



## What is a BEST Management Practice, Really?

It's time for everyone to share a "common sense" of what Best Management Practices (BMPs) are, and how they can BEST be used to protect our watersheds.

Thousands of stormwater professionals across the country today recognize the acronym "BMP", however, it might surprise you to know that the term extends far beyond the proper design, installation and maintenance of structural devices such as detention ponds and silt fences. Today, it's imperative that a NPDES Permittee, SWPPP Designer and/or Site Inspector understand the full definition, as only then will a BEST Management Practice effectively work to prevent stormwater volume, velocity and pollutant loads from destroying our urban watersheds.

In 1977, amendments to the Clean Water Act used the term BMP for the first time by describing the sewage treatment practices and procedures for preventing toxic pollutants from industrial discharges; all unrelated to stormwater.



EDUCATION is a Fundamental BMP



Stormwater BMPs did not appear in the Clean Water Act until 1987, after Congress acknowledged the severity of stormwater pollution following the completion of a multiyear stormwater study called the National Urban Runoff Program (NURP). Today, stormwater BMPs are classified as either "structural" (i.e. physical devices like silt fences and sediment ponds, or Low Impact Devices devices like bio retention cells), or "non-structural" (i.e. those related to vegetative cover on construction sites), but can also encompass guidance documents and ordinances that make it illegal to pour chemicals down storm drains, or allow sediment loaded runoff into the local lake. One of the most effective BMPs can simply be the enforcement of ordinances

This is Where It All Ends Up!

that are already in place; implementing education and outreach programs of local

governments, offering education and certification courses, or even putting modified landscaping and street sweeping practices into effect.

The bottom line is that stormwater BMPs are here to stay and every structural and non-structural method should be considered by permit writers and design professionals when trying to prevent pollution from entering our watersheds.



Thank you for registering for this newsletter, which we hope will help equip you to protect our precious water resources!

Sincerely,  
Luke

T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI  
tlowen@npdestraining.com

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## "Site Inspector"

Are you an Overseer, Educator or Both?

Inspectors should first look at themselves as NPDES Permit educators, not just site project site overseers. When conducting a site inspection, the inspector should have a working knowledge of the rules, regulations, ordinances and procedures required for the project. Then, the inspector should see themselves as an educator. Teaching the permittee what a site inspection is all

about, how to conduct the inspection and how to move forward with findings. The first step starts with making sure the documentation is in order, ensuring that the SWPPP (ES&PC Plan) is implemented in the field, and finally, being certain that BMPs are



[Click Here for the Inspection Guidance Document](#)

properly installed and maintained per the plan.

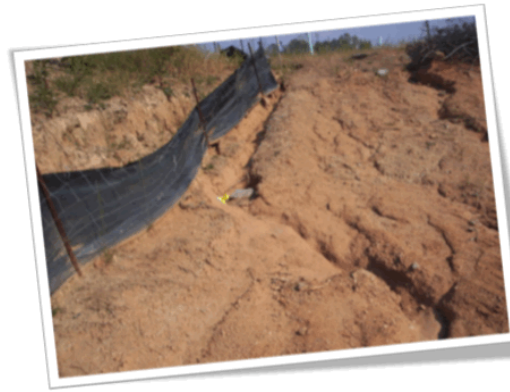
For example, when reviewing site records in which daily rainfall logs are missing, you will automatically know that the site is in violation. The recording of daily rainfall is a fundamental initial step. Your first opportunity to teach the importance of daily rainfall recording and other permits compliance requirements, will be at the Pre-Construction Meeting.

With regard to reporting violations, did you know that this is a fundamental NPDES permit compliance requirement? The NPDES Permit is a self regulating permit and as such, is akin to having a federal or state regulator sitting in the permit on your desk regulating your site.

The only problem is the silence of the permit. Without reading it, the permit is like a silent coach in that all it can do when the permittee fails to perform an inspection, update the SWPPP or maintain a BMP is say *"read my lips, that's a violation."*

Our role as inspectors must include making NPDES common sense. As much as people like to downplay the simplicity of "rain water turns red and runs downhill", the NPDES permit program is not common sense with this seemingly simple issue of gravity. Your role as an inspector is looking at yourself as an "Educator First, and Problem Finder Second".





[Click here](#) for a great guide with regard to construction site inspection protocol. If you do not live in Georgia, it will still serve as a great guide for you, but you will need to adjust it appropriately for your state.

## "Clean Water Isn't Free Anymore! Even Though It Might Seem Like it "



## Clean Water Isn't Free Anymore!

*Many people alive today have either forgotten, or have never lived near a river that was severely polluted by sewage or chemicals. They don't turn on the tap and ask themselves, "How much money is it costing to provide all this clean water?" Today, unknown to many, America's urban water resources, like many countries in South America and Asia, are being impacted by the waste of thousands of homeless people living on the streets and using the storm drains and sidewalks to discard their syringes, dispose of their trash or urinate and defecate in.*

*While many MS4s are intolerant of such issues and demonstrate their intolerance by implementing programs and enforcing ordinances to discourage public urination and defecation in outdoor areas exposed to stormwater runoff, cities like San Francisco, California and Seattle, Washington continue to allow it. There is no denying that this behavior produces grave consequences today and will continue to do so in the future. Allowing such will no doubt effect the health of people living in the affected watersheds. Civic leaders have a responsibility to address this problem if we are to continue to prosper as a nation!*





**Where is the bio-retention cell?  
If there is one, where is the volunteer  
to clean it out?**

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**HISTORY SHOWS US THIS -**  
**The public must be angry about water pollution  
before political leaders will do  
anything about it!**

**Before NPDES** became the most effective water quality protection program in the world, we had no recourse for polluters that willingly and legally chose to pollute our watersheds.

