are contained in the permittee's SWMP. A complete self-evaluation of the stormwater program must be submitted to the permitting authority in an annual report to ensure consistent and effective implementation of program elements. Permit renewal is required every five years.

Keizer's Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) in action

The City of Keizer obtained a Phase II NPDES Stormwater Permit to discharge stormwater to waterways via the City's MS4 in 2007.

The following BMP's are highlights of Keizer's SWMP:

Maintenance and repair of the MS4 which includes approximately 2,600 catchbasins, 1,000 manholes, and 70 miles of pipe (These numbers do not include [Underground Injection Control](#) systems)

Annual catchbasin cleaning

Enforcement of Illicit Discharge Ordinance

Implementation of Construction Site Runoff Program

Development and maintenance of stormwater website

Volunteer coordination for storm drain marking and riparian restoration

Public education activities, including creation of outreach materials

Staff support for Claggett Creek Watershed Council

Stormwater retrofit planning

Street sweeping (this is a contracted service)

Good Housekeeping program for Public Works personnel

Program tracking and evaluation for annual reporting to DEQ

[Link to Keizer's Permit, SWMP, and Annual Reports](#)



Note: The information above pertains to Keizer's NPDES permit only.