

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER
NPDES Training Institute

Where You Have One, You Don't Have The Other!

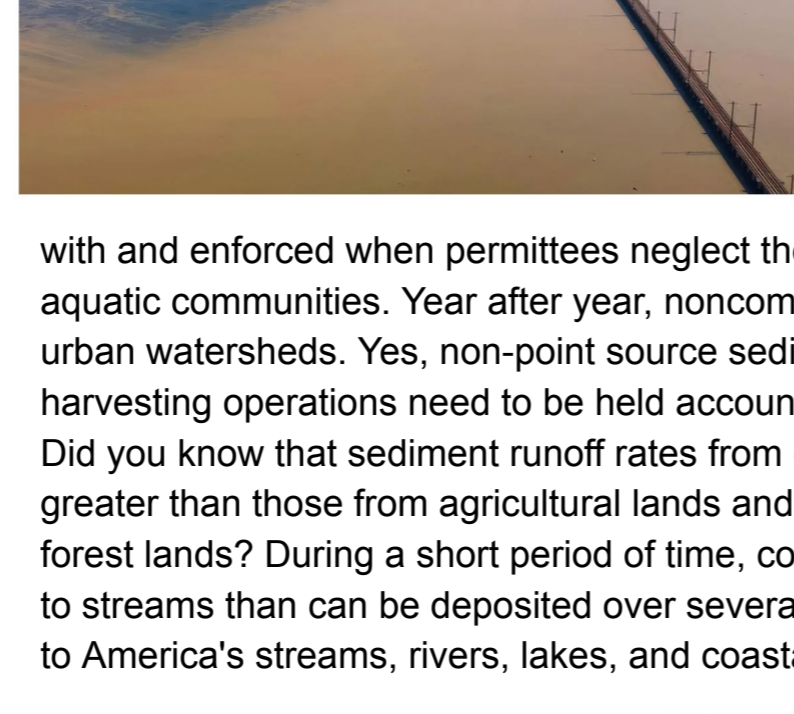
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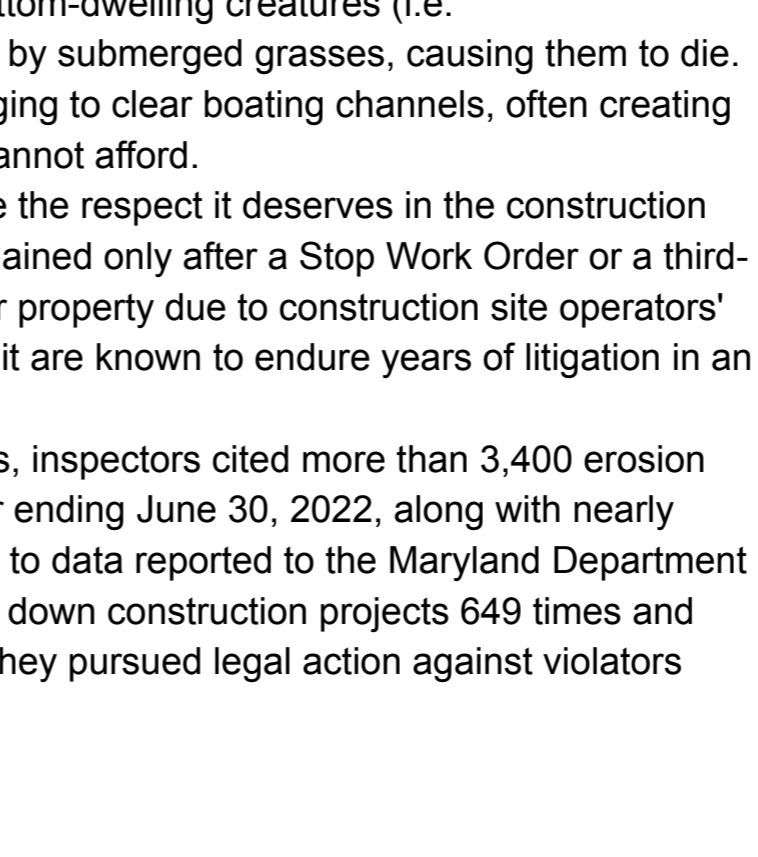
Sediment is no small matter!



Just like a speeding or traffic violator needs to be pulled over and given a ticket to keep the public safe, construction site operators need local and state NPDES Permit enforcement to prevent their illicit discharges from damaging OUR watersheds. America has the means and methods to prevent sediment from harming our aquatic environment, but permits must be complied

with and enforced when permittees neglect their responsibilities to downstream human and aquatic communities. Year after year, noncompliant construction sites are destroying our urban watersheds. Yes, non-point source sediment dischargers like agricultural and timber harvesting operations need to be held accountable as well, but that's a different issue. Did you know that sediment runoff rates from construction sites are typically 10 to 20 times greater than those from agricultural lands and 1,000 to 2,000 times greater than those from forest lands? During a short period of time, construction activity can contribute more sediment to streams than can be deposited over several decades, causing physical and biological harm to America's streams, rivers, lakes, and coastal bays.

