



## July/August 2019 Newsletter



**Dead Dogs That Took a Swim & Fish Kills....  
What's Going On?!**



A Large MS4 willingly washing human feces, urine, drugs & solid waste into their river

As stormwater professionals we know public awareness is a top priority for good water quality in our highly populated cities today; and since it's mandated by the Clean Water Act that municipal separate storm sewer systems ( [MS4's](#) ) demonstrate their efforts to comply with and enforce the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permit program, we shouldn't be seeing the spectacle of a city worker pressure washing toxic pollution into a stormwater catch basin that discharges directly into surrounding creeks, rivers and lakes.

Many people don't realize the system for protecting America's water resources is already here. Today however, many of our federal and state environmental protection programs are not properly funded or enforced properly. That said, it hasn't always been this way. Back in the late 1960's and early 1970's when water quality was severely threatened because of the lack of laws to protect water quality, it was the American public that demanded something be done vote politicians out of office if they didn't do something about the rampant pollution problem we had back then, so the EPA was a born and the Clean Water Act was amended with NPDES permit requirements to make polluters accountable. While it's easy to see when an industrial site or wastewater treatment plant are illegally discharging toxic pollution into our rivers in violation of their NPDES permit conditions, it's the algae blooms and resulting dead dogs & fish kills we see today that are the indicators from [non-point source pollution](#).

Today, [point sources](#) that qualify for NPDES permit coverage (industrial sites, construction sites and even cities, counties, etc.) are required by federal, state and local regulations to sign a document called a Notice of Intent (NOI). This document is essentially a signed promissory note that the facility owner will comply with their permit conditions or be held accountable. Large fines and even jail



time can be applied for violators. You may not know that qualified cities & counties and military bases &



Departments of Transportation (DOT's) across America are required to sign a NOI as MS4s. Therefore, it's the **MS4CECI** Inspector that must have the support of their municipal managers to do their job at protecting the public's surface water resources. By requiring that signers of the NOI comply with their NPDES Storm Water Management Programs (SWMPs), and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs), local MS4 inspectors are then able to enforce the NPDES permit to improve and maintain the surface water quality in America's watersheds. Millions of people living in China, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and South America are a living with the consequences of having **unenforced** water quality protection laws. In America, everyone deserves clean water; that was Congress's decision back in 1972. Today however, unenforced point source NPDES

Permits and unregulated non-point source polluters are often responsible for the high levels of pollutants entering our watersheds.

The enforceability of the Clean Water Act needs to be protected. NPDES is a major player in America the Beautiful! We can never forget that the Clean Water Act is worthless, **if** polluters are not held accountability for their polluted discharges. It's the accountability NPDES permits place on polluters that provide the United States of America with the creeks, rivers, lakes and coastal waters that are the envy of the world!

### **"CONSTRUCTION SITE INSPECTION GUIDE"**

*"Here's to tight lines and good times in clean abundant water!"*

*T. Luke Owen, Principal Trainer*

*NPDES Stormwater Training Institute*

## **EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL COURSES**

***We also provide customized classroom & field training events***



For the INITIAL CLASSROOM CERTIFICATION COURSE (click one of the courses below):

**[Level 1A Fundamentals \(Blue Card\) - Click Here](#)**

**[Level 1B Advanced Fundamentals \(Red Card\) - Click Here](#)**

**[Level II Introduction to Design \(Tan/Gray Card\) - Click Here](#)**

for Design Pros (Tan Card) and Plan Reviewers (Gray Card)

-----  
For RECERTIFICATION (click your preference below):

**[For ONLINE Click Here](#)**

**[For CLASSROOM Click Here](#)**

***We are here for you!***





NPDES  
Stormwater  
MS4 Training,  
Industrial  
Training and  
Construction  
Training is  
what we do!



## CUSTOMIZED TO YOUR STATE REQUIREMENTS

ACROSS THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

[info@erosiontraining.com](mailto:info@erosiontraining.com) or  
678-469-5120

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### UPCOMING CLASSES

FREE DOWNLOADABLE 2016 FIELD  
MANUAL

6th EDITION GREENBOOK

The NEW GREEN BOOK and FIELD  
MANUAL

DR. DIRT CONSTRUCTION SITE  
SOLUTIONS!

