



**ALASKA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM**

**ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM  
INDIVIDUAL PERMIT – FINAL PERMIT**

Permit Number: **AKS052558**

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501**

In compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. ' 1251 *et seq.*, as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, P.L. 100-4; this permit is issued under provisions of Alaska Statutes 46.03; the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) as amended; and other State laws and regulations. The

**The MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE and  
The ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES  
(hereafter “permittees”)**

is authorized to discharge from all municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) outfalls existing as of the effective date of this permit to receiving waters of the United States which include but are not limited to: Cook Inlet, Knik River, Eklutna River, Edmonds Lake Creek, Mink Creek, Parks Creek, Mirror Creek, Little Peters Creek, Peters Creek, Carol Creek, Fire Creek, Eagle River, Meadow Creek, South Fork Eagle River, Ship Creek, Chester Creek, North Fork Chester Creek, Middle Fork Chester Creek, South Fork Chester Creek, Fish Creek, Campbell Creek, North Fork Campbell Creek, South Fork Campbell Creek, Little Campbell Creek, Craig Creek, Bayshore Creek, Furrow Creek, Hood Creek, Little Survival Creek, Rabbit Creek, Elmore Creek, Little Rabbit Creek, Potter Creek, Rainbow Creek, Bird Creek, Indian Creek, Tidewater Slough, Alyeska Creek, California Creek, Glacier Creek, Virgin Creek, Winner Creek, Crow Creek, Peterson Creek, Twentymile River, Portage Creek, and Placer River, their tributaries, associated lake systems, and wetlands located within the corporate boundary of the Municipality of Anchorage, in accordance with the conditions set forth herein.

This permit shall become effective on August 1, 2020

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire after July 31, 2025

The Permittee must reapply for permit reissuance on or before February 1, 2025, 180 days before the expiration of this permit if the Permittee intends to continue operation and discharges from the MS4 beyond the term of this permit.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

June 23, 2020  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Gene McCabe  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Program Manager  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

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## SCHEDULE OF SUBMISSIONS

The Schedule of Submissions summarizes some of the required submissions and activities the permittee must complete and submit to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department or DEC) during the term of this permit. The permittee is responsible for all submissions and activities even if they are not summarized below.

**Table 1: Schedule of Submissions – Storm Water Management Program**

Part of Permit	Storm Water Management Program Component	Compliance Date	Responsibility
<b><i>General Requirements</i></b>			
1.3.3	Submit updated interjurisdictional agreement	Nine months from permit effective date	MOA & DOT&PF
1.3.4	Submit Program Coordination Plan	One year from permit effective date	MOA & DOT&PF
2.1.3	Submit Storm Water Management Program	Annually with the Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF
2.7.1	Develop one watershed plan	Prior to the expiration date of the permit	MOA
2.8	Report on total costs associated with SWMP	Submit with each Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF
<b><i>Construction Site Runoff Control Program</i></b>			
3.1.1	Revise, if necessary, ordinance or other regulatory mechanisms	Four years from permit effective date	MOA & DOT&PF
3.1.2	Update construction storm water manual	Four years from permit effective date	MOA & DOT&PF
3.1.5	Enforcement Response Policy	Submit with First Year Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF
<b><i>Storm Water Management from Areas of New Development &amp; Redevelopment</i></b>			
3.2.1	Revise, if necessary, ordinance or other regulatory mechanisms	Four years from permit effective date	MOA
3.2.3	Update Green Infrastructure/Low Impact Development Strategy	One year from permit effective date	MOA & DOT&PF
3.2.3.1	Evaluate and report status of pilot projects	Submit with Fourth Year Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF
<b><i>Industrial and Commercial Storm Water Discharge Management</i></b>			
3.3.1.4	Inventory of industrial and commercial facilities	Submit with Second and Fourth Year Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF
3.3.2	Evaluation report on snow disposal sites	Submit with Fourth Year Annual Report	MOA
3.3.3	Evaluate animal facility program	Submit with Third Year Annual Report	MOA
<b><i>Storm Water Infrastructure and Street Management</i></b>			
3.4.2	Build and operate facility to process catch basin and inlet cleaning materials	By the end of the permit term	MOA & DOT&PF
3.4.3	Update Street Maintenance SOP	Within four years of the permit effective date	MOA & DOT&PF
3.4.3.2	Inventory of street maintenance materials	In each Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF
3.4.4	Annual street sweeping report	Submit with each Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF

**Table 1: Schedule of Submissions – Storm Water Management Program**

<b>Part of Permit</b>	<b>Storm Water Management Program Component</b>	<b>Compliance Date</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
3.4.6	Annual inspections of permittee owned facilities	Submit with each Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF
<b><i>Illicit Discharge Management</i></b>			
3.5.3	Maintain a map of reported and documented illicit discharges or illicit connections	Submit with each Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF
3.5.4	Dry weather screening	Submit with each Annual Report	MOA
3.5.6	Update of their spill response program	Submit with Second Year Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF
<b><i>Public Education and Involvement</i></b>			
3.6.2	Targeted Education and Training	Ongoing	MOA & DOT&PF
3.6.3	Annual Meeting	Annually	MOA & DOT&PF
3.6.4	Semi-Annual Meetings	Semi-Annually	MOA & DOT&PF
3.6.5	Storm Water Website update	One year from permit effective date, semi-annually thereafter as new material is available	MOA & DOT&PF
<b><i>Monitoring</i></b>			
4.1.1	Assess Permit Compliance	Submit with each Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF
4.1.5	Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for all analytical monitoring to be conducted	The plan must be reviewed and updated within 6 months after the effective date of the final permit. Provide DEC written notice upon completion.	MOA & DOT&PF
4.1.6	Pesticide screening	Submit with Second and Fourth Year Annual Report	MOA
4.1.7	Storm Water Outfall Monitoring	Ongoing	MOA & DOT&PF
4.1.8	Evaluation of monitoring results	Submit with Fourth Year Annual Report	MOA & DOT&PF

## 1.0 APPLICABILITY

### 1.1 Permit Coverage Area

This permit covers all areas within the corporate boundary of the Municipality of Anchorage served by the MS4s owned or operated by either the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) or the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF).

### 1.2 Discharges Authorized Under this Permit

Subject to the conditions set forth herein, the permittees are authorized to discharge storm water to waters of the United States located within the corporate boundary of the MOA from: (1) all portions of the MS4 owned or operated by MOA; and, (2) all portions of the MS4 within State of Alaska highway rights-of-way owned or operated by DOT&PF.

As provided in Part 1.4, this permit also authorizes the discharge of flows from the MS4s that are categorized as allowable non-storm water discharge, storm water discharge associated with industrial activity, and storm water discharge associated with construction activity.

### 1.3 Permittee's Responsibilities

- 1.3.1 **Individual Responsibility.** Each permittee is individually responsible for permit compliance related only to portions of the MS4 owned or operated solely by that permittee, or where this permit requires a specific permittee to take an action.
- 1.3.2 **Joint Responsibility.** Each permittee is jointly responsible for permit compliance:
- 1.3.2.1 Related to portions of the MS4 where operational or storm water management program (SWMP) implementation authority has been transferred from one permittee to another in accordance with an interjurisdictional agreement;
  - 1.3.2.2 Related to portions of the MS4 where permittees jointly own or operate a portion of the MS4; and
  - 1.3.2.3 Related to the submission of reports or other documents required by Parts 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0 of this permit.
- 1.3.3 **Interjurisdictional Agreement.** MOA and DOT&PF must maintain an interjurisdictional agreement describing each organization's respective roles and responsibilities related to this permit. Any previously signed agreement must be updated, as necessary, in accordance with this permit. A copy of an updated interagency agreement must be submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC or the Department) within nine months of the effective date of this permit.
- 1.3.4 **Program Coordination Plan.** Not later than one year from the effective date of this permit, the permittees must develop and submit to DEC a program plan describing the performance of activities defined in this permit. This plan must include, but is not limited to:

- 1.3.4.1 A description of how the MOA Watershed Management Section (WMS) and the DOT&PF Construction, Maintenance & Operations and Preliminary Design & Environment Groups each intend to coordinate among all relevant MOA and/or DOT&PF organizations within the corporate boundaries of the MOA to ensure effective program implementation and compliance with this permit; and
- 1.3.4.2 A description of how each permittee will work with each other and other parties within the corporate boundaries of the MOA to ensure coordinated storm water-related policies, programs, and projects within the Anchorage area.

## 1.4 Limitations on Permit Coverage

- 1.4.1 **Non-Storm Water Discharges.** Permittees are not authorized to discharge non-storm water from the MS4, except where such discharges satisfy one of the following three conditions:
  - 1.4.1.1 The non-storm water discharges are in compliance with a separate Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) permit; or
  - 1.4.1.2 The non-storm water discharges result from a spill and:
    - 1.4.1.2.1 Are the result of an unusual and severe weather event or seismic event where reasonable and prudent measures have been taken to prevent and minimize the impact of such discharge; or
    - 1.4.1.2.2 Consist of emergency discharges required to prevent imminent threat to human health or severe property damage, provided that reasonable and prudent measures have been taken to minimize the impact of such discharges; or
  - 1.4.1.3 The non-storm water discharges satisfy each of the following two conditions:
    - 1.4.1.3.1 The discharges consist of uncontaminated water line flushing; potable water sources; landscape irrigation (provided all pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer have been applied in accordance with manufacturer's instructions); lawn watering; irrigation water; flows from riparian habitats and wetlands; diverted stream flows; springs; rising ground waters; uncontaminated ground water infiltration (as defined at 40 CFR §35.2005(20)) to separate storm sewers; uncontaminated pumped ground water or spring water; foundation and footing drains (where flows are not contaminated with process materials such as solvents); uncontaminated air conditioning or compressor condensate; water from crawlspace pumps; individual residential car washing; dechlorinated swimming pool discharges; routine external building wash down which does not use detergents; street and pavement wash waters, where no detergents are used and no spills or leaks of toxic or hazardous materials have occurred (unless all spilled material has been removed); fire hydrant flushing; or flows from emergency firefighting activities; and
    - 1.4.1.3.2 The discharges are not sources of pollution to waters of the United States. A discharge is considered a source of pollution to waters of the United States if it:

- 1.4.1.3.2.1 Causes excessive foam in the receiving waters or contains floating and/or settleable solids in amounts sufficient to make the water unsafe or unfit for providing water supply or other beneficial uses;
  - 1.4.1.3.2.2 Contains oil or other substances in amounts sufficient to create a visible film or sheen on the receiving waters;
  - 1.4.1.3.2.3 Contains substances that are in amounts sufficient to be unsightly or deleterious or which produce color, odor, or other conditions to such a degree as to create a nuisance;
  - 1.4.1.3.2.4 Contains any substance or combination of substances in amounts sufficient to be acutely toxic to, or to otherwise severely injure or kill aquatic life, other animals, plants or humans;
  - 1.4.1.3.2.5 Contains any substances or combination of substances that will cause or contribute to the growth of aquatic plants or algae to such degree as to create a nuisance, be unsightly, or otherwise impair the designated use; or
  - 1.4.1.3.2.6 Causes or contributes to an exceedance of other applicable water quality standards (WQS).
- 1.4.2 **Discharges Threatening Water Quality.** Permittees are not authorized to discharge storm water that the DEC determines will cause or have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to violations of WQS in the receiving water.
- 1.4.3 **Snow Disposal to Receiving Waters.**
- 1.4.3.1 Permittee's shall select effective snow storage and disposal sites in upland areas where direct drainage to surface waters or storm drains is not possible and where the groundwater table is low. Best management practices (BMPs) at snow storage and disposal sites may include but are not limited to ditches, detention basin, dikes, berms, and vegetative buffers.
  - 1.4.3.2 Permittee's are not authorized to dispose of snow directly to waters of the United States or directly to the MS4. Discharges from the permittee's snow disposal and snow management practices are authorized under this permit when such practices are operated using appropriate BMPs required in Part 3.0. BMPs may include but are not limited to ditches, detention basins, dikes, berms, ditches, and vegetative buffers. BMPs shall be designed, operated, and maintained to prevent and reduce pollutants in the discharge to the maximum extent practicable (MEP) to avoid excursions above the WQS in the receiving water.
- 1.4.4 **Discharges to Water Quality-Impaired Receiving Waters**
- 1.4.4.1 For purposes of this permit, the CWA §303(d) listed water bodies are those cited in the Final DEC 2014/2016 *Integrated Report* or the most current version of this report and listed in Table 2. "Pollutant(s) of Concern" refer to the pollutant(s) identified as causing or contributing to the water quality impairment. Pollutants of concern for the purposes of this permit are fecal coliform bacteria.



