

My Wish List...

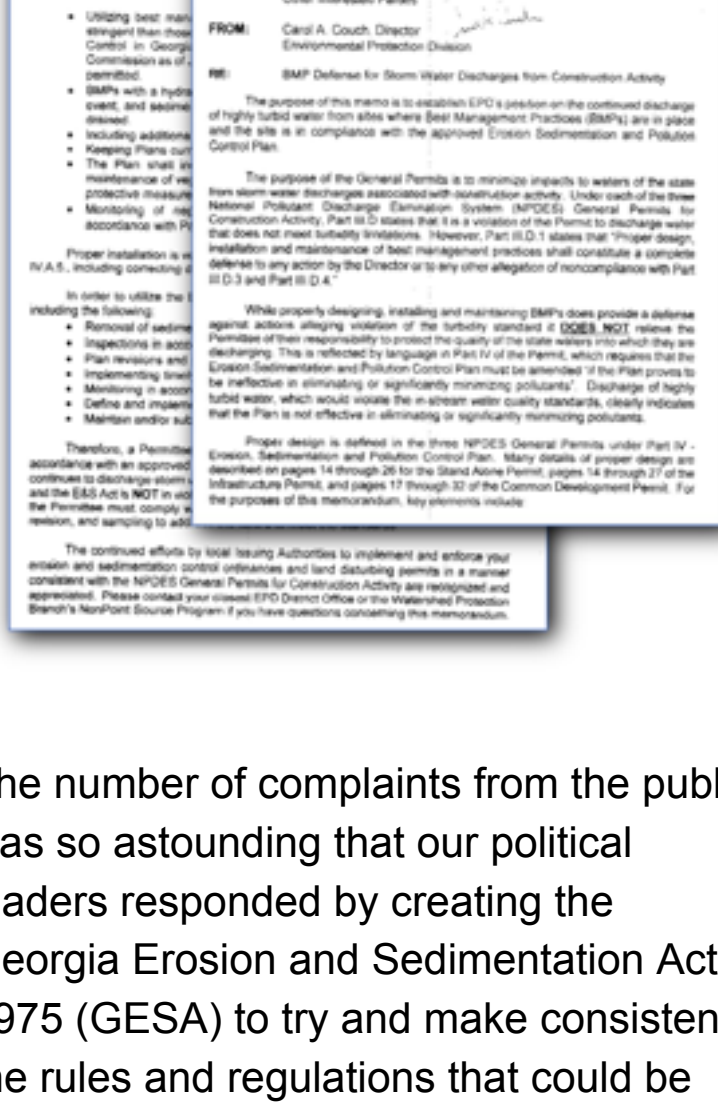
- 1) A Operator who cares about my water quality!
- 2) A Well Thought out Erosion & Sediment Control Plan, not too hard to read.
- 3) Inspectors & Maintainers BMP's

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Making Sense of the History That Still Applies Today!

Few other states today have the permit-heavy history Georgia has regarding erosion and sedimentation of our watersheds from construction sites, and consequently, the ramifications for those individuals who do not comply with local Land Disturbing Activity (LDA) and/or National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit requirements. Regardless, if you're not aware of your state's stormwater damage and regulatory history, you would be wise to catch up and learn it! Decades ago, many states like Georgia were receiving numerous complaints about property damage on both public and private properties from either erosion or sedimentation of local streams, rivers, ponds, or lakes.



The number of complaints from the public was so astounding that our political leaders responded by creating the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975 (GESA) to try and make consistent the rules and regulations that could be applied uniformly statewide. GESA was and is the state's effort to educate, train, and make accountable the damage caused by E&S construction-related land-disturbing activities. Since that time, amendments to our state laws and the addition of the NPDES permitting program for construction site stormwater runoff have made accountability much harsher (if enforced).

