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Greetings!

NPDES Permit compliance has been discovered to be the most effective method America has for improving and maintaining every American's surface water quality, not just the precious few!

It takes money "effectively" installed on a construction site to truly protect water quality & keep the permittee away from a stop work order and/or fine. That

said, the silt fence incorrectly installed in the photo to the right is an indication that this permittee doesn't understand and/or appreciate the vital importance of NPDES Permit compliance for protecting America's future; and more specifically, the potential road hazard and water quality problems in the creek adjacent to this project. Site inspections are only part of BMP compliance, documented maintenance must follow!



While USEPA or state environmental protection agencies



do not recommend manufacturers of BMPs, there are some states like Georgia that do have rigid requirements identified in state law, referred to as the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975 (as amended). The state law identifies the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control (i.e. Green Book) with specific design considerations for BMPs that it contains. Click [Green Book](#) for the free downloadable version, [or click](#)

[here to pay for a hard copy.](#))

For qualified construction sites, the erosion and sediment control plan, also known as the Erosion Sedimentation & Pollution Control (ES&PC) Plan (commonly known also as a SWPPP) is required to implement BMPs to address certain storm events and land disturbing activities on site. The SWPPP is a living document that must be updated as necessary to reflect any changes in operations and/or pollution prevention practices implemented in the field.



An "approved" SWPPP can change in the blink of an eye to an "unapproved" SWPPP if the operational changes and related BMPs designed into the plan are not properly corrected to match the BMPs on the site. In other words, the SWPPP must always match the BMPs in the field for the plan to be "approved".

For more [information about our classes, certification courses, webinars](#) or customized field courses, please contact us at 678-469-5120.

Sincerely,
T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI MS4GIT



YES!!!
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TECH TALK

Tech Talk is a forum for resolving MS4, erosion and sediment control or industrial permit-related problems from a technical perspective. Questions, when asked, are often submitted by the reader; answers are provided by the NPDES Training Institute, [Southeast Environmental Consultants, LLC \(SEC\)](#), or other sources. The reader is solely responsible for the results if suggestions are implemented.



Effective local permitting and inspection oversight for land-disturbing activities is critical today if we are to have sustainable water resources tomorrow. Atlanta depends on Lake Lanier for more than just drinking water; it's a major economic engine that contributes hundreds of millions of dollars to our local economy annually!

[Watch this video](#) to see what happens when an irresponsible Local Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) county government fails to do their job, resulting in a local property owner/builder contributing an astonishing amount of sediment to Lake Lanier. This illegal discharge happened because the county government failed to issue a land-disturbing activity permit that would have required the builder (i.e. land owner) to produce an erosion plan, install BMPs and perform site inspections to maintain their project so sediment would not overwhelm downstream receptors.

NPDES General Permit News UPDATE

MS4 Draft Permits

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Watershed Protection Branch is conducting a stakeholder meeting to discuss the reissuance of General

General NPDES
Stormwater Permit
No. GAG610000

DRAFT

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM


STORM WATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH
SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS

In compliance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Georgia Laws 1964, p. 416, as amended), hereinafter called the "State Act," the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), hereinafter called the "Clean Water Act," and the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant to each of these Acts, all new and existing stormwater point sources associated with small municipal separate storm sewer systems, upon submittal of a Georgia Notice of Intent, are authorized to discharge stormwater to the waters of the State of Georgia in accordance with the limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in Parts 1 through Appendix B hereof.

This permit shall become effective on **December 6, 2017**.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, **December 5, 2022**.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2022.

 Director,
Environmental Protection Division

NPDES Permit No. GAG610000, authorizing stormwater discharges from Phase II Small MS4s to the waters of the State of Georgia. The stakeholder draft permit documents and summary of changes can be [downloaded by clicking here](#).

A Stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for April 19, 2022. Please refer to the [Public Notice](#) for additional meeting information. Comments

received by close of business April 26, 2022 will be considered in the formulation of the official draft permit.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & ITS ROLE IN AMERICA

When you see the pollutants in this photo, what is your first reaction? For me, it



used to be: How can we best keep that filth from moving into the storm drain and into our river so it doesn't sicken the fish and the people who swim and drink the water? Now, my answer is: How can we get the public support we need to implement Green Infrastructure (GI)? When a person slows down and thinks about it for a few minutes, common sense kicks in and the purpose of GI begins to make sense. Let's stop the pollution at its source! What we have found is that slowing down the rain before and/or after it hits the ground, using BMPs to reduce the volume & velocity, and then infiltrating it and the pollution it carries into the ground, are all methods that actually work! Although common sense and science say that designing, installing and maintaining GI is wise, necessary, and to me, the patriotic thing to do for America's water quality, we still have to figure out how to get **everyone** to understand what GI really is, its purpose and its effectiveness for long term economic health and water quality protection.

Annually, Georgia typically receives a lot of rain; more than most other states in America. When you consolidate millions of people in a few watersheds, like metro Atlanta's 6.5 million people, you're going to have stormwater pollution problems. Consequently, many government agencies and non-profit organizations, like the Atlanta Regional Commission along with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, have invested a lot of time and money into developing the resources and tools necessary to produce clean runoff. All the state and local governments need to do is get the political will to do it!



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EVEN if you don't pass the test!

**For More Information or to Schedule an Erosion
and Sediment Control or MS4 Class**

678-469-5120

or

Rita@npdestraining.com



COURSES

GSWCC GEORGIA EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL *FIRST TIME CERTIFICATION COURSES*



Level 1A - Blue Card

Level 1B - Red Card

Level II- Tan/Grey
Card

RE-CERTIFICATION COURSES

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GEOS, Site Inspections & State

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Level 1A - Level 1B - Level II

MS4CECI**Initial 2-Day Classroom/Field Course**CLASSROOM - [Click Here](#)**Recertification 4-Hour Course**ONLINE - [Click Here](#)CLASSROOM - [Click Here](#)**Course Information**

This 2-day course was developed and designed specifically for municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) compliance and enforcement personnel, field inspectors, stormwater managers and consultants, with a focus on MS4 stormwater permit compliance and enforcement responsibilities.

A course examination is conducted immediately following classroom instruction. Course attendees are required to achieve a minimum examination score of 70% for their 3-year MS4CECI Certificate.

The MS4CECI course was designed by federal, state and local regulatory personnel as well as stormwater consultants with over 100 years of combined experience in educating municipal storm sewer system (MS4) stormwater personnel to manage and perform stormwater inspections of municipal, commercial, industrial and construction activities. The 2-day seminar teaches federal and state stormwater laws as well as local ordinances, and provides instruction on how to properly comply with and enforce the various NPDES permits assigned for MS4s, construction sites and industrial facilities.

MS4GIT**MS4 Green Infrastructure Technician**

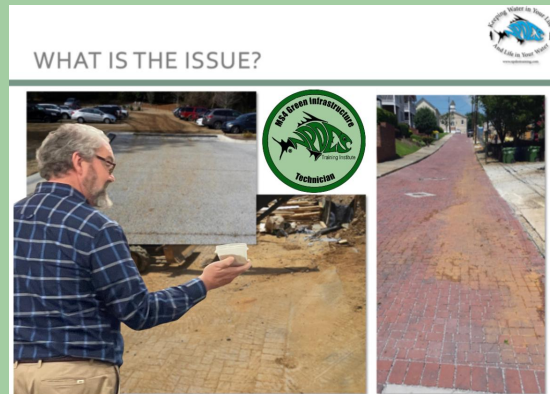
The MS4GIT Course is a 1-day training experience focusing on Green Infrastructure BMPs and their installation & maintenance. Attendees will learn how to identify and solve issues surrounding poor maintenance, as well

as avoid GI failures entirely. This course was specially designed for stormwater managers, stormwater engineers and consultants, MS4 Inspectors and maintenance crews.



Upon completion, trainees will have learned to:

- Implement correct construction sequencing protocol for BMPs
- Understand how to read a BMP landscape plan
- Identify soil mixtures and calculate soil / material volumes
- Identify and select appropriate plants for BMPs
- Understand maintenance requirements of BMPs
- Identify common problems and solutions for BMPs
- Understand how to implement a landscape maintenance plan
- Evaluate plant performance and how to replace failing plants



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



MS4 Stormwater Inspector 4-Hour Online Course

This course is used for the MS4CECI recertification and also meets the annual MS4 permit annual training requirement throughout the United States.