**Table 2: Impaired Receiving Waters within the MOA**

Receiving Water	Pollutant(s) of Concern
Ship Creek	Fecal Coliform Bacteria
Campbell Creek, Campbell Lake, Chester Creek, University Lake, Westchester Lagoon, Little Rabbit Creek, Fish Creek, Furrow Creek, Little Campbell Creek, Little Survival Creek	Fecal Coliform Bacteria

- 1.4.4.2 The permittee must conduct a storm water discharge monitoring program as required in Part 4.0.
- 1.4.4.3 The permittee’s Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) must include a description how the activities of each minimum control measure in Part 3.0 are implemented by the permittee to control the discharge of pollutants of concern and ensure that the MS4 discharges will not cause or contribute to an excursion above applicable WQS to the MEP. This discussion must specifically identify how the permittee evaluates and measures the effectiveness of the SWMP to control the discharge of the pollutant(s) of concern. For those activities identified in Part 3.0 requiring multiple years to develop and implement, the permittee must provide interim updates on progress to date. Consistent with Part 2.1, the permittee must update and submit this description of the SWMP implementation to DEC as part of the Annual Report required in Part 4.3, and must update its description annually in subsequent Annual Reports.
- 1.4.5 **Storm Water Discharge Associated with Industrial and Construction Activity.** Permittees are authorized to discharge storm water associated with industrial activity (as defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)), and storm water associated with construction activity (as defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(x) and (b)(15)), from their MS4s, only when such discharges are otherwise authorized under an appropriate APDES permit.

## 2.0 STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### 2.1 Storm Water Management Program Document

- 2.1.1 No later than one year from the effective date of the permit, the permittees shall review, and revise as necessary its written documentation of the SWMP as implemented within its jurisdiction. The SWMP documentation must be organized according to the program components in Parts 3.0 and 4.0 of this permit. At a minimum, the permittees must include the following information:
  - 2.1.1.1 Ordinances or other regulatory mechanisms, providing the legal authority necessary to implement and enforce the requirements of this permit.
  - 2.1.1.2 A written outline describing how the permittees will implement the requirements of Parts 3.0 and 4.0 of this permit.

- 2.1.2 The permittees must track the annual number of inspections, official enforcement actions, and types of public education activities and outcomes, as stipulated by the respective program requirement. Information summarizing these activities during the previous reporting period must be included in the Annual Report.
- 2.1.3 The SWMP document must be reviewed and updated at least annually and submitted with the Annual Report.

## 2.2 General Requirements

- 2.2.1 The permittees must revise as necessary, implement, and enforce a SWMP designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP to protect water quality, and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the CWA. The SWMP must include BMPs, control techniques, system design, engineering methods, and other provisions appropriate for the control and to minimize the discharge of pollutants from the MS4.
- 2.2.2 The SWMP developed by the permittees and submitted to DEC covers the term of this permit and must be updated as necessary or as required by DEC to ensure compliance with Section 402(p)(3)(B) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §1342(p)(3)(B). Modifications to the SWMP must be made in accordance with Part 2.3 of this permit. The SWMP submitted to DEC by the permittees, and all approved updates made in accordance with Part 2.3 of this permit, are hereby incorporated by reference. All components and requirements of the SWMP are enforceable as conditions of this permit.
- 2.2.3 The permittees must submit any plan revisions or documents that require review and approval by DEC to the address listed in Part 4.6, and in accordance with Parts 2.3 and/or 4.1 of this permit. Within 60 days of receipt of such plans or documents, DEC shall have the right to disapprove or require modifications to the plans or documents for approval.
- 2.2.4 The SWMP actions and activities are outlined through the minimum control measures in Part 3.0 and the assessment/monitoring requirements described in Part 4.1. The permittees must implement a SWMP that provides:
  - 2.2.4.1 BMPs that are selected, implemented, maintained and updated to ensure that storm water discharges do not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable numeric or narrative WQS; and
  - 2.2.4.2 Measurable goals, including interim milestones, for each BMP.

## 2.3 Reviewing and Updating the Storm Water Management Program

- 2.3.1 The permittees must annually review the SWMP as part of the preparation of the Annual Report required under Part 4.4.
- 2.3.2 The permittees may request changes to any SWMP action or activity specified this permit according to the following procedures:

- 2.3.2.1 Changes to delete or replace an action or activity specifically identified in the SWMP with an alternate action or activity may be requested at any time. Modification requests to DEC must include:
  - 2.3.2.1.1 An analysis of why the original action or activity is ineffective, infeasible, or cost prohibitive;
  - 2.3.2.1.2 Expectations on the effectiveness of the replacement action or activity; and
  - 2.3.2.1.3 An analysis of why the replacement action or activity is expected to better achieve the SWMP requirements.
- 2.3.2.2 Change requests or notifications must be made in writing and signed by the permittee in accordance with Appendix A, Part 1.12.
- 2.3.2.3 Documentation of the actions or activities as required by the SWMP must be submitted to DEC upon request. DEC may review and subsequently notify the permittees that changes to the SWMP are necessary to:
  - 2.3.2.3.1 Address discharges from the MS4 that are causing or contributing to water quality impacts;
  - 2.3.2.3.2 Include more stringent requirements necessary to comply with new federal or state statutory or regulatory requirements;
  - 2.3.2.3.3 Include other conditions deemed necessary by the DEC to comply with WQS, and/or other goals and requirements of the CWA; or
  - 2.3.2.3.4 Address the SWMP requirements of the permit, if DEC determines that the permittee's current SWMP does not meet permit requirements.
- 2.3.2.4 If DEC notifies the permittees that changes are necessary, the notification will offer the permittees an opportunity to propose alternative program changes to meet the objectives of the requested modification. Following this opportunity, the permittees must implement any required changes according to the schedule set by DEC.

## **2.4 Transfer of Ownership, Operational Authority, or Responsibility for SWMP Implementation.**

- 2.4.1 Transfer of ownership, operational authority, or responsibility for SWMP implementation requires submittal of all corrected documentation to DEC for a 60-day review before implementation of transfer.
- 2.4.2 The permittees must implement the SWMP in all new areas added or transferred to the permittee's MS4 (or for which the permittee becomes responsible for implementation of storm water quality controls) as expeditiously as practicable, within one year from the date upon which the new areas were added. Such additions and schedules for implementation must be documented in the next Annual Report following the transfer.

## 2.5 Reduce Pollutants To The Maximum Extent Practicable.

- 2.5.1 Permittees must implement and enforce a SWMP designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from their MS4 to the MEP, and to protect water quality in receiving waters. The SWMP actions and activities as defined in this permit include BMPs, control measures, system design, engineering methods, and other provisions appropriate to control and minimize discharges of pollutants from the MS4.
- 2.5.2 The SWMP actions and activities are outlined in Part 2.0, and SWMP assessment/monitoring requirements are described in Part 4.0. Each permittee must use BMPs and control measures that are selected, implemented, maintained and updated to ensure that storm water discharges do not cause or contribute to an exceedance of an applicable Alaska WQS.

## 2.6 Shared Implementation with outside entities.

- 2.6.1 Implementation of one or more of the permit requirements may be shared with or delegated to another entity other than the permittee(s). The permittee may rely on another entity only if:
- 2.6.1.1 The other entity, in fact, implements the requirement;
- 2.6.1.2 The action, or component thereof, is at least as stringent as the corresponding permit requirement; and
- 2.6.1.3 The other entity agrees to implement the permit requirement on the permittee's behalf. A binding written acceptance of this obligation is required. The permittees must maintain this obligation as part of the SWMP. If the other entity agrees to report on the permit requirement, the permittees must supply the other entity with the reporting requirements in Part 2.0 of this permit. The permittees remain responsible for compliance with the permit obligation if the other entity fails to implement the required measure.

## 2.7 Watershed Planning.

- 2.7.1 The permittees must initiate, develop and complete one individual watershed plan for a specific water body prior to the expiration date of this permit based on the scoping document developed in the previous permit term. The plan must identify site-based LID goals, recommend future actions to obtain identified goals, and include consideration and discussion of the following principles:
- 2.7.1.1 Minimize the amount of impervious surfaces (roads, parking lots, roofs) within each watershed, by minimizing the creation, extension and widening of roads and associated development.
- 2.7.1.2 Preserve, protect, create and restore ecologically sensitive areas that provide water quality benefits and serve critical watershed functions. These areas may include, but are not limited to: riparian corridors, headwaters, floodplains and wetlands.
- 2.7.1.3 Prevent or reduce thermal impacts to streams, including requiring vegetated buffers along waterways, and disconnecting discharges to surface waters from impervious surfaces such as parking lots.

- 2.7.1.4 Seek to avoid or prevent hydromodification of streams and other water bodies caused by development, including roads, highways, and bridges.
- 2.7.1.5 Preserve and protect trees, and other vegetation with important evapotranspirative qualities. Preserve and protect native soils, prevent topsoil stripping, and prevent compaction of soils.
- 2.7.2 The permittees must complete a scoping document for one individual watershed plan for a specific water body prior to the expiration date of this permit. The scoping document must identify whether activities carried out in the watershed are beneficial in accomplishing site-based LID practices and recommend future actions to obtain identified goals. The scoping document shall include consideration and discussion of the principles described in Parts 2.7.1.1 to 2.7.1.5. The scoping document will be used to determine if a watershed plan will be developed in the next permit cycle.

## 2.8 Storm Water Management Program Resources

The permittees must provide adequate finances, staff, equipment, and other support capabilities to implement their SWMP actions and activities outlined in this permit. The permittees must report on total costs associated with SWMP implementation over the prior 12 months in each Annual Report. Permittees are encouraged to consider establishing consistent funding sources for continued program implementation.

## 3.0 MINIMUM CONTROL MEASURES

The following minimum control measures must be accomplished through the permittees' SWMP:

**3.1 Construction Site Runoff Control Program.** The permittees must continue to implement a construction site runoff control program to reduce discharges of pollutants from public and private construction activity within its jurisdiction. "Construction activity" for this permit includes, at a minimum, construction involving a total land disturbance of 10,000 square feet or more at a single construction site or as part of a plan of common development. The permittees' construction site management program must include the requirements described below:

- 3.1.1 **Ordinance and/or other regulatory mechanism.** To the extent allowable under local or state law, the permittees must adopt, implement, and enforce requirements for erosion controls, sediment controls, and materials management techniques to be employed and maintained at each construction project from initial clearing through final stabilization. Each permittee must require construction site operators to maintain adequate and effective controls to eliminate pollutants in storm water discharges from construction sites. The permittees must use enforcement actions (such as, written warnings, stop work orders or fines) to ensure compliance. No later than four years after the effective date of this permit, each permittee must review, and update if needed, formal ordinances or other regulatory mechanisms that are consistent with this permit and the current version of the APDES General Permit for Storm

Water Discharges from Construction Activities, Permit #AKR100000 (APDES Construction General Permit or CGP).