As a matter of fact, when it was being more consistently enforced by the state, the Director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD), in her effort to help the pill go down easier, wrote several helpful memos with the intent of aiding local regulators, also known as Local Issuing Authorities (LIAs), and private land developers/builders in understanding how to either enforce and/or comply with state law. One significant memo written back in 2009 was an effort to help state and local permitting authorities, as well as the regulated construction community, understand what constitutes a deficiency or violation. Carol Couch, then Director of the GAEPD, published a memo concerning the **BMP Defense for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Sites**. Since then, Georgia's method of permitting and enforcing local LDA permits and NPDES Permits for construction activity has changed little. The memo might seem a little dated, but it is just as valid today as it was the day it was published. While there is a lot to absorb in this two-page memo, the second paragraph makes something very clear by stating: *"While properly designing, installing, and maintaining BMPs does provide a defense against actions alleging violation of the turbidity standard, it **DOES NOT** relieve the Permittee of their responsibility to protect the quality of the state waters into which they are discharging."* Click on [this link](#) to download and read the entirety of this critically important document.

In closing, I hope this Holiday Season that you begin next year with a dedication to do more to design, install, and maintain the BMPs that can, if given attention, protect downstream receptors.

Hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

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

Quick Links

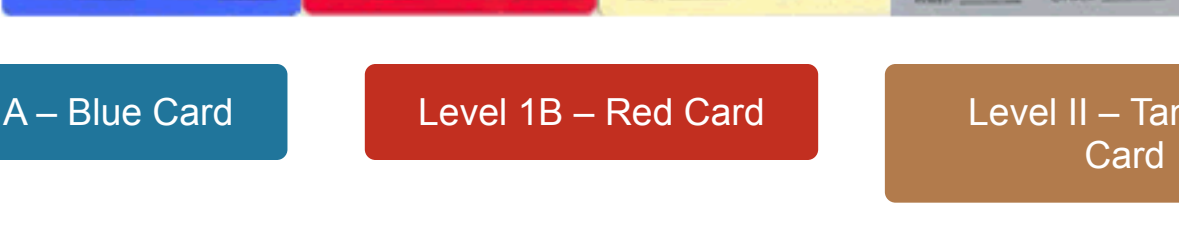
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GSWCC COURSES

