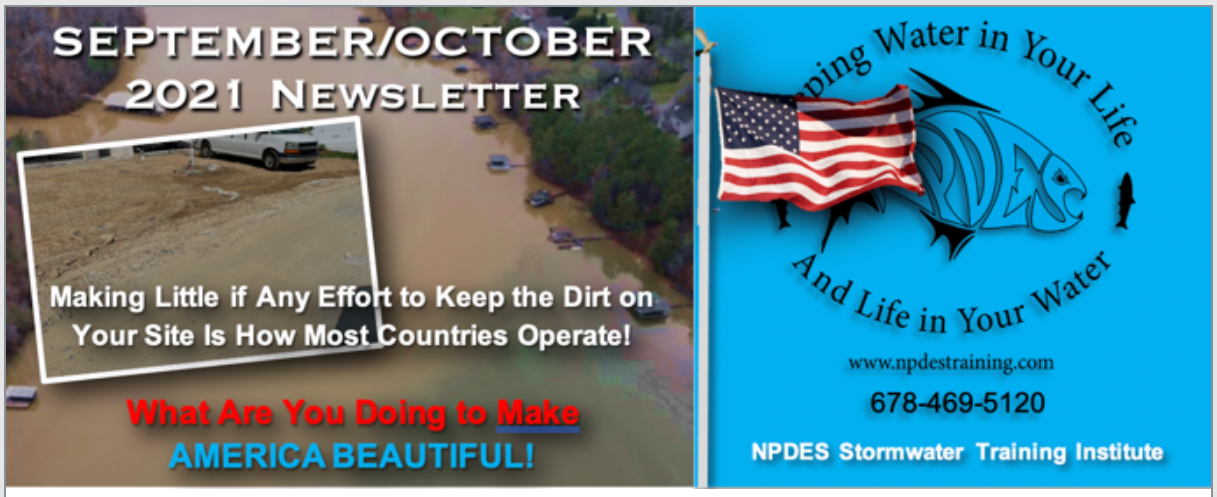
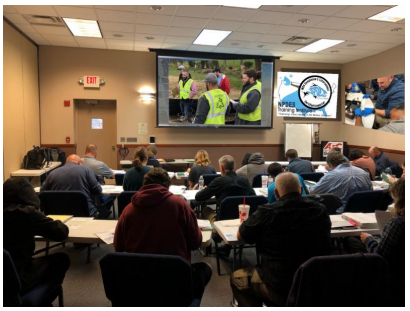


NPDES Training Institute
"Training That Helps It All Make Sense!"
A Division Of GeoLOGIC ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS



Visit our website

View All Courses

Greetings!

We're all used to seeing "dirt" in the water when it rains. Consequently, we view it as no big deal because we've grown accustomed to it. I have to admit, for many years before I moved to Georgia, I didn't see sediment in the water as a big deal either. That said, I've learned from the plethora of information you can find via the internet and other resources that the accumulation of dirt in a body of water is incredibly damaging to our water volume and aquatic habitats. I spend a lot of my personal time today communicating that fact to the people I run across. When I train a group of hard working Americans, I do my best to not only show them what NPDES permit compliance is all about, but also the real impacts to our creeks, rivers and lakes when we don't understand compliance and how to design, install and maintain a best management practice (BMP) so that it actually makes a difference. It doesn't take an

"environmental scientist" or an engineer to understand how damaging dirt (i.e. sediment) is to our sustainability. I encourage you all to read the book entitled, "The Greening of Georgia, the Improvement of the Environmental the Twentieth-Century", by Harold Brown. In it you will learn just how devastating erosion and sedimentation has been to Georgia and many other states that receive the amount of rain we get here in the southeastern United States.

The video to the left shows a healthy creek before construction impacts its health. I think we can all agree that if we humans relied on clean, sediment-free surface water for our immediate health and well-being like fish and other aquatic critters do, we would work a lot harder to phase our projects and really try to limit the load of pollution our sensitive watersheds receive when it rains. Fish can't reproduce or feed in a river or creek when sediment suffocates their eggs or clouds their ability to catch a fast-moving crayfish or minnow.

At our current rate of growth, we humans need to work harder at keeping sediment from killing our sustainability. If fish can't live in a creek because we don't care, we will eventually feel the impact!

