

Supplemental Guidance Document for Schools

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is undertaking an initiative to assist dischargers who may be releasing storm water or wastewater to surface waters of the state without necessary permit coverage. The goal of this initiative is to help facilities comply with our water quality laws, especially Section 324.3112 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. Facilities that have never had a permit and are discharging storm water without necessary permit coverage may apply without being subject to the fines and penalties associated with discharging without the permit, so long as they voluntarily submit a Certificate of Entry of the General Administrative Consent Order for Unpermitted Discharges by September 30, 2006. Enrollment in this program will require the submission of the following: a Certificate of Entry of the General Administrative Consent Order that resolves the past violations for discharging without a permit, a permit fee for fiscal year 2006, and a complete permit application to be submitted within sixty days of submission of the Certificate of Entry.

There are several permits programs that apply to schools. First, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for Storm Water Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4), this permit is likely needed at schools that are located in urbanized areas. Second, some schools release wastewater into or onto the ground at their facility through on-site sewage disposal systems. These wastewater discharges to the ground are subject to the Groundwater Discharge Permit program. Vehicle and equipment wash water may get authorization for discharge to groundwater, but should not be discharged to storm sewers or directly to surface waters. Finally, the discharge of swimming pool backwash and draining of swimming pool water into surface waters of the state are subject to the NPDES (wastewater discharge) permit program.

Are you discharging storm water to or from a municipally operated separate storm sewer within a federally designated urbanized area without a necessary wastewater discharge permit?

Facilities that must consider their need for permit are those that are publicly owned, and operate more than one building (either on one site or in combination on all sites) located within the boundaries of an area designated as "urbanized" by the U.S. Bureau of Census. Check Appendix 1 to see if this regulation applies to the community where your school district is located.

Public school districts, colleges or universities, or county buildings (municipal properties other than a city, village, or township) have the opportunity to opt out of their own permit by seeking coverage under the permit held by the city, village, or township where they are located. Contact the local unit of government to discuss this option with them. Facilities covered under the local unit of

government's permit by September 30, 2006 will not need to submit the Certificate of Entry, the permit fee, or the permit application.

Facilities that have not or will not gain coverage under the city, village, or township's permit, may apply for their own permit under one of two permit options. One option is the Jurisdictional Permit. This is a standard permitting approach that requires the permittee to carry out various storm water pollution prevention activities on their properties. The other option is the Watershed Permit. The Watershed Permit is like the Jurisdictional Permit because it requires the permittee to implement pollution prevention activities on their properties. It differs in that it also involves working together with other municipalities to meet jointly developed goals for protecting a water body to which multiple public entities discharge. An advantage of the watershed approach is its potential to allow sharing of pollution prevention expertise, costs, and effort.

To get more information on the two permit options, copies of both permits, and permit applications, go to www.michigan.gov/deqwater and search for "MS4 Permit Guidance." The top result links to the Municipal Program.

Under the general order, you will be agreeing to apply for coverage within a 60 day period. To apply for permit coverage, you will need to submit the Watershed-Based or Jurisdictional-Based permit application available on the MS4 Permit Guidance web page. Applicants for the Watershed Permit should speak with the local Watershed Permit contact and arrange to become a watershed stakeholder before applying. You may contact the Storm Water Program staff in the district DEQ office to find out who represents the watershed stakeholders in your area.

The Watershed Permit requires that you submit a plan called a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI) along with the application. The DEQ Storm Water Program staff can assist you with questions about developing a SWPPI. Watershed Permit applicants may also request an alternative submittal schedule in order to allow time to prepare the SWPPI.

If coverage under one of the municipal separate storm sewer permits is appropriate, a Certificate of Coverage will be issued. Questions can be directed to your Storm Water Program staff in the district offices or you can contact the Environmental Assistance Center 1-800-662-9278 for referral to staff.

Does your school have an onsite wastewater treatment system or other wastewater discharge subject to the Groundwater Discharge Permit Program?

Schools that treat and dispose of **only** sanitary wastewater by means of septic tank and drainfield are regulated by the local health department and not the DEQ if the maximum discharge volume is less than 6,000 gallons per day. For any other treatment and disposal method, or higher volumes using septic tank/drainfield, or discharges of wastewater to ground in addition to sanitary wastewater (e.g., vehicle wash water), schools should check the Guidance Document 4 of 4 and call if they have questions.