GEORGIA EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL INITIAL CERTIFICATION COURSES



Level 1A – Blue Card

Level 1B – Red Card

Level II – Tan/Gray Card

RECERTIFICATION COURSES

ONLINE COURSES

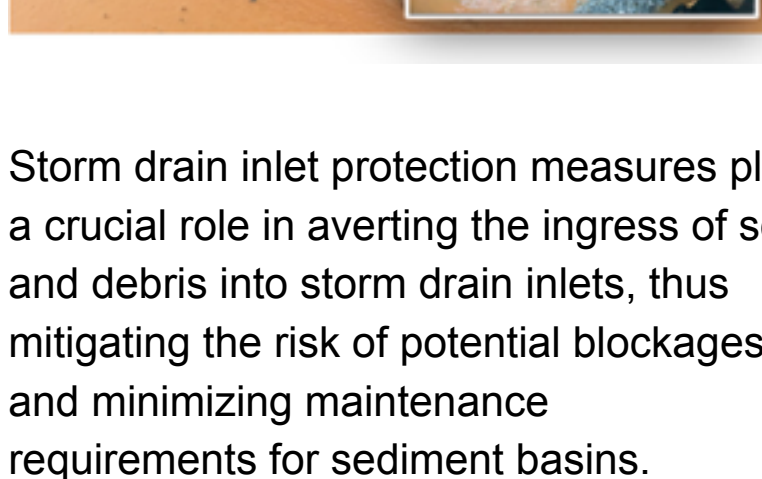
GEOs, Site Inspections & State Waters

Trees & Construction, Site Inspections & State Waters

CLASSROOM COURSES

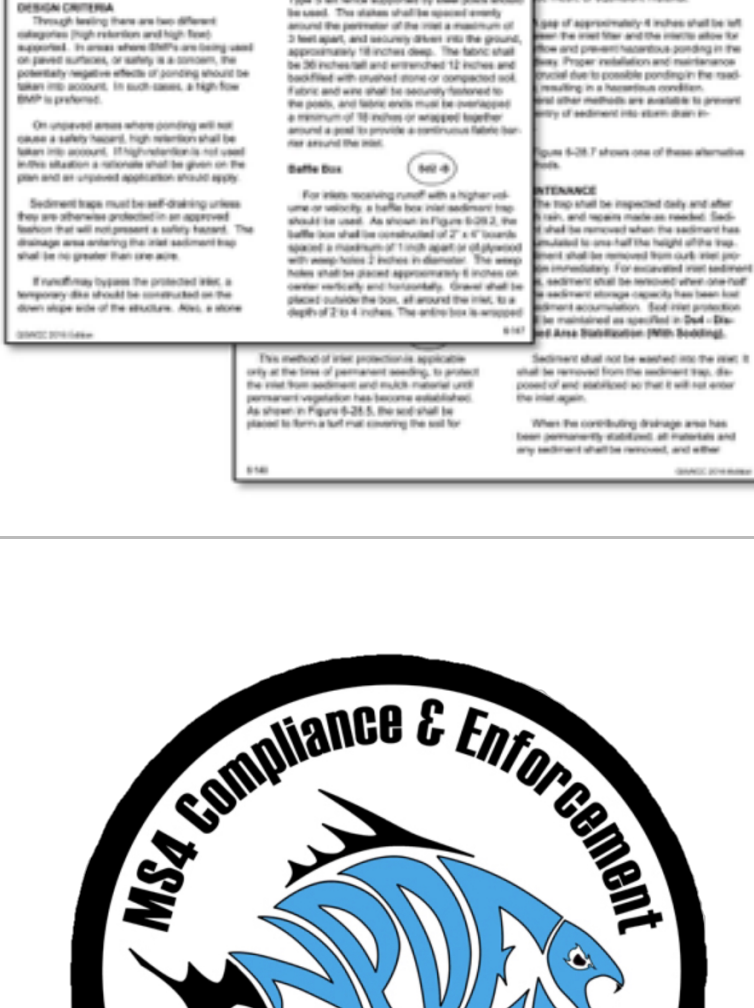
Level 1A, Level 1B or Level II

Sustainable Construction: Mastering Storm Drain Inlet Sediment Traps



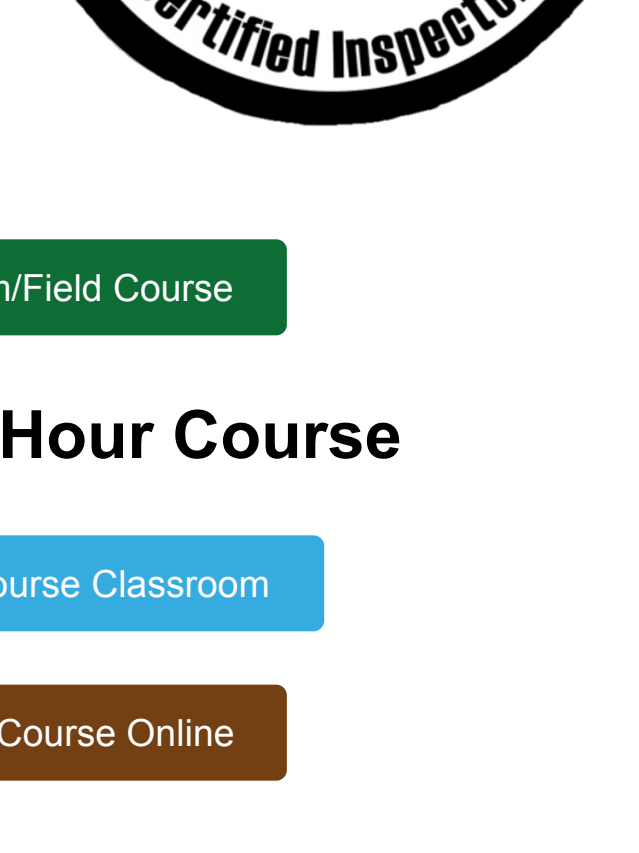
Most erosion and sediment control plans, such as Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs), incorporate Stormdrain Inlet Sediment Traps (Sd2) as integral components within a system of sediment control devices. These devices are meticulously designed, installed, and maintained to effectively intercept and filter sediment. The primary goal is to prevent sediment from being transported off-site or entering on-site sediment basins.

Storm drain inlet protection measures play a crucial role in averting the ingress of soil and debris into storm drain inlets, thus mitigating the risk of potential blockages and minimizing maintenance requirements for sediment basins. Typically of a temporary nature, these controls enable storm drain inlets on-site to remain operational until permanent site stabilization is achieved. Inlet protection represents the final opportunity to treat stormwater before discharge. For more detailed information, please refer to the source document [here](#).



