

Post-Construction Stormwater Management

Frequently Asked Questions

Several documents referenced below can be found here: [INDOT Stormwater Engineering](#). If you would like to submit a question to be included in this list, please send any questions to PCSM@indot.IN.gov. We appreciate your feedback!

New Questions as of 7/31/2026

1. Can we over-treat in an adjacent or upstream drainage area/outfall to the same receiving stream instead of treating at each outfall?
 - a. Unless there is documented evidence that PCBMPs cannot be reasonably accommodated within an outfall due to utility conflicts, right-of-way limitations, or topographic constraints, each outfall should provide its own treatment. Refer to the design aid, "*Treating in Another Outfall*," for additional guidance.
2. What do I do if I cannot meet a hydraulic residence time of 9 minutes? (see Question #8 of original FAQs) How close is "close enough" to meeting the 9 minutes requirement?
 - a. The 9-minute hydraulic residence time should be achieved whenever practicable. If site constraints prevent meeting this requirement, consult with the PCSM Team. Designs that do not meet 9 minutes may be considered on a case-by-case basis using sound engineering judgment and consideration of the overall treatment performance provided.
3. What can I do if I don't have software to create shapefiles?
 - a. If shapefiles cannot be produced, linework from AutoCAD or ORD may be exported as a KMZ file. Alternatively, the shapes can be drawn as polygons using Google Earth.
4. Infeasibility Determination/Documentation Confusion
 - a. If an infeasibility determination is being requested for an entire project, supporting documentation should be provided to the PCSM Team and reviewed during a coordination meeting prior to submittal. Include meeting notes, meeting minutes, emails, and any other supporting documentation from this coordination effort in the PCSM Report.
 - b. If treatment is determined to be infeasible at specific outfalls within a project, first refer to the "*Treating in Another Outfall*" design aid. If treatment remains infeasible after evaluating the alternatives outlined in the design aid, provide documentation in the PCSM Report supporting the determination and the rationale for the proposed approach. Coordination with the PCSM Team prior to submittal is preferred.
5. Plan Production – Do I have to name detention basins that are not being used for water quality using the PCBMP naming system?

- a. Yes, these names are used for asset management.
- 6. Plan Production – Do I have to show the detention basins not being used for water quality as described in the PCSM Submittal Requirements document?
 - a. Yes, for consistency across all PCBMPs (both for water *quantity* and water *quality*) we need to meet these requirements. While water *quantity* PCBMPs go through INDOT Hydraulics for design review, all PCBMPs are treated the same regarding asset management.
- 7. Inspection and Maintenance Plans – How do I submit these?
 - a. Please provide these separately in a zipped file. No need to include them in the report document. Please fill out the general information and add screen shots from the plans. The rest of the information will be populated during field inspection.
- 8. How should the CNwq be calculated for swales?
 - a. For swales only, the CNwq should be calculated using the percent total impervious and not the percent new impervious.

New Questions as of 4/1/2026

- 1. Why do I need to provide shapefiles of the outfalls and polygons for the detention basins and/or PCBMPs?
 - a. The shapefiles are needed for asset management.

Previous Questions as of 6/9/2025

- 1. When determining the value for net added impervious surface, do cross overs or other temporary pavements count?
 - a. No, only permanent impervious surface is included in the calculation.
- 2. Can you please elaborate on what counts as the “same receiving stream”?
 - a. Two outfalls are considered to drain to the same receiving stream if they both drain to the first solid blue line on a USGS topo map. See the “*Treating in Another Outfall*” document found on the INDOT Stormwater Engineering webpage for a graphical representation.
- 3. I have two projects with two DES numbers but under one INDOT contract. They both require a CSGP; however, their combined net added impervious surface is just over an acre. Do we consider them one project or two for determining how much net added impervious surface there is (and therefore if PCBMPs are required)?
 - a. The net added impervious surface of separate projects shall be combined when determining PCSM requirements when all the following conditions are met:
 - The projects are owned by the same project sponsor.
 - The projects are less than or equal to 0.25 miles of the closest point of each other.
 - The projects outlet to the same perennial stream based on the 1:24,000 USGS Topo Quad solid blue line streams.