- 3.1.2 **Construction Storm Water Manual.** The permittees must update their respective construction storm water practices manuals within four years of the effective date of this permit, as needed, and require the use of the manual by construction site operators within their jurisdiction. The manual(s) must include all acceptable control practices, selection and sizing criteria, illustrations, and design examples, as well as recommended operation and maintenance of each practice. At a minimum, the manual(s) must include applicable elements for erosion control, sediment control, and pollution prevention consistent with the current version of the CGP.
- 3.1.3 **Plan Review and Approval.** The permittees must review and approve site plans from construction site operators within their jurisdictions. MOA must require the preparation and submittal of a storm water treatment plan or storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) for the MOA's review and written approval prior to issuance of a municipal permit for construction projects. DOT&PF must require the preparation and submittal of a SWPPP for the DOT&PF's review and written approval prior to commencing with the construction project. Permittees must ensure that the construction site operator is prohibited from commencing construction activity prior to receipt of written approval.
- 3.1.3.1 The permittees must not approve any stormwater treatment plan or SWPPP unless it contains appropriate site-specific construction site control measures that meet the minimum requirements in Part 3.1.2.
- 3.1.3.2 Within the MOA, the portion of the storm water treatment plan describing the active construction phase may serve as the SWPPP required under the APDES Construction General Permit, provided that the required storm water treatment plan is at least as inclusive of controls as the SWPPP requirements contained in the most recent version of the APDES Construction General Permit.
- 3.1.3.3 Prior to the start of a construction project disturbing one or more acres or less than one acre but part of a larger common plan of development, the permittees must verify whether the construction site operator(s) have obtained necessary coverage under the operative APDES Construction General Permit.
- 3.1.3.4 Permittees must use qualified individuals, knowledgeable in the technical review of storm water treatment plans/storm water pollution prevention plans to conduct such reviews.
- 3.1.3.5 Permittees must document the review of each storm water treatment plan and SWPPP using a checklist or similar process.
- 3.1.4 **Construction Site Inspections.** The permittees must inspect utility projects, construction sites that require a building permit, and non-publicly funded transportation projects at the frequency specified in Table 3 below:

**Table 3: Construction Site Inspections**

Site	Inspection Frequency
(A) All sites 5 acres or larger in size (B) Other sites 10,000 sq. ft. or more, or part of a larger common plan of development, that are determined by the permittee or permitting authority to be a significant threat to water quality*	Inspection must occur at least monthly during the construction season.
(C) All other construction sites with 10,000 sq. ft. or more, or that are part of a larger common plan of development and do not meet the criteria specified in (A) or (B)	Inspection must occur at least once per construction season.
(D) Construction sites less than 10,000 sq. feet in size	Inspection must occur as needed based on the evaluation of the factors that are a threat to water quality.*
* In evaluating the threat to water quality, the following factors must be considered: soil erosion potential; site slope; project size and type; site proximity to receiving water bodies; sensitivity of receiving water bodies; non-storm water discharges; and past record of non-compliance by the operators of the construction site.	

3.1.4.1 Inspections of construction sites must include, but not be limited to:

- 3.1.4.1.1 Check for coverage under the Construction General Permit by requesting a copy of any application or Notice of Intent (NOI) during initial inspections;
- 3.1.4.1.2 Review the applicable storm water treatment plans/storm water pollution prevention plans to determine if control measures have been installed, implemented, and maintained according to the plan;
- 3.1.4.1.3 Assess compliance with the permittee’s ordinances/requirements related to storm water runoff, including the implementation and maintenance of required control measures;
- 3.1.4.1.4 Assess the appropriateness of planned control measures and their effectiveness;
- 3.1.4.1.5 Visually observe non-storm water discharges, potential illicit connections, and potential discharge of pollutants in storm water runoff;
- 3.1.4.1.6 Provide education and outreach on storm water pollution prevention, as needed; and
- 3.1.4.1.7 Provide a written or electronic inspection report.

3.1.4.2 The permittees must track the number of inspections for the inventoried construction sites throughout the reporting period to verify that the sites are inspected at the minimum frequencies required.

3.1.4.3 Based on site inspection findings, each permittee must take all necessary follow-up actions (i.e., re-inspection, enforcement) to ensure compliance. These follow-up and enforcement actions must be tracked as well.

- 3.1.5 **Enforcement Response Policy for Construction Site Management Program.** Each permittee must maintain and implement a written escalating enforcement response policy (ERP) appropriate to their organization. The ERP for MOA must address enforcement of construction site runoff controls for utility construction projects, construction projects that require a building permit, and non-publicly funded transportation construction projects. The ERP for DOT&PF must address contractual enforcement of construction site runoff controls at DOT&PF owned construction sites and be submitted in the first annual report. Each ERP must describe the permittee's potential responses to violations with an appropriate educational or enforcement response. The ERP must address repeat violations through progressively stricter responses as needed to achieve compliance. Each ERP must describe how the permittee will use the following types of enforcement response based on the type of violation:
- 3.1.5.1 **Verbal Warnings:** Verbal warnings are primarily consultative in nature. At a minimum, verbal warnings must specify the nature of violation and required corrective action.
- 3.1.5.2 **Written Notices:** Written notices must stipulate the nature of the violation and the required corrective action with deadlines for taking such action. The permittees must keep a written log of written notices issued.
- 3.1.5.3 **Escalated Enforcement Measures:** The permittees must have the legal ability to employ any combination of the enforcement actions below (or their functional equivalent):
- 3.1.5.3.1 The ERP must indicate when the permittees will initiate a Stop Work Order. Stop work orders must require that construction activities be halted, except for those activities directed at cleaning up, abating discharge, and installing appropriate control measures.
- 3.1.5.3.2 The permittees must also use other escalating measures provided under local or state legal authorities, such as assessing monetary penalties. The permittees may perform work necessary to improve erosion control measures and collect the funds from the responsible party in an appropriate manner, such as collecting against the project's bond, or directly billing the responsible party to pay for work and materials.
- 3.1.5.4 **Construction General Permit Violation Referrals:** For those construction projects subject to the APDES Construction General Permit, permittees must refer non-filers (i.e., those projects that cannot demonstrate that they have appropriate APDES permit coverage) to DEC within 15 days of making that determination. In making such referrals, permittees must include, at a minimum, the following documentation:
- 3.1.5.4.1 Construction project location;
- 3.1.5.4.2 Name of owner or operator;
- 3.1.5.4.3 Date determination was made;
- 3.1.5.4.4 Estimated construction project size; and
- 3.1.5.4.5 Records of communication with the owner or operator regarding filing requirements.



- 3.1.5.5 **Enforcement Tracking:** The permittees must track instances of non-compliance either in hard-copy files or electronically. The enforcement case documentation must include, at a minimum, the following:
- 3.1.5.5.1 Name of owner/operator;
  - 3.1.5.5.2 Location of construction project;
  - 3.1.5.5.3 Description and date of violation;
  - 3.1.5.5.4 Required schedule for returning to compliance;
  - 3.1.5.5.5 Description of enforcement response used, including escalated responses if repeat violations occur;
  - 3.1.5.5.6 Accompanying documentation of enforcement response (e.g., notices of noncompliance, notices of violations, etc.); and
  - 3.1.5.5.7 Any referrals to different departments or agencies.
- 3.1.6 **Construction Program Education and Training.** Annually the permittees must ensure that all staff whose primary job duties are related to implementing the construction program (including permitting, plan review, construction site inspections, and enforcement) are trained to conduct such activities. The education program must also provide regular training opportunities for construction site operators. Permittees must keep a training log of attendees at all training events. This training must include, at a minimum:
- 3.1.6.1 *Erosion and Sediment Control/Storm Water Inspectors:*
    - 3.1.6.1.1 Initial training regarding proper control measure selection, installation and maintenance as well as administrative requirements such as inspection reporting/tracking and the implementation of the enforcement response policy; and
    - 3.1.6.1.2 Annual refresher training for existing inspection staff to update them on preferred BMPs, regulation changes, permit updates, and policy or standards updates.
  - 3.1.6.2 *Other Construction Inspectors:* Initial training on general storm water issues, basic control measure implementation information, and procedures for notifying the appropriate personnel of noncompliance.
  - 3.1.6.3 *Plan Reviewers:*
    - 3.1.6.3.1 Initial training regarding control measure selection, design standards, and review procedures;
    - 3.1.6.3.2 Annual training regarding new control measures, innovative approaches, permit updates, regulation changes and policy or standard updates.
  - 3.1.6.4 *Third-Party Inspectors and Plan Reviewers.* If the permittee utilizes outside parties to either conduct inspections and or review plans, these outside staff must be trained per the requirements listed in Part 3.1.6.1 -3.1.6.3 above.

3.1.6.5 *Construction Operator Education.* Permittees must educate construction site operators as follows:

- 3.1.6.5.1 At least once per year, the permittees must either provide information to all construction companies on existing training opportunities or provide training for construction operators regarding appropriate selection, installation, and use of required construction site control measures at sites within the permit area.
- 3.1.6.5.2 The permittees must require construction site operators to have at least one person on-site during construction that is appropriately trained in erosion and sediment control (e.g., AK-CESCL, CPESC, CESSWI, CPSWQ, or CISEC).
- 3.1.6.5.3 Permittees must require construction operators to attend training at least once every three years.
- 3.1.6.5.4 The permittees must provide appropriate information and outreach materials to all construction operators who will be disturbing land within their jurisdiction.

## 3.2 Storm Water Management for Areas of New Development and

**Redevelopment.** At a minimum, the permittees must continue to implement and enforce a program to control storm water runoff from new development and redevelopment projects that result in a land disturbance of 10,000 square feet or more. This control program must apply to private and public sector development, including roads and streets. The program implemented by the permittees must ensure that permanent controls or practices are utilized at each new development and redevelopment site to protect water quality. The program must include, at a minimum, the elements described below:

- 3.2.1 **Ordinance or other regulatory mechanisms.** By the fourth year of the permit, the permittees must update, as needed, and implement the applicable ordinance, or other enforceable regulatory requirement(s) as allowed under state law, to require the installation and long-term maintenance of permanent storm water management controls at new development and redevelopment projects.
  - 3.2.1.1 The updated ordinance or regulatory mechanism must include site design standards for all new and redevelopment that require, in combination or alone, management measures that treat and manage the runoff generated from the first 0.52 inches of rainfall from a 24 hour event preceded by 48 hours of no measureable precipitation. Runoff treatment can be achieved by green infrastructure and LID such as canopy interception, soil amendments, evapotranspiration, rainfall harvesting, engineered infiltration, extended filtration, and/or any combination of such practices that will treat the first 0.52 inches of rainfall. An Underground Injection Control permit may be required when certain conditions are met. The ordinance or regulatory mechanism must require that the first 0.52 inches of rainfall be 100% treated with LID, except when the permittee chooses to implement the conditions of 3.2.1.2 below.