In the Chesapeake Bay watershed, as in the 14 major watersheds in Georgia and many others across America, excess sediment from muddy runoff poses a significant threat to its ecological health. Small particles of sand, silt, and clay are washed off the land by rainfall and snowmelt.



They cloud the water, smother fish eggs and bottom-dwelling creatures (i.e. macroinvertebrates), and block sunlight needed by submerged grasses, causing them to die. Sediment also fills in waterways, requiring dredging to clear boating channels, often creating a financial burden that downstream recipients cannot afford. Sedimentation of our watersheds should receive the respect it deserves in the construction community. Unfortunately, this respect is often gained only after a Stop Work Order or a third-party lawsuit. People who suffer damage to their property due to construction site operators' unwillingness to comply with their NPDES Permit are known to endure years of litigation in an attempt to recover some of what was lost. In Maryland's largest counties and municipalities, inspectors cited more than 3,400 erosion and sediment control violations in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, along with nearly 3,200 building and grading violations, according to data reported to the Maryland Department of the Environment. Authorities temporarily shut down construction projects 649 times and imposed a total of \$1.8 million in penalties, but they pursued legal action against violators only 43 times.

Sincerely,

T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI MS4GIT
President, NPDES Stormwater Training Institute

MS4 Compliance & Enforcement Certified Inspector Training

Sponsored by: Town of Porter, Town of Chesterton & Indiana MS4 Partnership

DATE: October 26-27, 2023

LOCATION: Hawthorne Park Community Building 500 Ackerman Drive Porter, IN 46304

COST: \$747 per person

- Enrollment for the training is limited
- Course materials provided for classroom & field training
- Lunch included both days

Registration Deadline is October 19, 2023

Register Now - Seating is Limited!

A Partnership discount of \$200 is offered to MS4 Coordinators MS4 Employees Elected Officials The Discount Code is:

2023_MS4_Partnership_Educational_Scholarship

Training will be specific to the NEW Indiana MS4 & Construction General Permits

Stormwater topics are presented in an easy to understand and practical format including presentations, videos, Q&A sessions, group problem solving, and field inspections at construction sites, outfalls, and facilities. Certification is earned upon completion of exam and receiving a passing score of 70%. Certification is valid for 3 years and online renewal course is available.

Register by scanning the QR code or entering the web address below into your browser

<https://qrco.de/ms4porter>

SCAN ME

COURSES

GSWCC

GEORGIA EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL INITIAL CERTIFICATION COURSES



Level 1A – Blue Card Level 1B – Red Card Level II – Tan/Gray Card

RECERTIFICATION COURSES

ONLINE COURSES

GEOs, Site Inspections & State Waters Trees & Construction, Site Inspections & State Waters

CLASSROOM COURSES

Level 1A, Level 1B or Level II

Quick Links

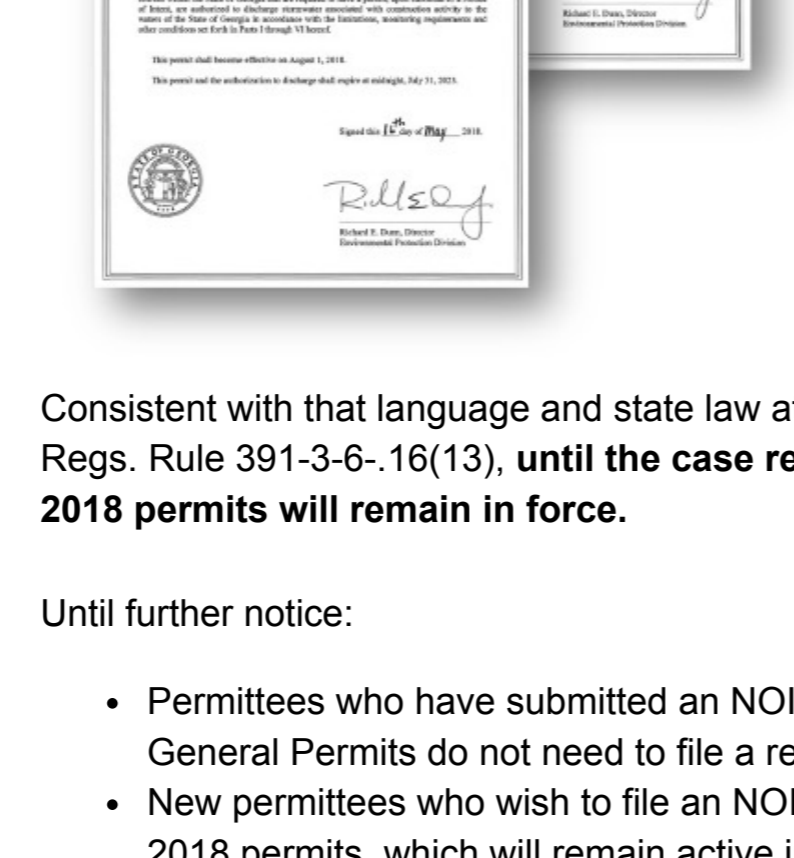
Check Exam Results

Course Schedule

Newsletter Archives

Georgia's NPDES General Permits for Construction: A Status Update and Transition Plan

