

FACT SHEET



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Storm Water and Manufacturing Office of Water Quality

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Description:

- When it rains or snows, the water that runs off of city streets, parking lots, construction sites and other impervious surfaces can wash sediment, oil, grease, toxics, pathogens, and other pollutants into nearby storm drains or ditches.
- Once this pollution has entered a storm sewer system, it is usually discharged untreated into local streams and waterways creating pollution.
- In November 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) began Phase I of its storm water program requiring states to develop programs to combat this pollution problem.
- New regulations, known as storm water Phase II, have now been established in Indiana to reduce the impacts of storm water run-off from construction, industrial, municipal, governmental, and institutional sources.
- General storm water rules are found in the Indiana Administrative Code at 327 IAC 15-6, the rule that deals with industry-related storm water discharges.

Environmental Impacts:

- Activities that take place at industrial facilities, such as material handling and storage, are often exposed to storm water.
- As run-off from rain or snowmelt comes into contact with these materials, it picks up pollutants and transports them to nearby storm sewer systems, rivers, lakes, or coastal waters.
- Run-off from industrial activities can change natural hydrologic patterns, accelerate stream flows, destroy aquatic habitats, and elevate pollutant concentrations and loadings.
- Without pollution prevention and appropriate controls that treat storm water, storm water run-off transports debris, chemicals, and other pollutants to water bodies that result in the loss of recreational uses for local water bodies and injury to plants and animals that live in or use the water.

IDEM's Role:

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is responsible for protecting human health and the environment in accordance with federal and state regulations, while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM regulates industrial storm water discharge as part of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting Program under 327 IAC 15-6 (Rule 6).
- Under Phase I, requirements of Rule 6 applied to specific categorical industrial facilities which had a point source discharge of storm water exposed to industrial activity from their facility.
- Under Phase II, Rule 6 was revised to include an allowance of conditional "no exposure certification" exclusion to any designated industry that through management of operations achieved specific requirements. This exclusion provides both an incentive for facilities to protect their operations from storm water exposure and a water quality benefit for the state by reducing polluted run-off.

- If it is determined that industrial storm water discharges are mixing with other waste streams, then the facility does not qualify for a general storm water permit and must apply for an individual wastewater permit which will include more specific industrial requirements for protecting water quality.

Citizen's Role:

Citizen involvement has been, and will continue to be, a vital component of IDEM's overall plan to protect Indiana's environment and the health of Hoosiers. There are a number of ways citizens can prevent contaminated storm water run-off and help protect the quality of Indiana's lakes, streams and wetlands.

- In residential areas:
 - Don't dump unwanted cleaners, used motor oil, or old gasoline on the ground or into the storm sewer.
 - Follow the label when applying fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides to avoid applying excessive amounts and thereby reduce the chance for chemicals to wash off of surfaces when it rains.
 - Don't sweep leaves or grass clippings into storm drains.
- At industrial sites:
 - Use appropriate storm water quality measures and implement management strategies to prevent refuse, equipment, raw materials and other potential sources of water pollutants from being exposed to rain and storm water.
 - Use erosion and sediment control measures that expose soil during operations or are a result on new construction to prevent soil from washing into drains, ditches and nearby surface waters.
- Submit complaints about storm water pollution to IDEM's Pollution Complaint Coordinator by completing an online form at <http://www.in.gov/idem/5274.htm> or calling (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-4464.

More Information:

- For more information on Storm Water and Phase II regulations, visit IDEM's Storm Water Permitting Program website at www.in.gov/idem/4896.htm.
- For more information about Industrial Storm Water Permitting (Rule 6), visit IDEM's website at www.in.gov/idem/4901.htm.
- For Rule 6-related questions or concerns, please contact IDEM's Storm Water Program at (317) 233-1864.
- For more information about reporting a storm water complaint or a violation, visit IDEM's website at <http://www.in.gov/idem/4904.htm>.