- 3.2.1.2 For projects that cannot meet 100% treatment through LID, extended detention and alternative water quality treatment may be substituted. The permittee allowing this option must develop and apply criteria for determining the circumstances that alternative treatment may be allowed. A determination that the treatment requirement cannot be met with LID may not be based solely on the difficulty and/or cost of implementing such measures, but must include multiple criteria that would rule out an adequate combination of practices suggested in Part 3.2.1.1, such as: inadequate room onsite to create the necessary treatment capacity; site-specific constraints such as high groundwater, shallow bedrock, or poorly infiltrative soils; and/or a land use that is inconsistent with capture and reuse or infiltration of storm water.
- 3.2.1.3 The ordinance or regulatory mechanism must include the following water quality requirements:
- 3.2.1.3.1 Projects with potential for excessive pollutant loading(s) must provide water quality treatment for associated pollutants before treatment incorporating infiltration.
- 3.2.1.3.2 Projects with potential for excessive pollutant loading(s) that cannot implement adequate preventive or water quality treatment measures to ensure compliance with surface water standards must properly convey storm water to an APDES or NPDES permitted wastewater treatment facility or via a licensed waste hauler to a permitted treatment and disposal facility.
- 3.2.1.4 The ordinance or other regulatory mechanism must include procedures for storm water plan review and approval,
- 3.2.1.5 The ordinance or other regulatory mechanism must include sanctions (including fines) to ensure compliance, as allowed under state or local law.
- 3.2.2 **Storm Water Design Criteria Manual.** Beginning with the effective date of this permit, the permittees must continue to implement a Storm Water Design Criteria Manual specifying acceptable permanent storm water management and control practices reflective of Part 3.2.1. The manual must contain design criteria for each practice. The manual must include:
- 3.2.2.1 Specifications and incentives for the use of site-based practices appropriate to local soils and hydrologic conditions;
- 3.2.2.2 A list of acceptable practices, including sizing criteria, performance criteria, design examples, and guidance on selection and location of practices; and
- 3.2.2.3 Specifications for proper long term operation and maintenance, including appropriate inspection interval and self-inspection checklists for responsible parties.
- 3.2.3 **Green Infrastructure/LID Strategy and Projects.** Within one year of the effective date of this permit, the permittees must update the strategy to provide incentives for the increased use of LID techniques in private and public sector development projects within both the MOA and DOT&PF jurisdictions. The strategy must outline the methods of evaluating the Green Infrastructure/LID projects described below. Permittees must begin implementation of the

Green Infrastructure/LID Strategy and projects within three years of the effective date of this permit.

- 3.2.3.1 Beginning with the four year Annual Report, the permittees must report on and evaluate the status of four new projects that use LID concepts for on-site control of water quality. If the specified number of new projects are not constructed during this permit term by either permittee, existing projects may be substituted, one-for-one by each permittee, to satisfy this requirement. Projects must involve managing runoff from at least 10,000 square feet of impervious surface. At least two of the four LID projects must be DOT&PF-owned locations. At least two of the project sites must address drainage areas greater than five acres in size. At least one project must be located in the Chester Creek, Fish Creek, Campbell Creek, or Little Campbell Creek watersheds. They may include private development, rain gardens, parking lot controls, and riparian zone management.
- 3.2.3.2 The permittees must monitor the performance of each project and report the results beginning with the fourth year Annual Report. The permittees must calculate or model changes in runoff quantities for each of the project sites in the following manner:
- 3.2.3.2.1 For retrofit projects, changes in runoff quantities shall be calculated as a percentage of 100% pervious surface before and after implementation of the LID practices.
- 3.2.3.2.2 For new construction projects, changes in runoff quantities shall be calculated for development scenarios both with LID practices and without LID practices.
- 3.2.3.2.3 The permittees must measure runoff flow rate and subsequently prepare runoff hydrographs to characterize peak runoff rates and volumes, discharge rates and volumes, and duration of discharge volumes. The evaluation must include quantification and description of each type of land cover contributing to surface runoff for each project, including area, slope, vegetation type and condition for pervious surfaces, and nature of impervious surfaces.
- 3.2.3.2.4 The permittees must use these runoff values to evaluate the overall effectiveness of various LID practices and to develop recommendations for future LID practices addressing appropriate use, design, type, size, soil type and operation and maintenance practices. The permittees must use the recommendations to update their final LID criteria, as necessary, and utilize the information obtained through the LID project studies to revise the Storm Water Design Criteria Manual(s) no later than five years from the effective date of this permit.
- 3.2.4 **Plan Review and Approval.** The permittees must continue to review and approve pre-construction plans for permanent storm water management. The permittees must review plans for consistency with the ordinance/regulatory mechanism and Storm Water Design Criteria Manual required by this Part. The permittees must ensure that the project operator is prohibited from commencing construction activity prior to receipt of written approval from the permittee. Throughout the permit term, the MOA must require the preparation and submittal of plans for permanent storm water controls, for the MOA's review and

written approval prior to commencing with the construction project. Throughout the permit term, the DOT&PF must require the preparation and submittal of plans for permanent storm water control for the DOT&PF's review and written approval prior to commencing with the construction project.

- 3.2.4.1 The permittees must not approve or recommend for approval any plans for permanent storm water controls that do not contain appropriate permanent storm water management practices that meet the minimum requirements specified in this Part.
- 3.2.4.2 Permittees must use qualified individuals, knowledgeable in the technical review of plans for permanent storm water controls to conduct such reviews.
- 3.2.4.3 Permittees must document the review of each storm water treatment plan using a checklist or similar process.
- 3.2.5 Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of Permanent Storm Water Management Controls.**
- 3.2.5.1 **Inventory and Tracking.** Throughout the permit term the permittees must update and maintain a database for tracking public and private sector permanent storm water controls. All of the existing permanent storm water controls must be included in the inventory database. For the purposes of this Part, new permanent controls are those installed after February 1, 2010; existing permanent controls are those installed prior to February 1, 2010. The tracking must begin in the plan review stage with a database that incorporates geographic information system (GIS) information. The tracking system must also include, at a minimum: type and number of practices; O&M requirements, activity and schedule; self-inspection schedule;
- 3.2.5.2 **O&M Agreements.** Throughout the permit term where parties other than the permittees are responsible for operation and maintenance of permanent storm water controls, the permittees must require a legally enforceable and transferable O&M agreement with the responsible party, or other mechanism, that assigns permanent responsibility for maintenance of structural or treatment control storm water management practices.
- 3.2.6 Inspection and Enforcement of Permanent Storm Water Management Controls.** Throughout the permit term the permittees must ensure proper long term operation and maintenance of all permanent storm water management practices within the permit area. The permittees must maintain an inspection program, and prioritize new development and redevelopment sites for inspections of permanent storm water management controls having O&M agreements. Factors used to prioritize sites must include, but not be limited to: size of new development or redevelopment area; sensitivity and/or impaired status of receiving water(s); and, history of non-compliance at the site during the construction phase.
- 3.2.6.1 High priority sites must be inspected at least once annually between August through October. The inspections must determine whether storm water management or treatment practices have been properly installed (i.e., an "as built" verification). The inspections must evaluate the operation and maintenance of such practices, identify deficiencies and potential solutions, and assess potential impacts to receiving waters.

- 3.2.6.2 The permittees must develop checklists to be used by inspectors during these inspections, and must maintain records of all inspections conducted on new development and redevelopment sites.
- 3.2.6.3 The permittees must continue to implement an enforcement strategy developed in the 2010 permit term to maintain the integrity of permanent storm water management and treatment practices.
- 3.2.7 **Education and Training on Permanent Storm Water Controls.** Throughout the permit term the permittees must maintain a training program regarding the selection, design, installation, operation and maintenance of permanent storm water controls. The training program and materials must be updated as necessary to include information on updated or revised storm water treatment standards, design manual specifications, LID techniques, and proper operation and maintenance requirements.
- 3.2.7.1 Annually all persons responsible for reviewing plans for new development and redevelopment and/or inspecting storm water management practices and treatment controls must receive training sufficient to determine the adequacy of storm water management and treatment controls at proposed new development and redevelopment sites.
- 3.2.7.2 Annually permittees must provide training to local audiences on the stormwater management requirements described in Part 3.2.

**3.3 Industrial and Commercial Storm Water Discharge Management.** Upon the effective date of this permit, the permittees must implement a program to reduce to the MEP the discharge of pollutants from industrial and commercial operations within their jurisdiction. Throughout the permit term, the permittees must conduct educational and/or enforcement efforts to reduce the discharge of pollutants from locations considered to be significant contributors of fecal coliform and/or petroleum products to receiving waters. At a minimum, the program must include the following elements:

- 3.3.1 **Inventory of Industrial and Commercial Facilities and Activities.** The permittees must update an inventory and map of facilities and activities discharging directly to their MS4s.
- 3.3.1.1 At a minimum, the inventory must include information listing the watershed/receiving waterbody, facility name, address, nature of business or activity, SIC code(s) that best reflect the facility's product or service;
- 3.3.1.2 The inventory must include the following types of facilities: municipal landfills (open and closed); permittee-owned maintenance yards and facilities; hazardous waste recovery, treatment, storage and disposal facilities; private and public snow disposal sites; large commercial parking lots (two acres and larger) that use deicer chemicals; facilities subject to Section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C. 11023; all industrial sectors listed in 40 CFR §122.26(b)(14); vehicle or equipment wash systems; animal facilities as discussed in Part 3.3.3, including kennels, show facilities, stables, the Anchorage Zoo, or other similar commercial locations where improper management of domestic animal waste may contribute pollutants to receiving waters or to

the MS4; and any other industrial or commercial facility that the permittees determines is contributing a substantial pollutant loading to the MS4.

3.3.1.3 The permittees must each identify at least one specific activity within their respective jurisdictions where storm water discharges are not adequately addressed, and develop performance standards for the activity. Examples include, but are not limited to: gas stations, animal facilities, carpet cleaners, mobile vehicle washing operations, and automobile repair shops.

3.3.1.4 The industrial and commercial inventory must be updated at least bi-annually and submitted with the Second and Fourth Year Annual Report.

### 3.3.2 **Snow Disposal Sites.**

3.3.2.1 Within four years from the permit effective date, the permittees must update the inventory and map locations of all permittee-owned and privately owned snow disposal sites that discharge directly to the MS4 or to receiving waters.

3.3.2.2 Within four years from the permit effective date, the permittees must evaluate whether the current snow disposal ordinance and design criteria protect surface water quality by explicitly regulating the operation of private snow disposal sites within the MOA.

3.3.2.3 Within four years write a report based on the results of the evaluation conducted above and submit the report with the corresponding Annual Report.

3.3.3 **Animal Facilities.** Within three years of the effective date of this permit, MOA must provide an evaluation on whether animal facilities are performing adequate waste management based on performance standards developed during previous permit term. The evaluation must address kennels, pens, recreational facilities, stables, show facilities, or other commercial animal facilities currently regulated by the MOA, dog parks and the zoo.

3.3.3.1 An evaluation report must be submitted with the Third Year Annual Report.

3.3.3.2 Within four years of the effective date of this permit, MOA must revise all applicable requirements as necessary in accordance with recommendations contained in the evaluation report.