MS4CECI

MS4 Compliance & Enforcement Certified Inspector



Initial 2-Day Classroom/Field Course

Recertification 4-Hour Course

Recertification 4-Hour Course Classroom

Recertification 4-Hour Course Online

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.

Indiana-credentialed individuals:
Register for our upcoming virtual (Zoom) MS4CECI Recertification Course!
February 8, 2024
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

[Click Here to Register](#)

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

Register today for our next MS4GIT course!

March 6, 2024

8 a.m. – 12 p.m. EST

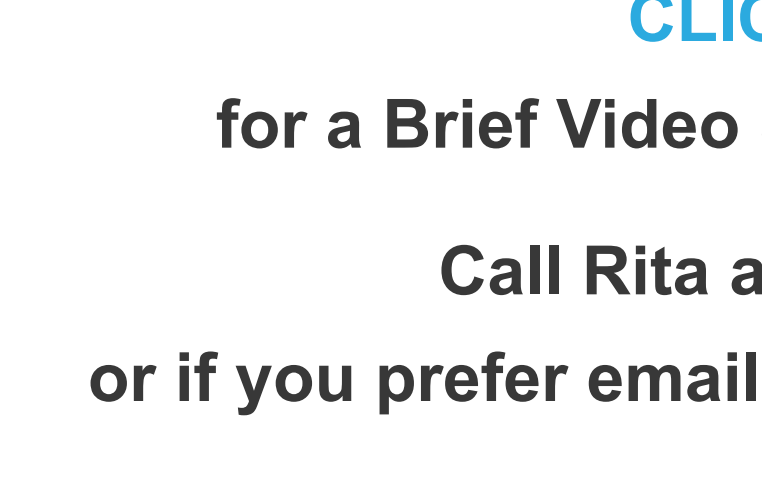
Location: Buford, GA

[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 email Rita@npdestraining.com

[Click Here to Register](#)

We're Here to Serve You!

Erosion Management Strategies for Winter Construction

The holiday season poses a challenge for construction managers and contractors, as they must carefully consider the potential impacts of inclement cold weather on best management practices (BMPs) within their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs), often referred to as the "erosion plan" in the field. While some southeastern states seldom experience significant snow events, the decisions made in design and implementation can significantly disrupt a designer or superintendent when snowfall does occur.

Irrespective of the time of year, savvy builders recognize that once stormwater runoff from a site takes on a rusty red hue, neighbors become disgruntled, and the project becomes susceptible to costly fines or stop-work orders. To mitigate complaints from downstream residents and safeguard water quality, it is crucial for builders to prioritize erosion prevention. This involves strategically phasing land disturbance, covering the ground promptly after clearing or grubbing, and subsequently addressing sediment transport during rainfall.

By proactively implementing these measures, builders can not only enhance the overall effectiveness of their SWPPPs but also minimize the risk of downstream issues and potential regulatory consequences.