Is your swimming pool overflow, drainage, or pool filter backwash discharged to a storm sewer, a ditch, or directly to surface waters of the state? If so, the discharge will require a NPDES permit.

A copy of the swimming pool general permit and a permit application form are available online at www.michigan.gov/degwater. Follow the links to Surface Water and then NPDES Permits. The application is accessible by selecting How to Apply for an NPDES Permit. General Permit No. MIG769000 for public swimming pool discharges is on the link for General NPDES Permits. Call your district's surface water permitting staff or the Environmental Assistance Center 1-800-662-9278 for referral to staff.

Swimming pools should be constructed or modified in accordance with approved ConstructionPermits, and operated in accordance with an annual operational license from the MDEQ. Swimming pools operated in accordance with these approved construction and operational permits under the Public Health Code (Sections 333.12521 to 333.12534 of Act 368 of the Public Act of 1978) do not need wastewater discharge permits for discharges to *groundwater*.

This document was produced by the MDEQ Water Bureau in conjunction with the Environmental Science and Service Division and is intended for guidance only. Reliance on information from this document is not usable as a defense in any enforcement action or litigation.

**Phase 2 MS4 Communities in Michigan
Based on 2000 Census Urbanized Areas
Appendix 1, August 14, 2002**

Ann Arbor Urbanized Area (U A)

Ann Arbor
Ann Arbor Twp
Barton Hills
Belleville
Dexter
Lodi Twp
Pittsfield Twp
Saline
Saline Twp
Scio Twp
Sumpter Twp
York Twp
Ypsilanti
Ypsilanti Twp

Battle Creek U A

Battle Creek
Bedford Twp
Emmett Twp
Leroy Twp
Newton Twp
Pennfield Twp
Ross Twp
Springfield

Bay City U A

Bangor Twp
Bay City
Essexville
Frankenlust Twp
Fraser Twp
Hampton Twp
Kawkawlin Twp
Monitor Twp
Portsmouth Twp

Benton Harbor/St Joseph U A

Benton Harbor
Benton Twp
Bridgman
Lake Twp
Lincoln Twp
Royalton Twp
Shoreham
Sodus Twp
St Joseph
St Joseph Twp
Stevensville

Detroit U A

Addison Twp
Algonac
Allen Park
Auburn Hills
Berkley
Beverly Hills
Bingham Farms
Birmingham
Bloomfield Hills
Bloomfield Twp
Brandon Twp
Brownstown Twp
Bruce Twp
Canton Twp
Casco Twp
Center Line
Chesterfield Twp
Clarkston
Clawson
Clinton Twp
Commerce Twp
Dearborn
Dearborn Heights
Detroit
Eastpointe
Ecorse
Farmington
Farmington Hills
Ferndale
Flat Rock
Franklin
Fraser
Garden City
Gibraltar
Grosse Ile Twp
Grosse Pointe
Grosse Pointe Farms
Grosse Pointe Park
Grosse Pointe Shores
Grosse Pointe Twp
Grosse Pointe Woods
Groveland Twp
Hamtramck
Harper Woods
Harrison Twp
Hazel Park
Highland Park
Highland Twp
Huntington Woods
Huron Twp
Independence Twp
Inkster

Detroit U A (cont.)

Ira Twp
Keego Harbor
Lake Angelus
Lake Orion
Lake Twp
Lathrup Village
Lenox Twp
Lincoln Park
Livonia
Macomb Twp
Madison Heights
Melvindale
Milford
Milford Twp
Mt Clemens
New Baltimore
New Haven
Northville
Northville Twp
Novi
Novi Twp
Oak Park
Oakland Twp
Orchard Lake
Orion Twp
Oxford
Oxford Twp
Pleasant Ridge
Plymouth
Plymouth Twp
Pontiac
Redford Twp
River Rouge
Riverview
Rochester
Rochester Hills
Rockwood
Romeo
Romulus
Roseville
Royal Oak
Royal Oak Twp
Shelby Twp
So Rockwood
Southfield
Southfield Twp
Southgate
Springfield Twp
St Clair Shores
Sterling Heights
Superior Twp
Sylvan Lake

Detroit U A (cont.)

