

Stormwater regulations, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) EPA 40CFR122.26:

Summary: NPDES requires implementation of “Best Management Practices” (BMP’s). A BMP is literally a course of action which, through its implementation helps “to manage the quantity and improve the quality of stormwater runoff” and meets or exceeds the “Minimum Control Measures” performance objectives of the federal NPDES regulation for limiting the discharge of pollutants to surface water supplies via stormwater runoff.

NPDES requires Minimum Control Measures to be put into place by activities in affected Urbanized Areas (UA). There are 405 Urbanized Areas in the US listed in Appendix 6 of the 2000 US Census. Urbanized Areas are not necessarily just cities, but also include suburbs and other nearby areas. Appendix 6 contains detailed maps of each Urbanized Area and can be accessed on-line through the US EPA Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) website WWW.EPA.GOV/OMW to determine if a particular place is in an affected UA.

The applicable regulations require affected activities to develop a program to manage stormwater discharges from their facilities. This management program includes, among others, the development and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) including BMP’s. The SWPPP identifies: Potential Sources of Pollution and Exposed Materials, including a History of Past Spills & Leaks; BMP’s; Non-Structural controls such as Good Housekeeping Practices and Spill Prevention & Response; and Structural controls such as Containment including Pollution Incident Prevention Plans (PIPP) and Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) plans.