Sincerely, T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI MS4GIT

A few answers from our last newsletter.....

1) What **3 Types of Erosion** do you see happening during this rain event?
ANSWER: Splash, sheet and rill.

2) How can the permittee best prevent all three?
Answer: Soil stabilization with structural controls to handle volume and velocity issues.

3) Given that a 1" rain event produces 27,154 gallons of stormwater that will hit a graded construction site with the equivalent weight of 113 tons, what are 3 of the top considerations a responsible Design Professional/Plan Reviewer should address when placing BMPs in the design?
Answer (the short one):
1) Water volume
2) Water velocity
3) Pollutant load *(given numerous factors including but not limited to ground surface topography, erodibility of the soil, time of year, etc.)*

Stay tuned for another set of questions next month that could win you a **guided fishing trip on Lake Lanier!** Answers can be sent to

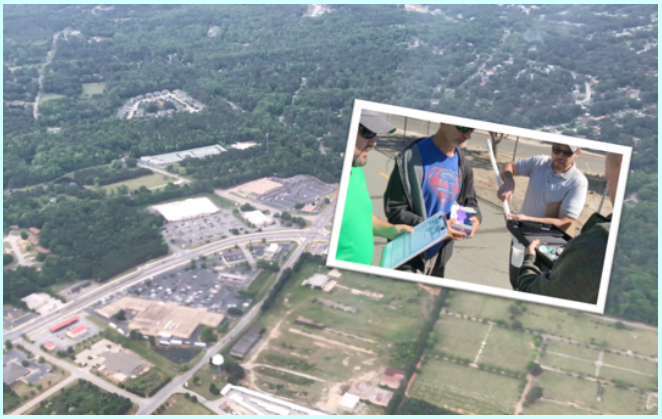
tlowen@npdestraining.com. Look for details in the next Newsletter!

Quick Links

CHECK EXAM RESULTS

COURSE SCHEDULE

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES



TECH TALK

Tech Talk is a forum for resolving MS4, erosion and sediment control or industrial permit-related problems from a technical perspective. Questions are submitted by the reader; suggestions may be from the NPDES Training Institute, Southeast Environmental Consultants, LLC (SEC) or other sources. IN THIS CASE, AQUA-BARRIER. The reader is solely responsible for the results if suggestions are implemented.

7 TIPS

Every phase of a construction project has the potential to release significant quantities of sediment-laden runoff into the surrounding area and waterways. Thoughtful actions to prevent erosion and control sediment throughout the process of construction are essential. Here are 7 tips to (first) prevent and (second) control sedimentation on your construction site.
Read More

HVPS Training Course

WHEN:
NOVEMBER 4th, 8:00 - 12:00
WHERE:
4695 S. Atlanta Rd. SE, Atlanta, GA 3033

Inspecting Highly Visible Pollutant Sources (HVPS) are an important part of keeping our watersheds clean. While Georgia calls a gas station a HVPS site, many states refer to them as Hot Spots. Either way, collectively they can generate a lot of pollutant load that could end up in the local creek, lake or river unless the MS4 stays on top of them.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this 4-hour training experience, you will leave with the everything you need to perform an effective stormwater inspection for HVPS sites as well as Construction and Industrial sites with the ultimate goal of preventing illicit

discharges from entering your watersheds, thereby protecting the residents, visitors and aquatic organisms that live downstream.
By attending the course, you will learn how to perform field inspections with confidence every time, no matter the facility being inspected.
The course will answer many common questions, a few of which are listed below.

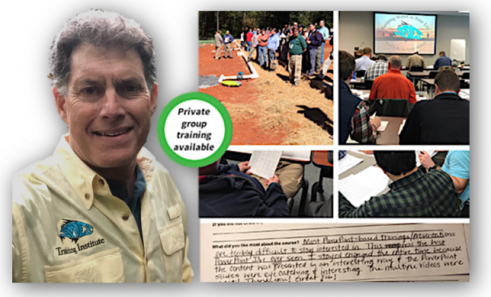
- *What is a highly visible pollutant source (HVPS) versus an industrial facility, really?*
- *What makes the restaurant industry more of a potential watershed polluter than the manufacturing industry?*
- *What questions should the MS4 inspector ask when conducting an interview?*
- *How do you deal with difficult people during an inspection?*
- *Should a HVPS facility be inspected differently than an Industrial Facility or Construction Site? If so, how?*

CLICK HERE
for more Information or to Register

WE GUARANTEE OUR TRAINING!

