

SPRING CITY NEW MS4 STORM WATER PROGRAM

Phase II NPDES Storm Water Regulations, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4s)

Under the 1987 Clean Water Act Amendments, the U.S. EPA developed new storm water regulations to address storm water that might impact water quality. These new regulations are set up in two Phases depending upon population. Phase I, which is already instituted, affected Allentown and Philadelphia and now U.S. EPA, through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is enforcing the Phase II portion of the regulation. There are about 1,000 municipalities in Pennsylvania that fall under the Phase II requirements. Those municipalities that are located within an "urbanized area" as defined by the 1990 Census and the 2000 Census were required to apply for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to discharge storm water from their municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4s). Because Spring City Borough lies within the urbanized area of Philadelphia, the Borough is affected.

To meet the new requirements the Borough submitted a permit application to DEP on March 10, 2003. The permit period runs for five (5) years. The permit application is basically an action plan for the borough to institute six requirements called minimum control measures (mcm): 1. Public Education, 2. Public Participation, 3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, 4. Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control, 5. Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Redevelopment, and 6. Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations Maintenance. The borough will have five years to put these protocols into effect, however certain protocols must be completed earlier than others.

There are a number of MS4 Materials that are found on the PA DEPT. of Environmental Protection web site at www.dep.state.pa.us and on EPA web site at <http://www.epa.gov/stormwater> to increase your knowledge of storm water issues.