Taylor
Trenton
Troy
Utica
Van Buren Twp
Walled Lake
Warren
Washington Twp
Waterford Twp
Wayne
West Bloomfield Twp
Westland
White Lake Twp
Wixom
Wolverine Lake
Woodhaven
Wyandotte

Elkhart, IN – MI U A

Mason Twp

Flint U A

Atlas Twp
Birch Run Twp
Burton
Clayton Twp
Clio
Davison
Davison Twp
Fenton
Fenton Twp
Flint
Flint Twp
Flushing
Flushing Twp
Gaines Twp
Genesee Twp
Grand Blanc
Grand Blanc Twp
Holly Twp
Linden
Mt Morris
Mt Morris Twp
Mundy Twp
Richfield Twp
Swartz Creek
Thetford Twp
Tyrone Twp
Venice Twp
Vienna Twp

Grand Rapids U A

Ada Twp
 Algoma Twp
 Allendale Twp
 Alpine Twp
 Blendon Twp
 Byron Twp
 Caledonia Twp
 Cannon Twp
 Cascade Twp
 Courtland Twp
 East Grand Rapids
 Gaines Twp
 Georgetown Twp
 Grand Rapids
 Grand Rapids Twp
 Grandville
 Hudsonville
 Jamestown Twp
 Kentwood
 Plainfield Twp
 Rockford
 Sparta
 Sparta Twp
 Tallmadge Twp
 Walker
 Wright Twp
 Wyoming

Holland U A

Fillmore Twp
 Holland
 Holland Twp
 Laketown Twp
 Olive Twp
 Park Twp
 Port Sheldon Twp
 Zeeland
 Zeeland Twp

Jackson U A

Blackman Twp
 Jackson
 Leoni Twp
 Napoleon Twp
 Rives Twp
 Spring Arbor Twp
 Summit Twp

Kalamazoo U A

Brady Twp
 Charleston Twp
 Comstock Twp
 Cooper Twp
 Galesburg
 Kalamazoo
 Kalamazoo Twp
 Oshtemo Twp
 Parchment
 Pavilion Twp
 Portage
 Richland Twp
 Schoolcraft
 Schoolcraft Twp
 Texas Twp
 Vicksburg

Lansing U A

Alaiedon Twp
 Bath Twp
 Delhi Twp
 Delta Twp
 Dewitt
 Dewitt Twp
 Dimondale
 East Lansing
 Grand Ledge
 Lansing
 Lansing Twp
 Mason
 Meridian Twp
 Oneida Twp
 Vevay Twp
 Watertown Twp
 Williamstown Twp
 Windsor Twp
 Woodhull Twp

Michigan City, IN – MI U A

Grand Beach
 Michiana
 New Buffalo Twp

Monroe U A

Berlin Twp
 Frenchtown Twp
 Lasalle Twp
 Monroe
 Monroe Twp
 Raisinville Twp

Muskegon U A

Crockery Twp
 Dalton Twp
 Egelston Twp
 Ferrysburg
 Fruitport
 Fruitport Twp
 Grand Haven
 Grand Haven Twp
 Laketon Twp
 Muskegon
 Muskegon Heights
 Muskegon Twp
 North Muskegon
 Norton Shores
 Robinson Twp
 Roosevelt Park
 Spring Lake
 Spring Lake Twp
 Sullivan Twp

Port Huron U A

Burtchville Twp
 China Twp
 Clay Twp
 Clyde Twp
 Cottrellville Twp
 East China Twp
 Fort Gratiot Twp
 Kimball Twp
 Lexington
 Lexington Twp
 Marine City
 Marysville
 Port Huron
 Port Huron Twp
 St Clair
 St Clair Twp
 Worth Twp

Saginaw U A

Bridgeport Twp
 Buena Vista Twp
 Carrollton Twp
 James Twp
 Kochville Twp
 Saginaw
 Saginaw Twp
 Spaulding Twp
 Thomas Twp
 Tittabawassee Twp
 Zilwaukee

South Bend, IN – MI UA

Bertrand Twp
 Buchanan
 Buchanan Twp
 Edwardsburg
 Howard Twp
 Milton Twp
 Niles
 Niles Twp
 Ontwa Twp

S. Lyon-Howell-Brighton U A

Brighton
 Brighton Twp
 Dexter Twp
 Genoa Twp
 Green Oak Twp
 Hamburg Twp
 Hartland Twp
 Howell
 Howell Twp
 Lyon Twp
 Marion Twp
 Northfield Twp
 Oceola Twp
 Pinckney
 Putnam Twp
 Salem Twp
 South Lyon
 Webster Twp

Toledo, OH – MI U A

Bedford Twp
 Erie Twp
 Whiteford Twp