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Greetings!

Summer rains have resulted in a substantial amount of erosion from unprotected construction sites. In two recent, notable cases, stormwater runoff carried high sediment loads beyond the boundaries of each site – producing enough dirt to partially fill up a small fishing pond and significantly impact the bay of a well-known metro Atlanta lake. **In both cases**, poor permit compliance was responsible for the excessive sedimentation and ineffective or non-existent local government oversight was partially to blame.



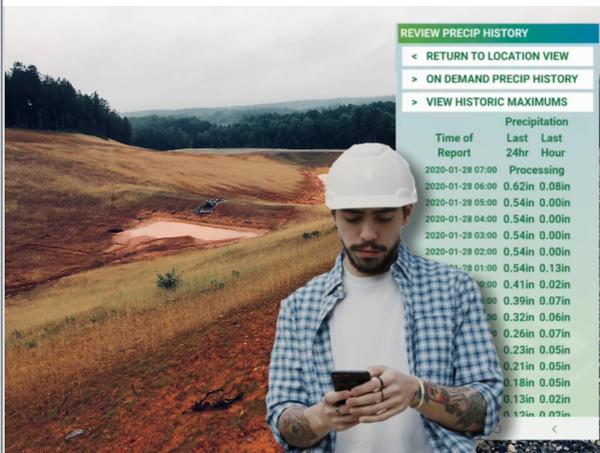
This begs the question, "Are the USEPA or state environmental protection agencies still necessary?" Most people don't think about the fish and wildlife that depend on sediment-free creeks and lakes, so who cares? What about that pesky local regulator; does he/she really make a difference, or should we just get rid of the environmental and property damage police



all together? Is keeping the dirt and mud out of the creeks just "a nice thing to do", or is it an important part of keeping our reservoirs sustainable and full of drinking water – not sediment – as our population explodes?

In a paper written by the USEPA, entitled "Improving the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement of Environmental Policies", it says:

"Compliance is the ultimate goal of any enforcement program, it is essentially a state of being, a state in which environmental requirements are achieved and maintained. Enforcement is defined as the application of a set of legal tools, both informal and formal, designed to impose legal sanction (e.g. penalty) to ensure a defined set of requirements is complied with. An issue that is continually debated is whether compliance can be achieved without enforcement. The answer, based on the U.S. experience and theory, is that enforcement is a necessary means of achieving community compliance. Although enforcement may not be needed to achieve compliance in minor individual cases, in most situations some level of enforcement is needed to create and maintain a complying majority. Previous studies have suggested the view that there will always be 5% of individuals who will violate no matter what, 20% who will comply no matter what, and 75% who will comply only if the violators are punished and/or the requirements are perceived as non-arbitrary. This, in concept, is the philosophical underpinning of the U.S. enforcement program.



Why is Recording Daily Rainfall So Important!

Are you recording your daily rainfall? By performing this critical component of NPDES Permit compliance, you are demonstrating your desire to protect America's watersheds from their number one killer, SEDIMENT! Read below for an interesting article about rainfall data and the advantages cloud technology has for accurately recording it on a daily basis for your construction site!

TRACK RAIN ON YOUR PHONE!

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Capturing Rain

By Gene Norman | President, WaterWatch PRO

It seems like a simple concept – measure the amount of water falling from the sky. As a meteorologist with over 25 years' experience, I can say this is one of the trickiest things to do.

Why? Unlike temperature, pressure or other weather parameters, rainfall changes rapidly in time and space. You've no doubt seen it, especially this time of year.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL ARTICLE](#)

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For More Information
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LEARN HOW A CONSTRUCTION SITE WORKS AS A SELF CONTAINED STORMWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

4 PDHs

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Dr. Jim Spotts provides training on how to properly apply PAM to keep your turbidity discharges to a minimum. It's worth 4 PDHs. We hope to see you at our next class!

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Online:

GEOS, Site Inspections & State Waters

Trees & Construction, Site Inspections & State Waters

Classroom:

Level 1A - Level 1B or Level II

STORMWATER COURSES



To the trailer to check compliance status



Designing and Maintaining the SWPPP



Inspecting and maintaining perimeter control BMPs



MS4CECI

MS4 Compliance & Enforcement Certified Inspector

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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 designed especially 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

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4-HOUR MS4 ONLINE
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*NOTE: This course **is not** the Full 2-day MS4CECI Course!*

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TECH TALK

Quick Links



Tech Talk is a forum for resolving erosion and sediment control and/or construction related problems from a technical perspective. Technical questions are submitted by the reader; suggestions may be from the NPDES Training Institute, Southeast Environmental Consultants, LLC (SEC) or other sources. In this instance, Luke Owen has written the article. The reader

is solely responsible for the results, if suggestions are implemented.

Question:

How important is documentation when it comes to proving compliance on a construction site?

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Answer:

Let's just say this: documentation to verify your "intent to comply" is paramount! Over the years, the number one issue and/or complaint coming from regulatory inspectors is the lack of documentation from permittees that prove they made efforts to comply with their stormwater compliance regulations.

If you are trying to stay in compliance with your permit, then a major component of your compliance effort is to document and keep on site your most current Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

The Bottom Line:

If you are making the effort to perform daily, weekly, 1/2 inch rain and monthly inspections and water sampling correctly, then you should also be documenting your inspections and water sampling activities and keeping those records "readily available" just in case the regulatory inspector shows up and asks for proof that you're in compliance. Laziness with documentation will catch up with you and can only hurt you in the end.



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

America's past water pollution and the modern day pollution found in countries like China (Yangtze River, Wuhan, China to the right) are just another reminder of how important it is that we comply with America's Clean Water Act NPDES rules and regulations! Every time you go fishing or jump in the lake to take a swim, be grateful for our NPDES permitting program that makes it all possible. Respecting our neighbors downstream is what America is all about and it's the NPDES permit that helps us do that!



"We all need to view NPDES Permit compliance as an investment in our nation's future, so our children will also have an equally great place to live, swim, fish, boat and hunt tomorrow!" T. Luke Owen

Sincerely,
T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI
Owner/Operator

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