MS4 CECI Course Registration

WATER MONITORING, A Key  
Component for Water Quality

AMERICA NEEDS LOCAL  
ENFORCEMENT

COMPLIANCE TOOL BOX

LIKE US ON FB & LINKED IN

STORMWATER CONFERENCES

### Quick Links

[CHECK EXAM RESULTS](#)

[COURSE SCHEDULE](#)

[NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES](#)

[BUY THE NEW FIELD MANUAL](#)

The Most Recent  
FIELD MANUAL

## CONTRACTOR'S CORNER

By Dr. Dirt

Volume 19 Issue 4

### Solving Erosion and Sediment Problems In The Field

The problem: Curb inlet sediment traps



Inlet sediment traps are installed in front of curb inlets to trap sediment. They also create problems, such as ponding water (and sediment) on the roadway and creating a driving hazard.



This leaves the contractor in a dilemma.  
By addressing one problem, another is created!  
It is easy to see the problem; but difficult to correct!

**[CLICK HERE](#)** and you'll be taken to Dr. Dirt's solution to the **CURB INLET SEDIMENT TRAP** problem above, a problem shared by many contractors.

**Dr. Dirt's passion is to help contractors fix their BMP problems in the field, and he is excellent to work with! Click on the photo above and you'll be taken to his website.**

*Dr. James Spotts is a master and well recognized leader in the erosion and sediment control industry, and that's not overstating it. His passion for helping the contractor in the field is the force behind Dr. Dirt's Contractors Corner!*

## Algae Blooms, Dead Dogs and Fish Kills

(Where's It Coming From & What Can You Do About It?)

The Jar Test (see below) can be used to make an initial assessment for Harmful Algae Blooms.

Source: [Georgia EPD](#)

FIELD MANUAL  
FOR  
EROSION  
AND  
SEDIMENT CONTROL  
IN  
GEORGIA

VEGETATIVE AND STRUCTURAL  
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)  
FOR  
LAND-DISTURBING ACTIVITIES



GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

View our videos on YouTube

**Buy Now**



**CLICK HERE**  
for Your Green Book

MANUAL FOR EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL  
IN GEORGIA  
"THE GREEN BOOK"

2016  
8th Edition

Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission



P.O. Box 8024  
4310 Lexington Rd, Athens, GA 30603  
706-552-4470 phone 706-552-4486 fax

[www.gswcc.georgia.gov](http://www.gswcc.georgia.gov)



PRODUCED BY  
NORTH FARM SYSTEMS  
INCORPORATED  
Athens, GA 30606  
[www.erosiontraining.com](http://www.erosiontraining.com)



OR  
DOWNLOAD A  
**FREE COPY** OF THE  
**GREENBOOK HERE!**

**AS OF JULY 1, 2016 ONLY  
THE 2016 EDITION  
GREENBOOK CAN BE USED in  
GEORGIA.**

**Causes of blue-green algae blooms** ( the source of cyanobacteria)  
**Elevated nutrient levels**, warm temperatures, still waters, and plenty of sunlight can promote the growth of cyanobacteria. Although cyanobacterial blooms can occur naturally, human activities (nitrates and phosphate levels) play a role in increasing the frequency and intensity of blooms.



**When and where do cyanobacterial blooms occur?**

Cyanobacteria blooms are more common in warmer climates and tend to grow more rapidly at higher temperatures. Most blooms occur in late summer or early fall, although they can occur at any time during the year. Unfortunately, higher bloom occurrences during the warm summer months correspond with times of increased recreational use. Once a bloom does form, it may persist for several weeks, or it may rapidly move or dissipate within hours.

A bloom can occur at any location within a lake or reservoir, but they are most commonly reported near shorelines. Many cyanobacterial species contain gas vesicles within their cells, which enable them to float to the surface. These floating cells are then pushed via winds until they reach the shoreline, where they accumulate into visible blooms.

What should you do if you see a potential **HAB**?

