

## Summary of PA DEP's Stormwater Management Program

**DEP's Stormwater Management Program** strives to improve and sustain ground and surface water quantity and quality through the use of planning practices and BMPs that minimize the generation of stormwater runoff, provide ground water recharge and minimize the adverse effects of stormwater discharges on ground and surface water resources. To accomplish these goals, the program provides grant moneys to counties to develop stormwater management plans for designated watersheds. The program also provides technical assistance to individuals and municipalities in solving drainage problems and by assisting the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENVEST) as technical consultants in a program, which provides low interest loans to municipal governments to construct projects to solve stormwater runoff problems. The program is involved in various water quality initiatives working directly with the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Department's Nutrient Management Program and the Coastal Zone Program in research and advisory roles. In addition, DEP supports the Villanova Urban Stormwater Partnership through a Growing Greener grant. This partnership promotes the development of public and private partnerships through research on innovative stormwater BMPs, directed studies, technology transfer and education. For more information about the Partnership, visit <http://www.engineering.villanova.edu/ce/vusp.html>.

**The Comprehensive Stormwater Management Policy** provides a framework for the integration of all DEP stormwater management programs and promotes a comprehensive watershed approach to stormwater management in the Commonwealth. The policy describes how the stormwater management program will help to improve water quality, sustain water quantity including ground water recharge and stream base flow, and to implement federal stormwater management obligations. The complete policy document can be viewed online at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/Subjects/StormwaterManagement/GeneralInformation/default.htm>. Click on 'Comprehensive Stormwater Management Policy.'

**The Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual (BMP Manual)** is currently being drafted to support the implementation of federal and state water quality programs, emphasizing innovative best management practices that encourage on-site stormwater management and increased groundwater infiltration as a means to minimize stormwater discharges and limit the amount of surface pollutants entering Pennsylvania's streams. The manual also will include guidance and design criteria specific to the varying regions and landscapes in Pennsylvania.

**The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Permit Program** resulted from new federal regulations (Phase II NPDES), which establish a new permit requirement for discharges to surface waters from MS4s. Permittees must implement and enforce a stormwater management program designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable from their MS4s. For more information about the MS4 Permit, visit DEP's Stormwater Management Program webpage (address below) and click on 'General Permits.'

For more information on DEP's Stormwater Management Program, visit <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/deputate/watermgmt/wc/subjects/stormwatermanagement/default.htm>.