What is a Hot Spot or Highly Visible Pollutant Source (HVPS)? Once you see it causing an illicit discharge, how are you supposed to inspect one as compared to at a construction site or industrial facility?

This course will give you the confidence you need to properly perform a facility inspection. Designed for the new inspector, we believe that knowledge is power, but only if it's properly applied. When you know what to do in the field, it's actually fun to work with the compliance community in protecting our watersheds, and that's what this course will help you do!

*Everyone agrees that we need to keep our watersheds clean and it's the **MS4 Stormwater Inspector** that makes all the difference in that regard!*

[CLICK HERE for a Brief Video & Course Description](#)

678-469-5120

or if you prefer you can email
Rita@npdestraining.com

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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UPCOMING SEMINARS & TRAINING EVENTS

A lot of permit changes going on this year! The conferences below promise to keep you up to date with new rules, regulations as well as technology and best management practices that can help protect your watersheds!

[INDIANA MS4 Partnership](#)

May 9-10, 2022 - Annual Stormwater Conference

[Southeast Stormwater Association \(SESWA\)](#)

April 22, 2022 - 17th Annual Seminar

[IECA Southeast](#)

May 2-4, 2022 - Municipal Wet Weather Conference

[Georgia Association of Water Professionals \(GAWP\)](#)

April 12-14, 2022 - Spring Conference & Industrial Symposium

[Georgia Rural Water Association \(GRWA\)](#)

May 10-12, 2022 - Spring Conference

If you would like us to list dates for additional stormwater conferences, meetings and/or training events, please contact us at 678-469-5120.



**Thursday,
May 19,
2022**

[This Field Day](#) will be hosted by Auburn University and the International Erosion Control Association. The primary goal of this field day is to provide industry participants exposure to innovative research being performed on commonly employed erosion and sediment control practices in both horizontal and vertical construction with hands-on field demonstrations.

The field instructional session will be held at the Auburn University-Erosion and Sediment Control Testing Facility (AU-ESCTF) and will provide attendees with a hands-on opportunity to: **(1) learn proper installation techniques on various erosion and sediment controls to achieve improved performance, (2) observe full-scale, channelized flow testing demonstrations.**



