



Are you a Contractor, Developer, or a Homeowner improving your property? A snapshot of what you should know about stormwater and water pollution in West Earl Township.

A contractor, developer, and possibly a homeowner completing improvements on their property will discover that at least two different permits regulate their activities relating to stormwater and water pollution:

- West Earl Township Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit.
- A construction/stormwater management permit (e.g. NPDES Construction Permit).

What is MS4?

An MS4 is the system of conveyances owned by the Township (or connected to the Township's system) that is designed or used to collect or convey stormwater (e.g. inlets, pipes, curb & gutter, ditches, etc.) and discharges to streams and similar waterbodies.

West Earl Township MS4 Permit and SWMP

The Township's stormwater discharges are regulated by an issued MS4 Permit. The Township implements the conditions and requirements of the MS4 Permit through a comprehensive SWMP. There are portions of the MS4 Permit and corresponding SWMP that may apply to active construction or improvement projects that can discharge pollutants into the MS4 and streams:

- **Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination (IDD&E):** This component is concerned with non-stormwater discharges and pollutants that can enter the MS4 through stormwater run-off.
- **Construction Site Runoff Control:** The Township relies on the LCCD for a portion of this control measure—primarily with issuing NPDES permits and providing a level of approvals for E&S Control Plans. However, the Township observes a set of site inspection and enforcement measures to ensure erosion & sediment and waste controls are implemented.
- **Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM):** The Township is obligated to ensure appropriate long-term maintenance of stormwater management facilities is occurring.
- **Good Housekeeping/Pollution Prevention for Municipal Operations (O&M):** This control measure is concerned with the operations and maintenance of all Township-owned facilities and activities.
 - If you are a contractor working at a Township facility or in the right-of-way, you will need to conduct operations that observe the Township's water quality protection BMPs (inlet protection, scheduling, waste management, sediment control, etc.).



Illicit Discharge (sediment-laden runoff from utility boring) to an MS4 inlet.

Plans/Permits for Projects and Construction

Wading through the types of permits and plans you may need for your project or improvement can be confusing. That being said, Township staff is always available to help answer questions or point you in the right direction for acquiring the right permit if needed.

NPDES Construction Permits

Any construction or development activities that disturb one (1) acre or more of land are required to obtain coverage under the General (PAG-02) NPDES Permit or Individual NPDES Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities.

Stormwater Management Permit

Land disturbance is considered grading, tilling, digging, stripping vegetation, or similar earth work activities. A Major Land Disturbance Activity generally involves the installation of impervious surfaces, grading, filling, excavation, or destruction of woodland of more than 2,000 square feet in a non-residential setting. A Minor Land Disturbance Activity generally involves the installation of impervious surfaces, grading, filling, or excavation in an existing single-family residential setting from 500 square feet to 2,000 square feet.

The Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance can be viewed at www.westearltpw.org

Enforcement and Fines

West Earl Township has established an enforcement escalation plan for violations of the MS4 Permit and SWMP. Enforcement is divided into three levels: 1) Level I: Education and Voluntary Compliance Encouragement, 2) Level II: Notice of Violation (NOV), and 3) Level III: NOV with monetary fine.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

BMPs are selected, implemented, and maintained to prevent and/or reduce pollution to streams and the MS4. A number of different activities and improvements may not require an NPDES permit. However, every project or improvement activity should observe erosion & sediment control and waste control BMPs (not just projects requiring an NPDES permit). Several typical BMPs that should be considered for any project or improvement activity (see detailed informational sheet for more BMPs for consideration): **Street Sweeping:** Sweeping at day's end or more often if needed since sediments can be tracked off site. Sweeping can be completed either mechanically or with a broom.

- **Waste Management:** Proper disposal of wastes, using dumpsters with lids that are kept closed, preventing rain from leaching pollutants from materials stored in truck beds.
- **Erosion Control:** If the landscape or areas to be improved are not finished, stabilize exposed soil with straw, blankets, plastic sheeting, etc.
- **Sediment Control:** Preventing erosion is not always possible on an active site with exposed soil, so sediment control measures are used. Gravel bags, fiber rolls, silt fence, sediment ponds and so forth are meant to remove sediment that has mixed with water.
- **Non-stormwater Discharge Controls:** If it doesn't rain and there is a discharge off site and/or into an MS4 entry point, it is a non-storm discharge.
- **Inlet Protection:** Drain inlets on a site or adjacent to the site that are considered downstream of the site and may receive run-off should be protected during active construction or improvement activities.
- **Scheduling:** Avoid working on disturbed soils in the rain if you cannot prevent sediment-laden discharge from leaving the site. Schedule your work in conjunction with forecasted weather.



Unprotected stockpile and exposed soils on an active construction site that should have erosion and sediment controls in place.