- If you see a bloom in a lake or reservoir, keep children and pets away from the water and limit recreational activities on the water. Avoid contact with the water that is discolored; do not swim or wade through algal scums.
- Do not drink, cook, or shower with untreated water from lakes, ponds, or streams.
- Do not drive your boat, water ski or jet ski through the bloom.
- Avoid exposure to irrigation water drawn from untreated sources.
- Do not fish from lakes, ponds or rivers where algal scum is present.
- Do not allow pets or livestock to swim in or drink scummy water.
- If you or your animals come into contact with a blue-green algae bloom, wash with fresh water and soap after skin contact, and avoid swallowing or inhaling water. Wash animals' fur thoroughly before allowing them to groom themselves.
- If you begin to exhibit any of the symptoms listed above, contact your healthcare provider and be sure to mention the possibility of exposure to algal toxins as you were in or around water.

## The Jar Test



A jar test can be performed as a preliminary test before taking the sample to the laboratory

The following step by step procedure can be used to make an initial assessment.

#### Materials

Clean clear jar (pint to quart size) with a screw top lid - A Mason (canning) jar or a clean store-bought pickle jar with the label removed works well.

#### SAFETY FIRST

*When taking samples, use rubber or latex gloves to collect a sample of water to prevent skin exposure*

#### Procedure

1 - Collect the water just below the surface of the water. DO NOT collect sample directly from the surface, but collect just under the surface to avoid collecting just the scum on the top layer of the water.

2 - Fill the jar about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way full with the pond water. DO NOT fill the jar completely to the top. Algae will give off gases and may cause of buildup of pressure inside the jar causing it to break.

3 - Wipe off any scum that may be on the outside of the jar.

4 - Screw the lid onto the jar.

5 - Place the jar in a cold refrigerator and leave it completely undisturbed overnight.

6 - The next day, carefully remove the jar from the refrigerator and look to see where the algae have accumulated. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT, that you do not shake or agitate the jar in any way. If you do, this will mix the algae into the water again and you will not get test results that are usable.

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE GAEPD INFORMATION](#)**

**[CLICK HERE FOR USEPA INFORMATION](#)**



## MS4CECI Courses



Building a Strong America  
One Brick and  
Creek at a Time



Hundreds of MS4CECI Inspectors RAVE About the NPDES  
Training Institute

*Hands On*

***Field IDDE & Outfall Investigations,  
Construction & Industrial Site Inspections***

This course meets the MS4 NPDES Permit requirement  
for Training!

**[Click Here for MS4CECI Course Dates](#)**



**MS4CECI - WE TAKE IT TO THE FIELD!**

-----  
**MS4CECI  
RECERTIFICATION COURSES**

**CLASSROOM Recertification MS4CECI**

**[CLICK HERE](#)**

**ONLINE Recertification MS4CECI**

**[CLICK HERE](#)**

We take pride in our ***COURSE EVALUATIONS;***  
***these are just a few!***

*"I've taken a lot of classes and wasn't looking forward to another erosion class, but of all the classes I've had to take, this one was by far the most*



*stimulating and educational yet! Thank you, your passion for America and our quality of life shines through your training!"*

*"Luke is an excellent instructor, his knowledge and experience was communicated clearly and on point with interesting facts and examples."*

*"The instructor was incredibly knowledgeable and shared his experience that really made the point. Different media in the training (video, whiteboard and slides with few words and big pictures) made a potentially boring class, fun. The NPDES Training Institute rocks!"*

*"The trainer was knowledgeable of the material, his anecdotes and teaching method of involving others was great."*

*"Excellent facility, field exercise (for watershed assessment), excellent media presentation, great lunch."*

*"The presentation was well organized with multiple uses of media & dry erase board illustrations. The Impaired Stream field visit was icing on the cake"*

*"Instructor had a great training style, I liked how he mixed it up"*

*"These guys know their stuff!"*

**"THE BEST STORMWATER CLASS I'VE EVER ATTENDED!"**

**CALL RITA @**

**678-469-5120 for help registering!**

**[www.ms4training.com](http://www.ms4training.com)**

---

## **Water Monitoring**

### **"A Key Component for Water Quality!"**



Monitoring the quality and quantity of stormwater is an essential part of good stormwater management. Accurate monitoring equipment can more than pay for itself as the data it collects leads to wiser decisions and better use of financial resources and employees.