3.4 **Storm Water Infrastructure and Street Management.** The permittees must maintain their MS4 and related facilities to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP. All permittee activities and permittee-owned and operated facilities, must be properly operated and maintained, including but not limited to structural storm water treatment controls, storm sewer systems, roads, parking lots, snow disposal sites, waste facilities, and street maintenance facilities. The program must include the following:

3.4.1 **Storm Sewer System Inventory and Mapping.** Annually each permittee must update and maintain a maintenance tracking database with schedules, actions taken, and progressive needs for continued MS4 function. Annually incorporate information from construction record drawings to update the MS4 inventory. The inventory must identify all areas that each permittee has responsibility. The inventory must include:

- 3.4.1.1 The location of all inlets, catchbasins and outfalls;
  - 3.4.1.2 The location of all MS4 collection system pipes (laterals, mains, etc.);
  - 3.4.1.3 The names and locations of all receiving waters of the United States that receive discharges from the outfalls;
  - 3.4.1.4 The location of all existing structural storm water treatment controls;
  - 3.4.1.5 Identification of subbasin and approximate acreage draining into each MS4 outfall;
  - 3.4.1.6 The location of permittee-owned vehicle maintenance facilities, material storage facilities, maintenance yards, and snow disposal sites; permittee-owned or operated parking lots and roadways;
  - 3.4.1.7 The location, age, type, size and configuration of Oil Grit Separator (OGS) structures and the drainage area served by each OGS structure; and
  - 3.4.1.8 The entity responsible for the maintenance of the road and drainage facility.
- 3.4.2 Catch Basin and Inlet Cleaning.**
- 3.4.2.1 Throughout the permit term, the permittees must maintain a program to inspect all permittee-owned or operated catch basins and inlets according to a schedule developed by the rate study conducted during the 2015 permit term and take appropriate maintenance action based on those inspections.
  - 3.4.2.2 By the end of the permit term the permittees must design, fund, build, and operate one or more facilities to process catch basin and inlet cleaning materials (both solid and liquid portions of the waste stream) for proper handling and disposal. The permittees may complete this Part by following Part 2.6, Shared Implementation with outside entities. Existing disposal sites may qualify, with proper documentation, to meet this permit requirement.
  - 3.4.2.3 Permittees will provide their schedules of cleaning based on rate of fill data, for their catch basin facilities and submit their results with the first year annual report.
  - 3.4.2.4 Permittees will report on numbers of catch basins and inlets cleaned each season and adjust cleaning schedules as needed based on previous seasons inspections.
- 3.4.3 Street and Road Maintenance.** Within four years of the effective date of this permit, the permittees must update, as necessary, the Street Maintenance Standard Operating Procedures for Storm Water Control (SOPs) to ensure the use of BMPs that, when applied to the permittee's activity or facility, will protect water quality, and reduce the discharge of pollutants to the MEP. The SOPs must contain, for each activity or facility, inspection and maintenance schedules specific to the activity, and appropriate pollution prevention/good housekeeping procedures for all of the following types of facilities and/or activities listed below.
- 3.4.3.1 **Streets, Roads, and Parking Lots.** The SOPs must address, but are not limited to: road deicing, anti-icing, and snow removal practices; snow disposal areas; street/road material (e.g., salt, sand, or other chemical) storage areas; maintenance of green infrastructure/LID



practices; and BMPs to reduce road and parking lot debris and other pollutants from entering the MS4. Throughout the permit term, the permittees must implement all of the pollution prevention/good housekeeping practices established in the SOPs for all roads, highways, and parking lots with more than 5,000 square feet of pollutant generating impervious surface that are owned, operated, or maintained by the permittees.

3.4.3.2 **Inventory of Street Maintenance Materials.** Throughout the permit term, the permittees must maintain an inventory of street /road maintenance materials, including use of sand and salt, and annually document the inventory in the corresponding Annual Reports.

3.4.4 **Street and Road Sweeping.** The permittees must update and implement their respective street sweepings management plans within nine months of the effective date of this permit. Prior to March 1, 2021, the permittees must follow the street sweeping procedures of the previous permit. Each permittees updated plan must address the recommendations and discussion for street sweeping improvements laid out in the Visually Clean Standard. Each permittees updated plan must designate streets, roads, and public parking lots within their jurisdiction for street sweeping frequency based on land use, traffic volumes, jurisdictional area, road type, sweep method, and other pertinent information useful in determining appropriate sweeping maintenance operations. Street and parking lot categories are as follows:

- Residential – Streets and road segments that include, but are not limited to, light traffic zones and residential zones.
- Arterial and all other – Streets and road segments with high traffic volumes serving commercial or industrial districts.
- Parking lots – large lots serving schools and cultural facilities, plazas, sports and event venues or similar facilities.

3.4.4.1 Throughout the permit term the permittees must maintain a map of all designated streets, roads, and public parking lots with their respective sweeping frequency.

3.4.4.2 Within nine months of the effective date of this permit, the permittees must, at a minimum, sweep streets, roads, and public parking lots in their jurisdictions according to the following schedule in Table 4:

**Table 4: Sweeping Schedule**

Period in the Year	Residential	Arterial and all other	Public Parking Lots <sup>1</sup>
Before June 15	1 tandem <sup>2</sup>	2 tandem	1 vacuum <sup>3</sup>
June 15 –Sept. 15	1	1	—
After Sept 15	1	1	1

Notes:

- 1 A vacuum sweeper sucks up loosened street particles with a vacuum and sends the directly to a hopper
- 2 “Tandem” means one mechanical sweeper preceding one vacuum sweeper during the same sweeping event (on the same day). This is equivalent to two sweepers sweeping the same surface; a mechanical sweeper uses a conveyor belt to carry the collected debris to a hopper. Tandem method is relevant for curb and gutter configured streets. Methods may vary for ditched roads as indicated in the Street Sweeping Operations Plan.
- 3 Threshold size for public parking lots to be swept will be determined as permittees update their street sweeping plan(s).

- 3.4.4.3 For areas where street sweeping is technically infeasible, the permittees must document in the first year Annual Report why sweeping is infeasible, and document how the permittee will increase implementation of other trash/litter control procedures to minimize pollutant discharges to the MS4 and receiving waters.
- 3.4.4.4 The permittees must perform annual assessments of street sweeping effectiveness to minimize pollutant discharges to storm drains and creeks on the basis of the following factors and report in the Annual Report:
- 3.4.4.4.1 Provide in the first year Annual Report a map of the residential, arterial, and public parking lots. Identify any significant changes in subsequent Annual Reports and the basis for those changes;
- 3.4.4.4.2 Report annually on road sweeping activities including dates of sweep, completeness, types of sweepers used, number of passes on road surfaces and gutters, interference from parked vehicle or construction activities, other relevant qualitative information such as 'visually clean' evaluation, and frequency category, volume or weight of materials removed and a representative sample of the particle size distribution of swept material, in summary form within the Annual Report;
- 3.4.4.4.3 Report annually on any public outreach efforts or other means to address excess leaves and other material as well as areas that are infeasible to sweep. Incorporate efforts encouraging residents to move vehicles to maximize street surfaces available for sweeping. Include results with road sweeping activities report.
- 3.4.5 **Implement appropriate requirements for pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer applications.** Permittees must continue to implement practices to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the MS4 associated with the application, storage and disposal of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers from municipal areas and activities. Municipal areas and activities include, at a minimum, municipal facilities, public right-of-ways, parks, recreational facilities, golf courses, and landscaped areas. All MOA and DOT&PF employees or contractors applying restricted use pesticides must be registered as certified applicators.
- 3.4.6 **Develop and Implement Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans.** The permittees must conduct annual inspections and revise, as necessary, and implement SWPPPs for all permittee-owned, material storage facilities, maintenance yards, and snow disposal sites identified in the inventory required in Parts 3.3.1 and 3.4.1. Annual inspections must be submitted with the next Annual Report following the inspection. Permittee-owned facilities discharging storm water associated with industrial activity as defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14) must obtain separate APDES permit coverage as required in Part 1.4.5 of this permit. Where presence of prohibited discharges indicates the need for corrective action, perform necessary corrections, update SWPPPs to incorporate preventative measures, and submit details with the annual report. When new facilities are built, develop and implement a SWPPP as part of the start-up activities.

3.4.7 **Training.** The permittees must provide regular training to appropriate permittee staff on all operations and maintenance procedures and SOPs designed to prevent pollutants from entering the MS4 and receiving waters. Appropriate permittee staff must receive training annually for their respective job duties.

**3.5 Illicit Discharge Management.** An illicit discharge is any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of storm water. Exceptions are described in Part 1.4 of this permit. The permittees must implement their illicit discharge management program to reduce to the MEP the unauthorized and illegal discharge of pollutants to the MS4. The program must include:

3.5.1 **Ordinance or Other Regulatory Mechanisms.** Upon the effective date of this permit, the permittees must effectively prohibit non-storm water discharges to the MS4 (except those identified in Part 1.4 of this permit) through enforcement of relevant ordinances or other regulatory mechanisms. Such ordinances or regulatory mechanisms must be updated prior to the expiration date of this permit, as necessary, to provide adequate controls. To be considered adequate, this ordinance or regulatory mechanism must:

3.5.1.1 Authorize the permittee to prohibit, at a minimum, the following discharges to the MS4, unless otherwise authorized in Part 1.4:

- Sewage;
- Discharges of wash water resulting from the hosing or cleaning of gas stations, auto repair garages, or other types of automotive services facilities;
- Discharges resulting from the cleaning, repair, or maintenance of any type of equipment, machinery, or facility, including motor vehicles, cement-related equipment, and port-a-potty servicing, etc.;
- Discharges of wash water from mobile operations, such as mobile automobile or truck washing, steam cleaning, power washing, and carpet cleaning, etc.;
- Discharges of wash water from the cleaning or hosing of impervious surfaces in municipal, industrial, commercial, and residential areas - including parking lots, streets, sidewalks, driveways, patios, plazas, work yards and outdoor eating or drinking areas, etc. - where no detergents are used and no spills or leaks of toxic or hazardous materials have occurred (unless all spilled material has been removed);
- Discharges of runoff from material storage areas containing chemicals, fuels, grease, oil, or other hazardous materials;
- Discharges of pool or fountain water containing chlorine, biocides, or other chemicals; discharges of pool or fountain filter backwash water;
- Discharges of sediment, pet waste, vegetation clippings, or other landscape or construction-related wastes; and
- Discharges of food-related wastes (grease, fish processing, and restaurant kitchen mat and trash bin wash water, etc.).

- 3.5.1.2 Prohibit and eliminate illicit connections to the MS4;
- 3.5.1.3 Control the discharge of spills, and prohibit dumping or disposal of materials other than storm water into the MS4.
- 3.5.2 **Illicit Discharge Complaint Reporting and Response Program.** At a minimum, permittees must respond to reports of illicit discharge from the public in the following manner:
- 3.5.2.1 **Complaint Hotline.** The permittees must maintain the dedicated telephone number and email address used by the public to report illicit discharges. This complaint hotline must be answered by trained staff during normal business hours. During non-business hours, a system must be in place to record incoming calls to the hotline and a system must be in place to guarantee timely response. The telephone number must be printed on all education, training, and public participation materials produced under Part 3.6, and clearly listed in the local telephone book and displayed on the program webpage.
- 3.5.2.2 **Response to Complaints.** The permittees must respond to all complaints as soon as possible, but no later than within two working days.
- 3.5.2.3 **Maintain log of complaints received and actions taken.** The permittees must maintain a record documenting all reports of illicit discharges and responses taken by the permittees.
- 3.5.3 **Illicit Discharge Mapping.** Throughout the permit term the permittees must maintain a map of reported and documented illicit discharges or illicit connections to identify priority areas. The map must identify, at a minimum, the location, type and relative quantity or severity of the discharge to the MS4. This map must be updated annually.
- 3.5.4 **Dry Weather Screening.** Permittees must conduct, and update as necessary, a dry weather analytical and field screening monitoring program. Field observations, monitoring, and analyses must be conducted at a minimum between June 1st and August 30th of each year. This dry weather screening program must emphasize frequent, geographically widespread monitoring to detect illicit discharges and illegal connections, and to reinvestigate potentially problematic outfalls. The results of the monitoring must be reported with each Annual Report. At a minimum, the procedures must be based on the following guidelines and criteria:
- 3.5.4.1 **Outfall Identification.** The permittees must update as necessary the storm water outfall identification and screening work plan, describing the reconnaissance activities that must be performed and other information to be used to determine outfalls to be screened and the project design for chemical and microbiological analysis including methodologies, thresholds to be used, and prioritization of target outfalls and land uses.
- 3.5.4.2 **Monitoring Illicit Discharges.** Throughout the permit term dry weather analytical and field screening monitoring must be conducted at least once between June 1st and August 30th of each year (or more often if the permittees deem necessary.)
- The permittees must survey a minimum of 30 outfalls per year for evidence of illicit discharges, and conduct monitoring at outfalls where illicit discharges are suspected. Evidence of illicit discharges may include: flow during dry weather conditions

combined with odor, color, clarity, floatables, deposits/stains, foam, or sheen suggestive of abnormal non-storm water flows; and/or reports of dumping prohibited by the permit. Monitoring may include sampling, field screening, and/or characterization of such flows. Survey and monitoring may also include, if appropriate, recognition of up to three MS4 access points within the outfall's upgradient drainage system to identify potential pollutant sources.