Nothing has changed regarding the reissuance of Georgia's NPDES General Permits for Construction, but just in case you've missed it:



On July 20, 2023, South River Watershed Alliance, Inc. (South River) filed a petition with GAEPD, appealing the issuance of the 2023 construction stormwater general permits, GAR100001, GAR100002, and GAR100003 (Permits). South River has claimed that the three permits violate state and federal law because they allegedly allow discharges of sediment from construction sites into "impaired" water bodies that cannot accept any additional sediment without violating state water quality standards. As a result, the state of Georgia has stayed the reissuance of the permits until the petition is resolved in a hearing. Consequently, the 2018 versions of the construction stormwater Permit will continue "in force and effect until a new general permit is issued, final, and effective."

Consistent with that language and state law at O.C.G.A. § 50-13-18(b) and Ga. Comp. R. and Regs. Rule 391-3-6-.16(13), **until the case regarding the 2023 Permits is resolved, the 2018 permits will remain in force.**

Until further notice:

- Permittees who have submitted an NOI under the 2018 Construction Stormwater General Permits do not need to file a renewal of their NOI after August 1, 2023.
- New permittees who wish to file an NOI after August 1, 2023, may do so under the 2018 permits, which will remain active in GEOS.
- When the case regarding the 2023 Permits is resolved, EPD will provide additional updates for all entities with active NOIs.

For more information [click here](#).

WE GUARANTEE OUR TRAINING!

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For the NPDES Permittee, being able to demonstrate your intent to comply is paramount if you are to be protected from regulatory enforcement actions or third party lawsuits! WaterWatchPRO provides the first step in that regard by relaying daily rainfall data, without you as the superintendent having to worry about recording it yourself. Check it out, hundreds of people have and they love it!

Managing Autumn Challenges: Protecting Urban Waterways from Fall's Leafy Impact



Autumn is here, just like it is every year at about this time! With the onset of fall, we experience falling temperatures, rain, and a substantial amount of leaves covering the ground. For municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), these seasonal changes bring new challenges, such as leaf litter clogging storm drains and contributing phosphorus and nitrogen to urban stormwater.

These nutrients can be beneficial in moderation; however, in excessive amounts, they lead to eutrophication and can also give rise to harmful algal blooms. These water quality issues pose hazards and come with significant costs to rectify, but fortunately, they are preventable! While the Water Quality & Health Council article below dates back to 2017, it offers relevant tips that apply not only this year but every year, including 2023.

[Click Here](#)

HVPS & Industrial Site Stormwater Inspections and MS4GIT Courses

Join us for two upcoming courses designed to enhance your stormwater management knowledge and skills! Learn the intricacies of inspecting high-volume industrial sites to ensure compliance with stormwater regulations in our **HVPS & Industrial Site Stormwater Inspections** course, taking place on **October 12, 2023 from 8-12 p.m. ET** in Buford, GA.

Next, don't miss our **MS4GIT Course**, tailored to equip you with the essential tools and expertise for effective Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) management, scheduled for **December 6, 2023 from 8am–12pm ET** in Buford, GA.

Both courses offer valuable insights to support your environmental stewardship efforts. Don't miss out – register today by calling (678) 469-5120, here Rita@npdestraining.com, or book online [email](#) for the HVPS course or [here](#) for the MS4GIT course.

MS4CECI

MS4 Compliance & Enforcement Certified Inspector

Initial 2-Day Classroom/Field Course

Recertification 4-Hour Course

Recertification 4-Hour Course Online

Recertification 4-Hour Course Classroom

MS4CECI Course Information

One of our most popular courses, this 2-day seminar 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.

An 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 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 perform outfall investigations, prioritize sub-watersheds for inspections and 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.

MS4 Green Infrastructure Technician

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

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 email Rita@npdestraining.com

[Click Here to Register](#)

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America's past water pollution problems and the pollution we find today in regions like Asia, the Middle East and South America are just another reminder of how important it is that we comply with the Clean Water Act's water quality rules and regulations.

Every time you go fishing, or jump in a 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.

Permit compliance is an investment in our nation's future generations, so that our children will also have an equally great place live, swim, fish, boat and hunt tomorrow!

Sincerely,

T. Luke Owen, PG MS4CECI MS4GIT

Owner/Operator, Principal Trainer

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