USES

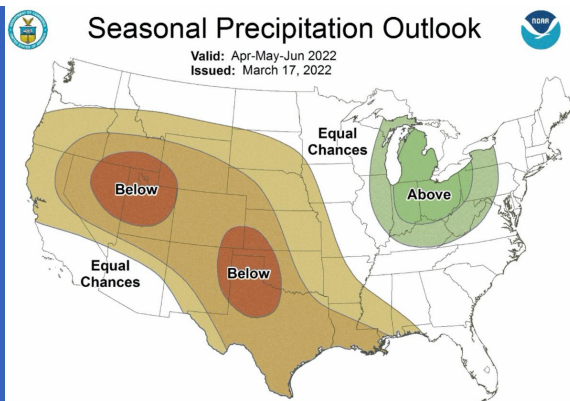


**CLICK TO START
A FREE TRIAL**



Spring Has Sprung

by Gene Norman,
Water Watch PRO, President



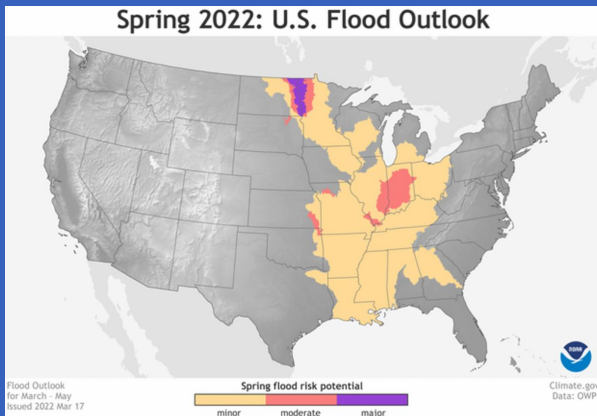
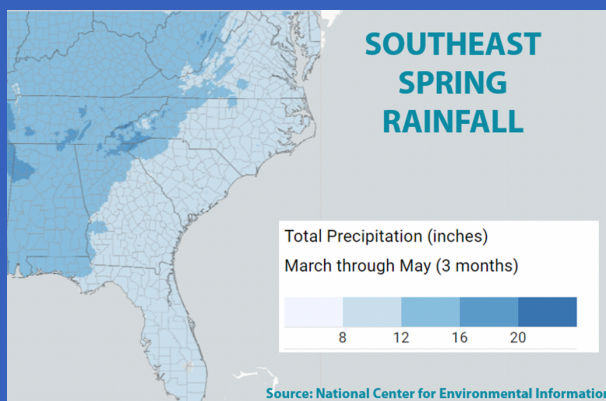
The NOAA Spring Outlook is out, and it could be a re-run. Thanks to a persistent La Niña weather pattern that is now expected to last through the summer, the drought in the western U.S. will continue. Rains in the eastern U.S. could lead to flooding episodes, and spring storms could pack a punch.

Let's break down the details. First, temperatures will be warmer than average across the south and the east. But, when it comes to precipitation, it could be soggy

again through the Ohio River Valley.

In the Southeast, notice the large blank area. This indicates that this area will see average precipitation. Here is what an "average" spring looks like concerning rainfall.

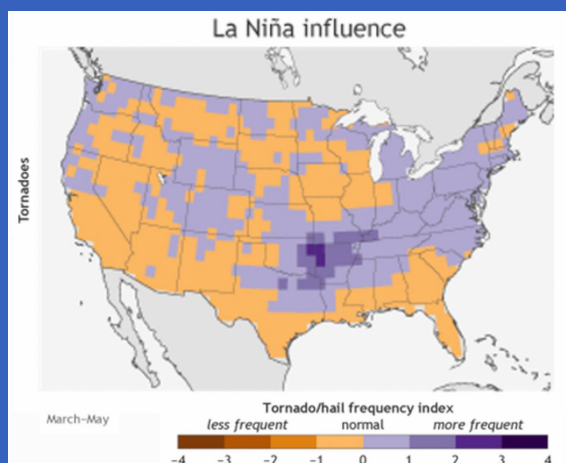
Otherwise, notice the lack of rain expected for much of the west, from Texas to California. That is an especially troubling trend for areas that didn't see much snow this winter, such as a good portion of the Rockies and California. The most recent drought monitor shows that over 60% of the U.S. is currently in drought, much of it in the west. That is the highest level of drought to begin a spring since 2013.



The expected Midwest rain could lead to potential flooding downstream due to late-season snowmelt. Here is a projection of flooding potential:

Remember, downstream rain collects sediment, farming chemicals and other debris, depositing it in the Gulf of Mexico. As a result, a minor spring flooding risk exists for Mississippi, much of northern Alabama, and parts of north and central Georgia.

Finally, La Niña springs often favor increased severe weather, especially in the traditional "tornado alley" of the central plains. The areas highlighted in purple have the highest risk, but any tornado outbreak can be dangerous. Even if severe weather doesn't erupt, these storms can also pack a punch, delivering drenching downpours. If you're responsible for tracking rainfall, you'll want to be ready this spring. Does your current method work for you, or do



you need something more automatic and hands-free, such as a system that sends you information instead of having to hunt for it?

WaterWatch PRO helps clients who need to track rainfall for stormwater inspections, industrial sites, or liquidated damage claims. NPDES Training Institute readers can start a FREE trial here: <https://mailchi.mp/waterwatchpro/npdes>. Remember to use the coupon code NPDES for a bonus.



"Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of ensuring the safety and continuance of a nation!" - Theodore Roosevelt

We all need to view NPDES Permit compliance as conservation as our best effort to ensuring our nation's future quality of life. We must think beyond our years, so our children and their children will also have an equally great place to live, swim, fish, boat and hunt tomorrow!

Sincerely,

T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI MS4GIT

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