



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

AQUATIC SERVICES ♦ ENGINEERING ♦ ROADS/BRIDGE MAINTENANCE ♦ STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ♦ TRAFFIC ♦ WATERWAYS MAINTENANCE

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Stormwater Management Program

Phase I NPDES

In 1990, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established regulations (called NPDES) requiring large and medium-sized municipalities to get operating permits for their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). These "Phase I" rules also required stormwater permits for a specified list of industries and for construction sites that were five acres or larger in size. Before 1990, EPA regulations only required permits for specific pollutant discharge such as wastewater treatment plants and industrial process wastes.

Phase II NPDES

In 1997, EPA began requiring permits for smaller municipalities (including Hernando County). These "Phase II" requirements are much less cumbersome than those given to the Phase I counties and cities. In addition, "Phase II" changed the threshold for construction sites from five acres to one acre or larger and delegated the NPDES program to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

The NPDES Phase II permit is different from typical EPA permits because, instead of telling counties and cities all the things they must do, permittees are given six Minimum Control Measures and are allowed to select their own Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Measurable Goals for attaining those Minimum Measures. The county's permit was written to minimize the need for new staff and new activities. However, some new training and tasks were unavoidable. Nearly all departments in Hernando County are participating in the implementation of the County's NPDES Phase II permit.

Many of the permit program measures involve educating citizens, builders, businesses and county staff on ways they can prevent stormwater pollution at home and at work. Other measures involve specific activities the county is responsible for such as construction inspections, identifying and mapping the stormwater system, investigating complaints of water pollution, recycling, working out BMPs at County facilities, etc.

The Six Minimum Measures Are:

1. **Public Education and Outreach:** To let the public know about the harmful effects of polluted stormwater runoff
2. **Public Participation/Involvement:** To comply with public notices requirements and encourage citizen involvement
3. **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination:** To implement a plan to detect and eliminate any non-stormwater discharges to the MS4 and create a map of the sewer system showing outfall locations
4. **Construction Site Runoff Control:** To implement and enforce an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities
5. **Post-Construction Runoff Control:** To implement and enforce a program that deals with discharges of stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment areas after

construction. (NOTE: This minimum control measure is met by the State Water Management Districts' stormwater permitting program. Hernando County does not have to do anything else for this measure)

6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping: To implement a program to reduce pollutant runoff from government property and operations as well as train staff about pollution prevention

Status of Hernando County Phase II Permit

Permit Requirements

All cities and counties identified as "Phase II MS4 operators" are required to get coverage under NPDES general permit (called a "generic " permit in Florida). In Florida, applicants are required to submit to FDEP a Notice of Intent (NOI) to use the Generic Permit for Stormwater Discharge from Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. In their NOI's, applicants must describe BMPs they have selected to meet the six Minimum Measures. In June 2003, the FDEP approved Hernando County's initial permit application and it's permit coverage became effective for five years.

Implementation of the Permit

The rules do not require all the BMPs to be effective immediately when the coverage is issued. Each permittee can spend the first five-year permit term developing and implementing the various BMPs for their Stormwater Management Programs (SWMP). However, they are required to submit an annual report to FDEP for each of the first five years, describing the progress they have made in implementing their SWMPs. Hernando County submitted its latest annual report on August 27, 2012.

Present Status

Hernando County applied for the third renewal of its NPDES MS4 permit on August 3, 2012 and FDEP approved the renewal effective December 1, 2012 for a term of five years. The county is in compliance with all terms and aspects of the current permit.