4. How do you treat added pavement in a different outfall if you can't treat it in the outfall it is located in?
 - a. We have created a supplemental guidance document for this scenario. Please see the *"Treating in Another Outfall"* document.
5. Please provide clarification on naming convention.
 - a. PCBMP naming must be provided in the report exhibits and plans per the *"PCSM Asset Naming Guidance"* document found on the INDOT stormwater engineering webpage.
6. How should we show the geometry of PCBMPs in plan view?
 - a. For hydrodynamic separators, they will be part of a storm sewer system, so they can be shown as manholes. They should be called out with their preliminary asset identification number (see *"PCSM Asset Naming Guidance"*) and have the water quality treatment rate called out as well. For all other PCBMPs, they should be shown as polygons. Please see the *"PCSM Submittal Requirements"* document.
7. What should I do if I'm not able to meet the sediment removal rate as total suspended solids (TSS) of 80% or hydraulic residence time of 9 minutes (not enough space in right-of-way, geometry/site constraints, slope, etc.)?
 - a. Please refer to the *"Treating in Another Outfall"* document found on the INDOT Stormwater Engineering webpage.
8. If I'm already designing a detention basin for a job, does that automatically qualify as a PCBMP or do I have to specifically design one? Can it be the same or does it have to be separate?
 - a. A detention basin does not automatically count as a water quality PCBMP; however, the design can be modified per the guidance document to be a water quality PCBMP. It is preferred to treat in a separate swale PCBMP when feasible.
9. What is the INDOT Qualified Products List and where can I find it?
 - a. The INDOT qualified products list is a list of products preapproved for use on INDOT projects. If there is a qualified products list for a given product, and one is not chosen off that list, then a proprietary materials request must be submitted with a specific reason why a product can't be chosen off the approved list. It is located here: [Qualified Products List](#)
10. What is the difference between a PCSM and PCBMP?
 - a. PCSM stands for Post-Construction Stormwater Management. It is the program itself that manages Post-Construction Stormwater Best Management Practices, PCBMPs. PCBMPs are the structural measures themselves (dry detention pond, infiltration basin, etc.).
11. Why do some PCBMPs have 1 letter in the name and others have 2 letters in the name? What's the difference?
 - a. The second letter is only to be used if the PCBMP is protecting a karst feature or if it is serving some other purpose besides stormwater management.

12. How do I determine what county number to use for naming PCBMPs?
 - a. [Indiana County Code Numbers](#)
13. How do I find what reference post numbers to use for naming PCBMPs?
 - a. [INDOT Reference Posts](#)
14. Do proposed compacted aggregate shoulders count as impervious surface?
 - a. Yes, but they count in both the existing and proposed conditions.
15. Are check dams required for all swales?
 - a. No, check dams are only required when the slope is too steep to get a 9-minute hydraulic residence time.
16. Can check dams for swales be constructed in the median?
 - a. No, check dams cannot be constructed in the median. Swales (for water quality), unlike detention facilities, can be constructed in the median, just not with check dams.
17. Are PCBMPs allowed to be placed in jurisdictional streams?
 - a. No, PCBMPs should not be placed in jurisdictional streams. Existing site photos can help determine if a stream is ephemeral or perennial.
18. Are PCBMPs allowed in the floodplain?
 - a. Yes, water *quality* PCBMPs are allowed to be placed in the floodplain due to the difference in time of concentration for a PCBMP and the stream producing the floodplain.
19. Is a detention pond that is not being used for water quality and only being used for peak flow mitigation still considered a PCBMP? Does it need named using the naming convention for PCBMPs?
 - a. Yes, all detention ponds are PCBMPs (just not for water quality treatment) and should be named accordingly for asset management purposes. However, detention design should be coordinated through INDOT Hydraulics.
20. If there are multiple PCBMPs that drain to the same outlet, how do you differentiate between the names?
 - a. Use decimal places in the mile markers and NB and SB, etc., if needed.