- The outfalls must be geographically dispersed across the MS4 and must represent all major land uses and areas in the MS4. In addition, the permittees must ensure that dry weather screening includes, but is not limited to, screening of outfalls discharging to Category 4 and 5 water bodies listed in the State of Alaska's most recent Integrated Report.
- Where flows are present at outfalls having suspected illicit discharges, grab samples will be collected for analysis of the following constituents: pH, total chlorine, detergents as surfactants; total copper; total phenols; fecal coliform bacteria; and turbidity.
- Photos may be used to document conditions.
- Results of sampled flow analyses must be compared to MOA-established threshold levels and existing state water quality standards. If the station is dry (no flowing or ponded runoff), the permittees must make and record all applicable observations and select another station from the list of alternate stations for monitoring.

**3.5.4.3 Maintain Records of Dry Weather Screening.** The permittees must keep detailed records of the dry weather screening with the following information: time since last rain event; quantity of last rain event; site description (i.e., conveyance type, dominant watershed land uses); flow estimation (i.e., width of water surface, approximate depth of water, approximate flow velocity, flow rate); and visual observations (i.e., odor, color, clarity, floatables, deposits/stains, vegetation condition, structural condition, and biology).

**3.5.5 Follow-up.** The permittees must investigate recurring illicit discharges identified as a result of complaints or as a result of dry weather inspections within fifteen (15) days of its detection. Permittees must take necessary action to address the source of the ongoing illicit discharge within 45 days of its detection.

**3.5.6 Prevent and Respond to Spills to the MS4.** The permittees must prevent, respond to, contain and clean up all sewage and other spills that may discharge into the MS4 from any source (including private laterals and failing septic systems). Throughout the permit term the permittees must coordinate and update spill prevention plans, containment and response activities throughout all appropriate departments, programs and agencies to ensure maximum water quality protection at all times. The Permittees must provide an update of their spill response program in the second year annual report.

3.5.7 **Facilitate Disposal of Used Oil and Toxic Materials.** Throughout the permit term the permittees must continue to facilitate the proper management and disposal or recycling of used oil, vehicle fluids, toxic materials, and other household hazardous wastes by their employees and the public. Such a program must include educational activities, public information activities, and establishment of collection sites operated by the permittees or other entity.

3.5.8 **Training.** Annually the permittees must update training materials and provide training to staff on identifying and eliminating illicit discharges, spill, and illicit connections to the MS4. At a minimum, the permittee's construction inspectors, maintenance field staff, and code compliance officers must be sufficiently trained to respond to illicit discharges and spills to the MS4.

### 3.6 Public Education and Involvement

3.6.1 **Ongoing Education.** The permittees must conduct an ongoing education and public involvement program aimed at residents, businesses, industries, elected officials, policy makers, and employees of the permittees. The goal of the education program is to reduce or eliminate behaviors and practices that cause or contribute to adverse storm water impacts. The program must be designed and conducted using the recommendations from the MOA's 2010 and 2014 public awareness study, or other more recent assessment of public knowledge.

3.6.1.1 Throughout the permit term the permittees must implement or participate in an education and outreach program that uses a variety of methods to target the audiences and topics listed below. The outreach program must be designed to achieve measurable improvements in each target audience's understanding of the problem and what they can do to solve it.

3.6.1.1.1 General Public,

- General impacts of storm water flows into surface water and awareness of storm water management practices in Anchorage;
- Impacts from impervious surfaces; and
- Source control best management practices and environmental stewardship, actions and opportunities for pet waste control/disposal, vehicle maintenance, landscaping and vegetative buffers, trash and litter, and snow/ice chemical and sand usage.

3.6.1.1.2 General public and businesses, including home based and mobile businesses,

- Best management practices for use and storage of automotive chemicals, hazardous cleaning supplies, snow/ice deicer chemicals, vehicle wash soaps and other hazardous or polluting materials; and
- Impacts of illicit discharges and how to report them.

3.6.1.1.3 Homeowners, landscapers, and property managers,

- Yard care techniques protective of water quality;
- Best management practices for use and storage of pesticides and fertilizers;

- Best management practices for carpet cleaning and auto repair and maintenance;
  - Low Impact Development techniques, including site design, pervious paving, retention of mature trees and other vegetation;
  - Deicer use;
  - Pet waste management; and
  - Storm water treatment and flow control practices.
- 3.6.1.1.4 Engineers, contractors, developers, review staff, and land use planners,
- Technical standards for storm water site plans;
  - Low Impact Development techniques, including site design, pervious paving, retention of mature trees and other vegetation; and
  - Storm water treatment and flow control practices.
- 3.6.1.2 The permittees must implement or participate in an effort to measure understanding and adoption of behaviors by the target audiences. The resulting measurements must be used to direct education and outreach resources most effectively.
- 3.6.1.3 The permittees must track and maintain records of public education activities.
- 3.6.2 **Targeted Education and Training.** The permittees must develop and implement comprehensive education and training as outlined in this permit in the following sections:
- 3.6.2.1 Construction Storm Water Management Training for construction site operators and staff;
- 3.6.2.2 Permanent Storm Water Control Training for project operators and staff;
- 3.6.2.3 Storm Water Infrastructure and Street Management/ Maintenance training for State and Municipal staff; and
- 3.6.2.4 Illicit Discharge Management Training for state and municipal staff.
- 3.6.3 **Annual Meeting.** The permittees must jointly organize an annual meeting to coordinate implementation of the SWMP among their respective agencies, as well as with other municipal, state and federal agencies and groups involved or interested in the permittees program.
- 3.6.3.1 The annual meeting must be held during February, March, or April of each year.
- 3.6.3.2 An invitation must be sent to individuals on a list comprised of all persons responsible for implementation of the SWMP, those making decisions that may impact storm water runoff, key individuals representing groups regulated by the SWMP, regulators, and specialists (experts on water quality, information management, land-use planning, etc.), and water quality interest groups.

- 3.6.3.3 The meeting must include a review of the previous year's activities, a presentation and discussion of next year's activities, and a presentation and discussion of monitoring efforts for the following year.
- 3.6.3.4 The permittees must accept public input during the annual meeting.
- 3.6.4 **Semi-Annual Meetings.** The permittees must jointly organize and participate in permit coordination meetings with DEC to discuss permit requirements, SWMP implementation results over the previous two quarters, and SWMP implementation objectives for the following two quarters. At a minimum, meetings must be held in March and October of each year, or at a schedule mutually agreed upon by the permittees and DEC.
- 3.6.5 **Storm Water Website.** The permittees must each maintain and promote a publicly-accessible website that acknowledges the program activities; the websites must describe and provide relevant information regarding the activities of both permittees. The website must be updated within one year from the effective date of this permit, at least semi-annually thereafter as new material is available. The website must incorporate the following features:
- 3.6.5.1 All reports generated in compliance with this permit must be posted, in draft form when input is being solicited from the public, and in final form when the document is completed;
- 3.6.5.2 Information and/or links to key sites that provide education, training, licensing, and permitting related to construction and post-construction activities, industrial activities and illicit connections; and
- 3.6.5.3 Contact information, including phone numbers for staff and hotline, mailing addresses, and electronic mail addresses.

## 4.0 MONITORING, EVALUATION, REPORTING, AND RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

### 4.1 Monitoring Program Plan

- 4.1.1 **Assess Permit Compliance.** At least once per year, each permittee must individually evaluate their organization's compliance with these permit conditions, and progress toward achieving each of the control measures defined in Part 3.0. The compliance evaluation must be documented in each Annual Report required in Part 4.4.3
- 4.1.2 **Monitoring and Evaluation Objectives.** The permittees must conduct a monitoring and evaluation program to characterize the quality of storm water discharges from the MS4, and to evaluate effectiveness of selected storm water management practices. The permittees must continue to implement and update, as necessary, the existing monitoring and evaluation plan that includes the quality assurance requirements, pesticide screening, outfall monitoring, and site retrofit activities described later in this Part. In general, the permittees must develop and conduct a monitoring and evaluation program to:



- 4.1.2.1 Broadly estimate the annual pollutant loading of fecal coliform bacteria and petroleum products discharged to impaired receiving waters from the MS4s;
- 4.1.2.2 Assess the effectiveness and adequacy of at least two control measures implemented through this permit term in reducing fecal coliform bacteria and petroleum products;
- 4.1.2.3 Identify and prioritize those portions of each permittee's MS4 requiring additional controls; and
- 4.1.2.4 Have an updated monitoring and evaluation plan available upon request by the Department.
- 4.1.3 **Representative Sampling.** Samples and measurements must be representative of the nature of the monitored discharge.
- 4.1.4 **Analytical Methods.** Sample collection, preservation, and analysis must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 CFR Part 136 unless otherwise approved by DEC. Where an approved 40 CFR Part 136 method does not exist, and other test procedures have not been specified, any available method may be used after approval from DEC.
- 4.1.5 **Quality Assurance Requirements.** Permittees must update, implement, and maintain a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) for all analytical monitoring conducted in accordance with this permit. The QAPP must be developed concurrently as part of the monitoring and evaluation plan. The permittees must submit written notice to DEC (Appendix A, Part 1.1.2 Compliance and Enforcement Program) within 6 months of the effective date of this permit affirming that its QAPP to DEC is up to date and has been developed or updated and implemented. Any existing QAPP may be modified for the requirements under this section.
  - 4.1.5.1 The QAPP must be designed to assist in the collection and analysis of storm water discharges in support of this permit and in explaining data anomalies when they occur.
  - 4.1.5.2 Throughout all sample collection and analysis activities, permittees must use the DEC-approved QA/QC and chain-of-custody procedures described in the following documents:
    - 4.1.5.2.1 *EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans EPA-QA/R-5* (EPA/240/B-01/003, March 2001). A copy of this document can be found electronically at: <http://www.epa.gov/quality/qs-docs/r5-final.pdf>;
    - 4.1.5.2.2 DEC's Elements of a Good Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (DEC, 2002);
    - 4.1.5.2.3 *Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans EPA-QA/G-5*, (EPA/600/R-98/018, February, 1998). A copy of this document can be found electronically at: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/g5-final.pdf>;
    - 4.1.5.2.4 *Urban Storm BMP Performance Monitoring*, (EPA-821-B-02-001, April 2002). A copy of this document can be found electronically at: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/montcomplete.pdf>.
    - 4.1.5.2.5 The QAPP must be prepared in the format specified in these documents.
  - 4.1.5.3 At a minimum, the QAPP must include the following:

- 4.1.5.3.1 Organization chart reflecting responsibilities of key permittee staff;
  - 4.1.5.3.2 Details on the number of samples, type of sample containers, preservation of samples, holding times, analytical methods, analytical detection and quantitation limits for each target compound, type and number of quality assurance field samples, precision and accuracy requirements, sample representativeness and completeness, sample preparation requirements, sample shipping methods, and laboratory data delivery requirements;
  - 4.1.5.3.3 Data quality objectives;
  - 4.1.5.3.4 Map(s) and associated documentation reflecting the location of each sampling point and physical description including street address or latitude/longitude;
  - 4.1.5.3.5 Qualification and training of personnel;
  - 4.1.5.3.6 Name(s), address(es) and telephone number(s) of the laboratories, used by or proposed to be used by the permittees;
  - 4.1.5.3.7 Data management;
  - 4.1.5.3.8 Data review, validation and verification; and
  - 4.1.5.3.9 Data reconciliation.
- 4.1.5.4 The permittees must amend the QAPP whenever there is a modification in sample collection, sample analysis, or other procedure addressed by the QAPP. Amendments must be submitted to DEC within seven days of changing the QAPP.
- 4.1.5.5 Copies of the approved QAPP must be maintained by the permittees and made available to DEC upon request.
- 4.1.6 **Pesticide Screening.** The permittees must conduct pesticide screening activities during the late summer at Lake Otis, Hideaway Lake, and Little Campbell Lake (reference basin) in years two and four using immunoassay test kits to measure pesticide concentrations and reported in the Annual Report. If pesticides are detected using the screening test kits, the permittees must confirm the results by collecting representative samples from the location where the occurrence was measured as soon as possible and analyzing the samples at an analytical testing laboratory using approved methods.
- 4.1.7 **Storm Water Outfall Monitoring**
- 4.1.7.1 The permittees must continue to implement a Storm Water Outfall Monitoring Plan consistent with the monitoring and evaluation plan objectives described above. The Storm Water Outfall Monitoring Plan must include a list of at least 30 outfalls prioritized to identify “high” and “medium” priority monitoring locations. The permittees must select a subset of at least 10 outfall locations to monitor throughout the permit term. The outfalls selected by the permittees in the Storm Water Outfall Monitoring Plan must be representative of major land uses within the Anchorage area.