**[Click Here](#)** or the photo to read an excellent article on water monitoring's role in protecting water quality!



### Research shows:

5% will violate water quality laws no matter what,

20% will comply with water quality laws no matter what, and

**75% will comply only with effective Local Enforcement!**

*"Improving the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement of Environmental Policies"*

Cheryl Wasserman, USEPA

## COMPLIANCE TOOL BOX



NPDES Training Institute  
"Training That Helps It All Make Sense!"



NPDES Permit Construction Compliance Guidance

Construction Inspection Forms for NPDES Permit Compliance

GREEN BOOK (Manual for E&SC in Georgia - New 2016)

FIELD MANUAL for E&SC in Georgia - New 2016

WHO NEEDS TO BE CERTIFIED in GEORGIA - FACT SHEET

Enforcement Requirements for Local Issuing Authorities

EPD GUIDANCE TO SWCC DISTRICTS FOR PLAN REVIEWS

PONDS - BUILDING or RENOVATING

STREAMBANK and SHORELINE Stabilization Restoration

PERMITTEE SCENARIOS FOR COMPLIANCE

GA Stormwater Management Manual (GI Guidance)

GA Coastal Supplement

**FIND IMPAIRED WATERS WHERE YOU LIVE**



NEED HELP with DUST  
CONTROL & SEDIMENT  
BASINS?

CALL JIM SPOTTS

770-216-9514


[www.southeastenvironmentalconsultants.com](http://www.southeastenvironmentalconsultants.com)





SEMPER FI  
AMERICA!



 Like us on Facebook

View our profile on **LinkedIn**



**ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS**

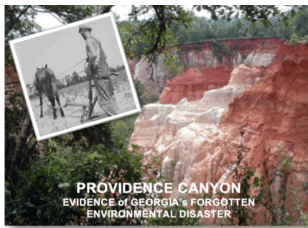
**Save 10%**



USE COUPON CODE  
**"Summer2019"**

Contact Rita at  
678-469-5120  
for **YOUR DISCOUNT**

**THIS OFFER EXPIRES on Sept 15 ,2019**



Never Forget the  
Past, It's Our Greatest  
Teacher!



## MORE STORMWATER CONFERENCES & TRAINING EVENTS



[SOUTHEAST STORMWATER ASSOCIATION \(SESWA\)](#)



[INDIANA MS4 PARTNERSHIP](#)



[GEORGIA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION](#)



[GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF WATER PROFESSIONALS](#)

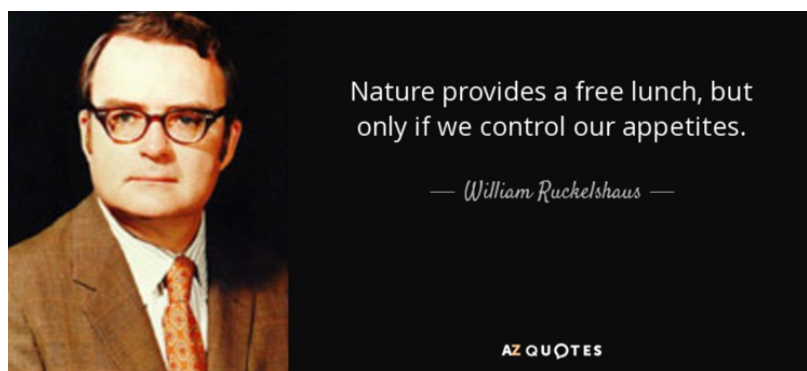


[INTERNATIONAL EROSION CONTROL ASSOCIATION](#)



[WATER ENVIRONMENT FEDERATION](#)

O



*Respecting our neighbors downstream is what America is all about and it's the NPDES program that helps us do that!*

*OUR CHILDREN will be living through  
decisions we make today with our water . Let's be kind!*

*NPDES is an investment in our nation's future generations so they too can have an equally great place in which to live, swim, fish, boat, and hunt tomorrow!*





**Sincerely,**  
NPDES  TRAINING  
INSTITUTE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Luke Owen".

T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI  
President

[www.npdestraining.com](http://www.npdestraining.com)

[www.ms4training.com](http://www.ms4training.com)

[www.erosiontraining.com](http://www.erosiontraining.com)

[tlowen@npdestraining.com](mailto:tlowen@npdestraining.com)