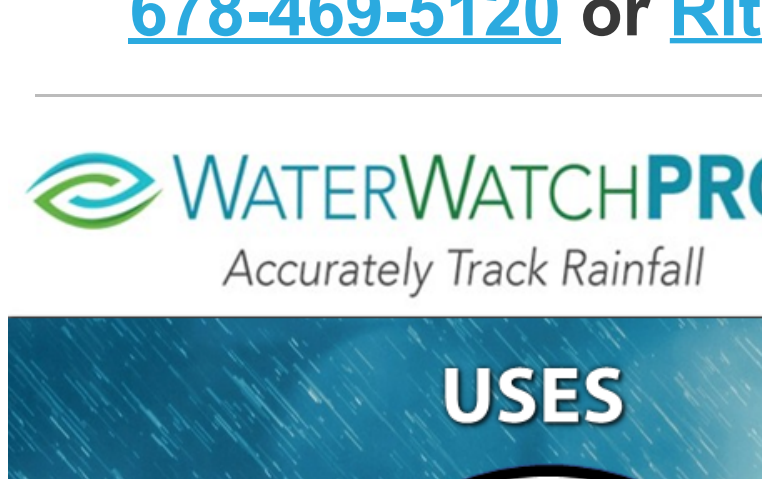
10% Off any course

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



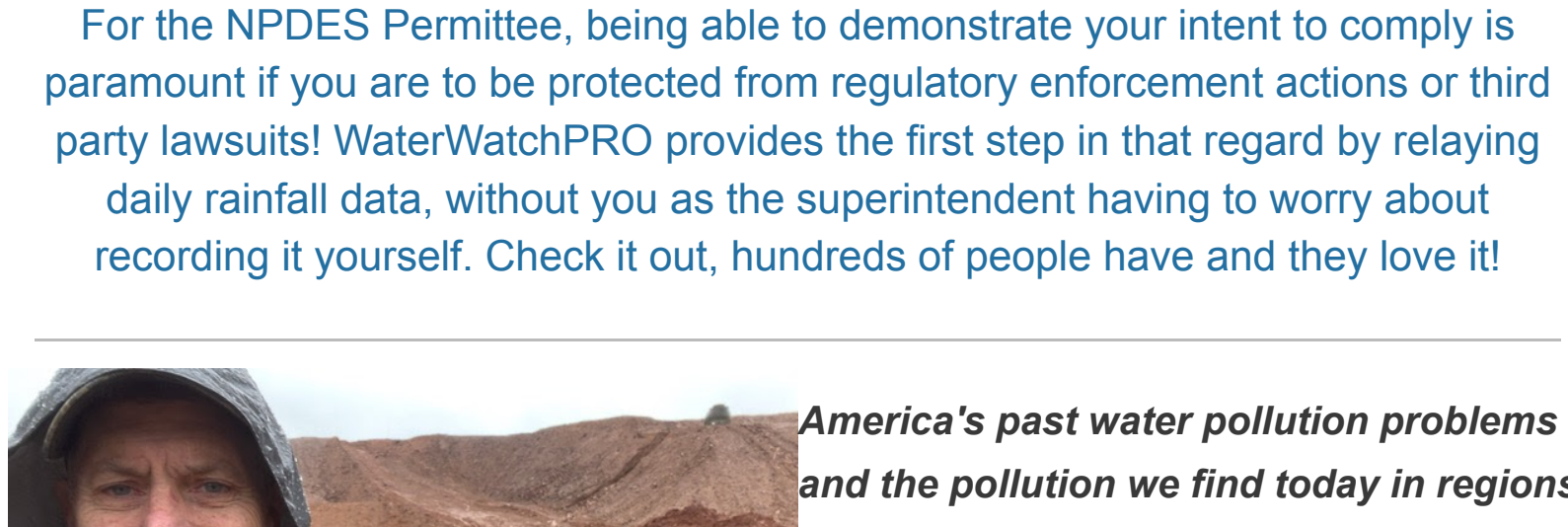
YES!!!

We Can Travel To Where You Work!

Call Us So We Can Help Make Your Job Easier!

For More Information or to Schedule a Class

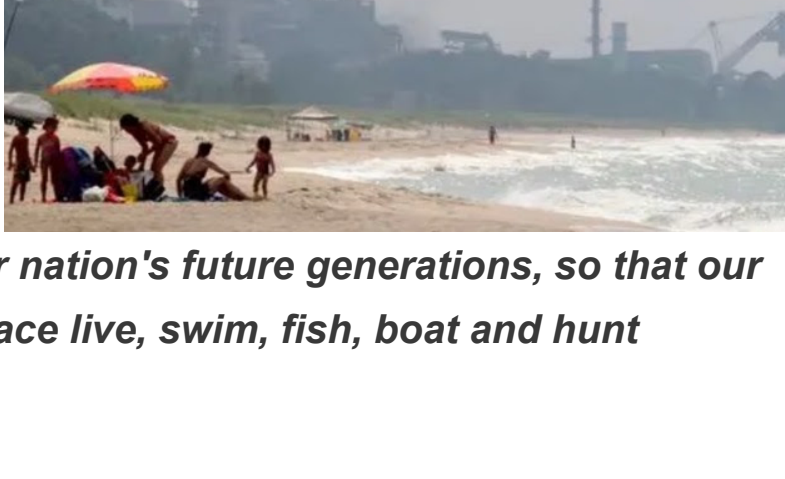
678-469-5120 or Rita@npdestraining.com



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!

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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tlowen@npdestraining.com



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