- 4.1.7.2 Upon the effective date of this permit, the permittees must continue monitoring the identified storm water outfalls in the Anchorage area during wet weather events at least four times per year. The specific monitoring requirements are outlined in Table 5.

**Table 5: Outfall Monitoring Requirements**

Parameter	Monitoring requirements		
	Sample location <sup>1</sup>	Sample frequency <sup>2</sup>	Sample type <sup>3</sup>
Dissolved Oxygen		4 times/year	Grab
pH		4 times/year	Grab
Temperature (°C)		4 times/year	Grab/Recording
Turbidity		4 times/year	Grab/Recording
Flow (cfs)		4 times/year	Grab/Recording
Biochemical Oxygen Demand, 5-day (mg/L)		4 times/year	Grab
Fecal coliform bacteria (#colonies/100mL)		4 times/year	Grab
Hardness (mg/L) <sup>4</sup>		4 times/year	Grab
Dissolved Copper (µg/L) <sup>4</sup>		4 times/year	Grab
Total suspended solids (mg/L)		4 times/year	Grab
Total Aromatic Hydrocarbons (TAH), and Total Aqueous Hydrocarbons (TaqH) <sup>5</sup>		4 times/year	Grab
<p>1 Outfall locations must be defined in the permittees' Storm Water Outfall Monitoring Plan.</p> <p>2 A minimum of four (4) samples must be collected in calendar year assuming the presence of storm events sufficient to produce a discharge.</p> <p>3 Permittees may use other sample types as long as previously identified in the monitoring plan. Grab samples may be taken manually or with an automatic water sampler</p> <p>4 Sample for Hardness and Dissolved Copper in years three and four only.</p> <p>5 Sampling of this parameter depends upon the characteristic of, or potential for, this pollutant within the contributing area to the outfall. This parameter may or may not be required at all outfalls based on the analysis and rationale presented in the monitoring plan.</p>			

- 4.1.8 **Evaluate Monitoring Results.** Evaluate the results of the monitoring program to-date and submit the results with the Fourth Year Annual Report. In the evaluation, discuss the effectiveness of street sweeping to reduce turbidity in the outfall, street sweeping and public education to reduce fecal coliform bacteria in the outfall, and other trends or characteristics that may appear as a result of monitoring.

## 4.2 Reporting Requirements

- 4.2.1 **Storm Water Discharge Monitoring Report.** Annually, all storm water discharge monitoring data must be submitted as part of the Annual Report. At a minimum, this Storm Water Discharge Monitoring Report must include:
- 4.2.1.1 Dates of sample collection and analyses;
  - 4.2.1.2 Results of sample analyses; and
  - 4.2.1.3 Location of sample collection.

- 4.2.2 **Annual Report.** One year from the effective date of this permit, and annually thereafter, each permittee must prepare and submit an Annual Report to DEC. Copies of all Annual Reports must be made available to the public, at a minimum, through a permittee-maintained website, or other easily accessible location. The information described in Part 4.4.3 must be contained in each Annual Report.

### 4.3 Evaluation of Overall Program Effectiveness

**Annual Effectiveness Assessment** – At least annually the permittee must evaluate its compliance with the permit conditions, the appropriateness of identified BMPs, and progress toward achieving identified measurable goals for each of the minimum control measures in Part 3.0. This evaluation of program compliance must be documented in the corresponding Annual Report. The annual effectiveness assessment must:

- 4.3.1 Use the monitoring and assessment data described in Part 4.1 to specifically assess the effectiveness of each of the following:
- 4.3.1.1 Each significant activity/control measure or type of activity/control measure implemented;
  - 4.3.1.2 Implementation of each major component of the SWMP ; and
  - 4.3.1.3 Implementation of the SWMP as a whole.
- 4.3.2 Identify and use measurable goals, assessment indicators, and assessment methods for each of the items listed in Part 4.3.1.
- 4.3.3 Document the permittee’s compliance with permit conditions.
- 4.3.4 Based on the results of the effectiveness assessment, the permittee must annually review their activities or control measures to identify modifications and improvements needed to maximize SWMP effectiveness, as necessary to achieve compliance with this permit. The permittee must develop and implement a plan and schedule to address the identified modifications and improvements. Base activities/control measures that are ineffective or less effective than other comparable base activities/control measures must be replaced or improved upon by implementation of more effective base activities/control measures.

### 4.4 Annual Reports

- 4.4.1 **Submission Deadlines** - According to the schedule in Table 6: Submission Deadlines for Annual Reports, and annually thereafter, the permittee must submit an Annual Report for the previous twelve months to DEC at the address in Part 4.6. The Annual Report must clearly refer to the permit requirements and describe in quantifiable terms the status of activities undertaken to comply with each requirement. In addition, copies of all Annual Reports must be available to the public through the municipal library system, a permittee-maintained website, or other easily accessible location.

**Table 6: Submission Deadlines for Annual Reports**

Reporting Period	Submission Deadline
1 <sup>st</sup> year Annual Report (permit issuance date – December 31, 2020)	February 15, 2021
2 <sup>nd</sup> year Annual Report (January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021)	February 15, 2022
3 <sup>rd</sup> year Annual Report (January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022)	February 15, 2023
4 <sup>th</sup> year Annual Report (January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023)	February 15, 2024
5 <sup>th</sup> year Annual Report (January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024)	February 15, 2025
6 <sup>th</sup> year Annual Report (January 1, 2025 – permit expiration date <sup>1</sup> )	February 15, 2026
Note: 1. Unless the permit is extended to or past December 31, 2025; in which case December 31, 2025. Subsequent reporting periods will follow similar format for the calendar year with submission deadline of February 15 <sup>th</sup> the following year.	

- 4.4.2 **Summary Annual Report** – The permittee must use the MS4 – Summary Annual Report template in Appendix D to document a summary of the past year’s activities. All of the information required on this form must be submitted.
- 4.4.3 **Detailed Annual Report** – The permittee must also submit a detailed Annual Report that addresses the activities described in the SWMP document required in Part 2.0. The Annual Report must include, at a minimum:
  - 4.4.3.1 An updated SWMP document as required in Part 2.0;
  - 4.4.3.2 A description of the effectiveness of each SWMP program component or activity (see Part 4.3);
  - 4.4.3.3 Planned activities and changes for the next reporting period for each SWMP program component or activity;
  - 4.4.3.4 An evaluation of compliance with the requirements of this permit, the appropriateness of identified BMPs, and progress toward achieving identified measurable goals of the SWMP for each minimum control measure;
  - 4.4.3.5 Results of any information collected and analyzed during the previous twelve month reporting period, including monitoring data used to assess the success of the program at reducing the discharge of pollutants to the MEP;
  - 4.4.3.6 A summary of the activities the permittee plans to undertake during the next reporting cycle (including an implementation schedule) for each minimum control measure;
  - 4.4.3.7 Proposed changes and completed changes to the SWMP, including changes to any BMPs or any identified measurable goals for any minimum control measures;
  - 4.4.3.8 Description and schedule for implementation of additional BMPs that may be necessary, based on monitoring results, to ensure compliance with applicable WQS;
  - 4.4.3.9 Notice if the permittee are relying on another entity to satisfy some of the permit obligations, if applicable;

- 4.4.3.10 Each report must assess the permittee's compliance with this permit and progress towards achieving the identified actions and activities for each control measure in Parts 3.0 and 4.0. The status of each activity must be addressed, even if activity has previously been completed or not yet been implemented;
- 4.4.3.11 Results of any information collected and analyzed during the previous 12 month period, including storm water discharge, pesticide screening, and any other information used to assess the success of the SWMP ;
- 4.4.3.12 A summary of the number and nature of complaints received by the permittees, as well as a summary of the number and nature of inspections, formal enforcement actions, and/or other similar activities performed by the permittees;
- 4.4.3.13 Copies of education materials, ordinances (or other regulatory mechanisms), inventories, guidance materials, or other products produced as a result of actions or activities required by this permit;
- 4.4.3.14 A general summary of the activities the permittees plan to undertake during the next reporting cycle (including an implementation schedule) for each minimum control measure;
- 4.4.3.15 A description and schedule for implementation of additional controls or practices that may be necessary, based on monitoring results, to ensure compliance with applicable WQS; and
- 4.4.3.16 Notice if the permittees are relying on another entity to satisfy any of the permit obligations, if applicable.

## 4.5 Recordkeeping

- 4.5.1 **Retention of Records:** The permittee must retain records and copies of all information (including all monitoring, calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for any continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, copies of DMRs, a copy of the APDES permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit) for a period of at least five years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application, or for the term of this permit, whichever is longer. This period may be extended at the request of the DEC at any time within that time frame. Records include all information used in the development of the storm water management program, all monitoring data, copies of all reports, and all data used in the development of the permit application.
- 4.5.2 **Availability of Records:** The permittee must retain the SWMP required by this permit (including a copy of the permit language and all Annual Reports) at a location accessible to the DEC. The permittee must make records, including the permit application and the SWMP, available to the public if requested to do so in writing and make those records available during normal business hours. The permittee may charge the public a reasonable fee for copying requests.

## 4.6 Address

Submittals required by this permit must be made to the address specified in Appendix A, Part 1.1.2 Compliance and Enforcement Program.

## 4.7 Electronic Reporting

- 4.7.1 **E-Reporting Rule for Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs, Phase I).** The permittee must submit DMR data electronically through NetDMR per Phase I of the E-Reporting Rule (40 CFR 127) upon the effective date of the Permit. Authorized persons may access permit information by logging into the NetDMR Portal (<https://cdxnodengn.epa.gov/oeca-netdmr-web/action/login>). DMRs submitted in compliance with the E-Reporting Rule are not required to be submitted as described in Appendix A – Standard Conditions unless requested or approved by the Department. Any DMR data required by the Permit that cannot be reported in a NetDMR field (e.g. mixing zone receiving water data, etc...), shall be included as an attachment to the NetDMR submittal. DEC has established an e-Reporting Information website at <http://dec.alaska.gov/water/Compliance/EReportingRule.htm> that contains general information about this new reporting format. Training materials and webinars for NetDMR can be found at <https://netdmr.zendesk.com/home>.
- 4.7.2 **E-Reporting Rule for Other Reports (Phase II).** Phase II of the E-Reporting rule will integrate electronic reporting for all other reports required by the Permit (e.g., Annual Reports and Certifications) and implementation is expected to begin December 2020. Permittees should monitor DEC's E-Reporting Information website (<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/Compliance/EReportingRule.htm>) for updates on Phase II of the E-Reporting Rule and will be notified when they must begin submitting all other reports electronically. Until such time, other reports required by the Permit may be submitted in accordance with Appendix A – Standard Conditions.