Please find below a message originally composed by a seasoned stormwater professional that, in my opinion, nails the problem of watershed protection to it's most basic element.

"There are **6 entities** involved in ensuring that construction sites don't pollute our waterways. They are:

- the design professional
- the Local Issuing Authority's plan reviewer
- the General Contractor
- the Owner/Developer
- the LIA's ES&PC inspector; and
- the elected officials who are in charge of the city/county jurisdiction where the land disturbance is occurring.

That's a lot of different players under the construction umbrella, trying to please different people on the same project, and their best interests aren't necessarily aligned with one another. The design professional and the contractor want to please the owner/developer. The plan reviewer and the inspector want to please the elected officials they work for. Developers are in business to make a profit (and there's **NOTHING** wrong with that), but they will do the right thing with regard to clean water, and do it gladly, IF they know what they need to do in order to have a successful (i.e. profitable) project. So, what it all boils down to is: Do the local elected officials prioritize protecting natural resources, especially their waterways, or not?"



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We all know that state and local officials will listen to the people who elect them into office, but only if the people who elect them are loud and clear about prioritizing our natural resources over an imbalanced focus of economic growth. I've seen it occur repeatedly: if state government have low expectations for watershed protection, local governments will not be pressured to protect water quality, which more often than not results in poor water quality for the residents that live in that jurisdiction.

T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI



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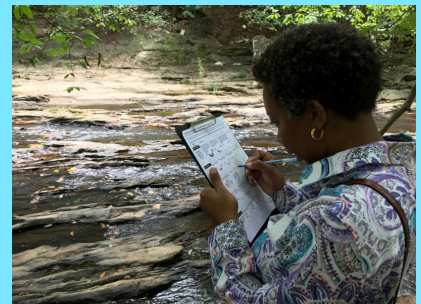
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This is so important, I reposted it from  
last month's newsletter

PROPOSED WATERS OF THE US (WOTUS) RULE!



CLICK HERE

**DON'T BE DECEIVED.....**although this might seem like a mundane subject matter, **IT WILL HAVE A HUGE IMPACT** on our nation's water quality! This is your chance to get involved. **Your opinion matters!**

Public Comment Period For  
Proposed New Water Rule Now



To Learn About Sediment Pollution Underway. On February 14, the EPA and Army Corps published the proposed new clean water rule in the Federal Register, opening a 60-day comment period that concludes on **April 15, 2019**.

#### Public Outreach Opportunities:

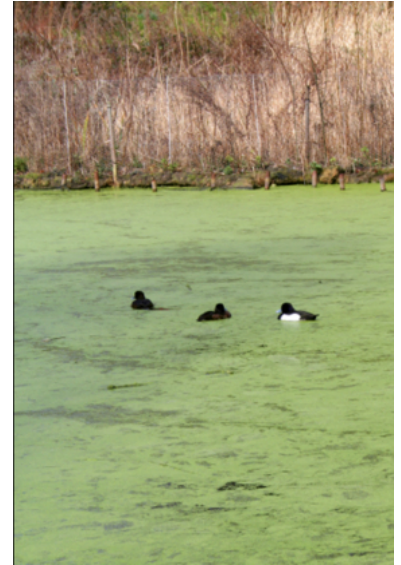
Public Webcast - The public webcast was held on February 14, 2019.

The EPA and the Army held a public webcast to help explain the key elements of the proposed "Revised Definition of Waters of the United States" on Thursday, February 14, 2019. [The webcast can be viewed here.](#)

#### Public Hearing

**NOTE** - The public hearing has been rescheduled for February 27 and February 28, 2019.

The EPA and the Army will hold two public hearing sessions on the proposed **"Revised Definition of Waters of the United States"** on Wednesday, February 27, and Thursday, February 28, 2019 at the **Reardon Convention Center in Kansas City, KS**. A Federal Register notice for the rescheduled public hearing was published on February 7, 2019.



Cause: Unregulated Agricultural Stormwater Discharges. What does common sense say here?

*Stay tuned for more information about this very controversial issue regarding **how to feasibly grow economically without detrimentally affecting our surface waters.***

[Click on this link](#) to learn more about the proposed rule.

***HERE's TO TIGHT LINES & GOOD TIMES  
in Clean Abundant Water!!!***

"Conservation means development as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us."



Theodore Roosevelt  
Osawatimie, Kansas  
August 31, 1910

*Freedom and Liberty are not free. People have sacrificed their lives and are still doing so today to give us what we so often take for granted. Similarly, respecting our neighbors downstream and the critters that are trying to live in our urban watersheds is more important now than ever! Respecting those downstream from your construction and industrial operations is what America is all about.*

*It's compliance with NPDES Permits that prove our respect!*

**Sincerely,**  
**NPDES TRAINING INSTITUTE**

T. Luke Owen, R PG MS4CECI  
President



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