Our reputation is built on providing YOU the best stormwater education, taught by **EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTORS** that know how to effectively teach!

You NEVER pay twice for the same course you take from us, EVEN if you don't pass the test!



YES!!!

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For More Information or to Schedule a Class
678-469-5120
or
Rita@npdestraining.com

COURSES

GSWCC

GEORGIA EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

INITIAL CERTIFICATION COURSES

Level 1A - Blue Card

Level 1B - Red Card

Level II- Tan/Grey Card

RE-CERTIFICATION COURSES

Online Courses -

GEOS, Site Inspections & State Waters

Trees & Construction, Site Inspections & State Waters

Classroom Courses -

Level 1A - Level 1B or 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 is 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 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

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

MS4 Stormwater Inspector

4-Hour Online Course

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. Believe it or not, 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

Call Rita at 678-469-5120
or if you prefer you can email
Rita@npdestraining.com

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

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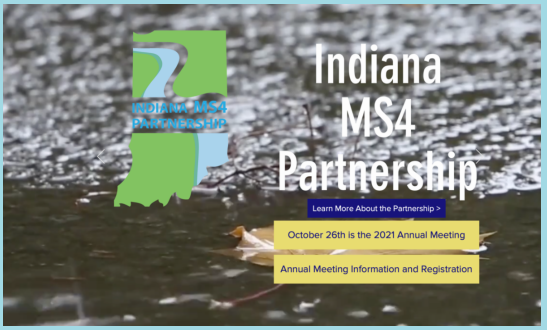
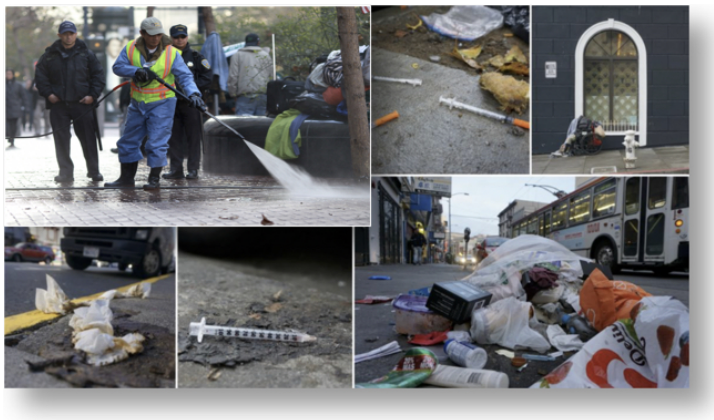
Luke Owen with the NPDES Stormwater Training Institute is proud to be providing the 2-day MS4 Compliance and Enforcement Certified Inspector training as well as speaking at this excellent regionally-based seminar.



Click the Indiana MS4 Partnership photo to learn more about this powerful stormwater-focused seminar for Indiana MS4s and consulting companies, taking place on October 26, 2021.

We Must Demand that American Cities Comply with Their Own NPDES Permits!



How can a city government hold a general contractor or industrial operator accountable for NPDES compliance when they themselves are in major violation of their own permit requirements?

*The message **Los Angeles (see above)** is sending their residents when they blow off common sense water quality do's and don'ts is inexcusable in America and part of the reason people are leaving Los Angeles. The city (with obvious tolerance from the State) is willingly violating its MS4 Permit by pressure washing human excrement, syringes and other pollutants directly down their storm drains. Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle and others are just another*

reminder of how important it is that we Americans demand their compliance with Clean Water Act NPDES rules & regulations! Every time you go fishing or jump in the lake to take a swim, be grateful for the our NPDES permitting program that makes it all possible IF polluters are made to comply. Respecting our neighbors downstream is what America is all about and it's compliance with NPDES Permits that helps us do that!

"We all need to view NPDES Permit compliance as an investment in our nation's future quality of life, 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 MS4GIT
Owner/Operator - Principal Trainer

www.npdestraining.com
tlowen@npdestraining.com