## **APPENDIX - A: Standard Conditions**

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Appendix A of the permit contains standard regulatory language that must be included in all APDES permits. These requirements are based on the regulations and cannot be challenged in the context of an individual APDES permit action. The standard regulatory language covers requirements such as monitoring, recording, reporting requirements, compliance responsibilities, and other general requirements. Appendix A, Standard Conditions is an integral and enforceable part of the permit. Failure to comply with a Standard Condition in this Appendix constitutes a violation of the permit and is subject to enforcement.

## 1.0 Standard Conditions Applicable to All Permits

### 1.1 Contact Information and Addresses

#### 1.1.1 Permitting Program

Documents, reports, and plans required under the permit and Appendix A are to be sent to the following address:

State of Alaska  
 Department of Environmental Conservation  
 Division of Water  
 Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program  
 555 Cordova Street  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
 Telephone (907) 269-6285  
 Fax (907) 269-3487  
 Email: [DEC.Water.WQPermit@alaska.gov](mailto:DEC.Water.WQPermit@alaska.gov)

#### 1.1.2 Compliance and Enforcement Program

Documents and reports required under the permit and Appendix A relating to compliance are to be sent to the following address:

State of Alaska  
 Department of Environmental Conservation  
 Division of Water  
 Compliance and Enforcement Program  
 555 Cordova Street  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
 Telephone Nationwide (877) 569-4114  
 Anchorage Area / International (907) 269-4114  
 Fax (907) 269-4604  
 Email: [dec-wqreporting@alaska.gov](mailto:dec-wqreporting@alaska.gov)

### 1.2 Duty to Comply

A permittee shall comply with all conditions of the permittee's APDES permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of 33 U.S.C. 1251-1387 (Clean Water Act) and state law and is grounds for enforcement action including termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification of a permit, or denial of a permit renewal application. A permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under 33 U.S.C. 1317(a) for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish those effluent standards or prohibitions even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.

### 1.3 Duty to Reapply

If a permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after its expiration date, the permittee must apply for and obtain a new permit. In accordance with 18 AAC 83.105(b), a permittee with a currently effective permit shall reapply by submitting a new application at least 180 days before the existing permit expires, unless the Department has granted the permittee permission to submit an application on a later date. However, the Department will not grant permission for an application to be submitted after the expiration date of the existing permit.

### 1.4 Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense

In an enforcement action, a permittee may not assert as a defense that compliance with the conditions of the permit would have made it necessary for the permittee to halt or reduce the permitted activity.

### 1.5 Duty to Mitigate

A permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this permit that has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

### 1.6 Proper Operation and Maintenance

- 1.6.1 A permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control and related appurtenances that the permittee installs or uses to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit. The permittee's duty to operate and maintain properly includes using adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. However, a permittee is not required to operate back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems that a permittee installs unless operation of those facilities is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.
- 1.6.2 Operation and maintenance records shall be retained and made available at the site.

### 1.7 Permit Actions

A permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause as provided in 18 AAC 83.130. If a permittee files a request to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate a permit, or gives notice of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance, the filing or notice does not stay any permit condition.

### 1.8 Property Rights

A permit does not convey any property rights or exclusive privilege.

### 1.9 Duty to Provide Information

A permittee shall, within a reasonable time, provide to the Department any information that the Department requests to determine whether a permittee is in compliance with the permit, or whether cause exists to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate the permit. A permittee shall also provide to the Department, upon request, copies of any records the permittee is required to keep under the permit.

## 1.10 Inspection and Entry

A permittee shall allow the Department, or an authorized representative, including a contractor acting as a representative of the Department, at reasonable times and on presentation of credentials establishing authority and any other documents required by law, to:

- 1.10.1 Enter the premises where a permittee's regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where permit conditions require records to be kept;
- 1.10.2 Have access to and copy any records that permit conditions require the permittee to keep;
- 1.10.3 Inspect any facilities, equipment, including monitoring and control equipment, practices, or operations regulated or required under a permit; and
- 1.10.4 Sample or monitor any substances or parameters at any location for the purpose of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by 33 U.S.C. 1251-1387 (Clean Water Act).

## 1.11 Monitoring and Records

A permittee must comply with the following monitoring and recordkeeping conditions:

- 1.11.1 Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring must be representative of the monitored activity.
- 1.11.2 The permittee shall retain records in Alaska of all monitoring information for at least three years, or longer at the Department's request at any time, from the date of the sample, measurement, report, or application. Monitoring records required to be kept include:
  - 1.11.2.1 All calibration and maintenance records,
  - 1.11.2.2 All original strip chart recordings or other forms of data approved by the Department for continuous monitoring instrumentation,
  - 1.11.2.3 All reports required by a permit,
  - 1.11.2.4 Records of all data used to complete the application for a permit,
  - 1.11.2.5 Field logbooks or visual monitoring logbooks,
  - 1.11.2.6 Quality assurance chain of custody forms,
  - 1.11.2.7 Copies of discharge monitoring reports, and
  - 1.11.2.8 A copy of this APDES permit.
- 1.11.3 Records of monitoring information must include:
  - 1.11.3.1 The date, exact place, and time of any sampling or measurement;
  - 1.11.3.2 The name(s) of any individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurement(s);
  - 1.11.3.3 The date(s) and time any analysis was performed;
  - 1.11.3.4 The name(s) of any individual(s) who performed any analysis;
  - 1.11.3.5 Any analytical technique or method used; and
  - 1.11.3.6 The results of the analysis.
- 1.11.4 Monitoring Procedures

Analyses of pollutants must be conducted using test procedures approved under 40 CFR Part 136, adopted by reference at 18 AAC 83.010, for pollutants with approved test procedures, and using test procedures specified in the permit for pollutants without approved methods.

## 1.12 Signature Requirement and Penalties

- 1.12.1 Any application, report, or information submitted to the Department in compliance with a permit requirement must be signed and certified in accordance with 18 AAC 83.385. Any person who knowingly makes any false material statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, or other document filed or required to be maintained under a permit, or who knowingly falsifies, tampers with, or renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit shall, upon conviction, be subject to penalties under 33 U.S.C. 1319(c)(4), AS 12.55.035(c)(1)(B), (c)(2) and (c)(3), and AS 46.03.790(g).
- 1.12.2 In accordance with 18 AAC 83.385, an APDES permit application must be signed as follows:
- 1.12.2.1 For a corporation, a responsible corporate officer shall sign the application; in this subsection, a responsible corporate officer means:
- 1.12.2.1.1 A president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy- or decision-making functions for the corporation; or
- 1.12.2.1.2 The manager of one of more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities, if
- 1.12.2.1.2.1 The manager is authorized to make management decisions that govern the operation of the regulated facility, including having the explicit or implicit duty of making major capital investment recommendations, and initiating and directing other comprehensive measures to assure long term environmental compliance with environmental statutes and regulations;
- 1.12.2.1.2.2 The manager can ensure that the necessary systems are established or actions taken to gather complete and accurate information for permit application requirements; and
- 1.12.2.1.2.3 Authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.
- 1.12.2.2 For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by the general partner or the proprietor, respectively, shall sign the application.
- 1.12.2.3 For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency, either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official shall sign the application; in this subsection, a principal executive officer of an agency means:
- 1.12.2.3.1 The chief executive officer of the agency; or
- 1.12.2.3.2 A senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit or division of the agency.
- 1.12.3 Any report required by an APDES permit, and a submittal with any other information requested by the Department, must be signed by a person described in Appendix A, Part 1.12.2, or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:
- 1.12.3.1 The authorization is made in writing by a person described in Appendix A, Part 1.12.2;
- 1.12.3.2 The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, including the position of plant manager, operator of a well or a well field, superintendent, or position of equivalent responsibility; or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company; and

- 1.12.3.3 The written authorization is submitted to the Department to the Permitting Program address in Appendix A, Part 1.1.1.
- 1.12.4 If an authorization under Appendix A, Part 1.12.3 is no longer effective because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization satisfying the requirements of Appendix A, Part 1.12.3 must be submitted to the Department before or together with any report, information, or application to be signed by an authorized representative.
- 1.12.5 Any person signing a document under Appendix A, Part 1.12.2 or Part 1.12.3 shall certify as follows:
- "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

### **1.13 Proprietary or Confidential Information**

- 1.13.1 A permit applicant or permittee may assert a claim of confidentiality for proprietary or confidential business information by stamping the words "confidential business information" on each page of a submission containing proprietary or confidential business information. The Department will treat the stamped submissions as confidential if the information satisfies the test in 40 CFR §2.208, adopted by reference at 18 AAC 83.010, and is not otherwise required to be made public by state law.
- 1.13.2 A claim of confidentiality under Appendix A, Part 1.13.1 may not be asserted for the name and address of any permit applicant or permittee, a permit application, a permit, effluent data, sewage sludge data, and information required by APDES or NPDES application forms provided by the Department, whether submitted on the forms themselves or in any attachments used to supply information required by the forms.
- 1.13.3 A permittee's claim of confidentiality authorized under Appendix A, Part 1.13.1 is not waived if the Department provides the proprietary or confidential business information to the EPA or to other agencies participating in the permitting process. The Department will supply any information obtained or used in the administration of the state APDES program to the EPA upon request under 40 CFR §123.41, as revised as of July 1, 2005. When providing information submitted to the Department with a claim of confidentiality to the EPA, the Department will notify the EPA of the confidentiality claim. If the Department provides the EPA information that is not claimed to be confidential, the EPA may make the information available to the public without further notice.

### **1.14 Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability**

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any action or relieve a permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject to under state laws addressing oil and hazardous substances.

## 1.15 Cultural and Paleontological Resources

If cultural or paleontological resources are discovered because of this disposal activity, work that would disturb such resources is to be stopped, and the Office of History and Archaeology, a Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/oha/>), is to be notified immediately at (907) 269-8721.

## 1.16 Fee

A permittee must pay the appropriate permit fee described in 18 AAC 72.

## 1.17 Other Legal Obligations

This permit does not relieve the permittee from the duty to obtain any other necessary permits from the Department or from other local, state, or federal agencies and to comply with the requirements contained in any such permits. All activities conducted and all plan approvals implemented by the permittee pursuant to the terms of this permit shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

## 2.0 Special Reporting Obligations

### 2.1 Planned Changes

- 2.1.1 The permittee shall give notice to the Department as soon as possible of any planned physical alteration or addition to the permitted facility if:
  - 2.1.1.1 The alteration or addition may make the facility a “new source” under one or more of the criteria in 18 AAC 83.990(44); or
  - 2.1.1.2 The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged if those pollutants are not subject to effluent limitations in the permit or to notification requirements under 18 AAC 83.610.
- 2.1.2 If the proposed changes are subject to plan review, then the plans must be submitted at least 30 days before implementation of changes (see 18 AAC 15.020 and 18 AAC 72 for plan review requirements). Written approval is not required for an emergency repair or routine maintenance.
- 2.1.3 Written notice must be sent to the Permitting Program address in Appendix A, Part 1.1.1.

### 2.2 Anticipated Noncompliance

- 2.2.1 A permittee shall give seven days’ notice to the Department before commencing any planned change in the permitted facility or activity that may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.
- 2.2.2 Written notice must be sent to the Compliance and Enforcement Program address in Appendix A, Part 1.1.2.

### 2.3 Transfers

- 2.3.1 A permittee may not transfer a permit for a facility or activity to any person except after notice to the Department in accordance with 18 AAC 83.150. The Department may modify or revoke and reissue the permit to change the name of the permittee and incorporate such other requirements under 33 U.S.C. 1251-1387 (Clean Water Act) or state law.
- 2.3.2 Written notice must be sent to the Permitting Program address in Appendix A, Part 1.1.1.

## 2.4 Compliance Schedules

- 2.4.1 A permittee must submit progress or compliance reports on interim and final requirements in any compliance schedule of a permit no later than 14 days following the scheduled date of each requirement.
- 2.4.2 Written notice must be sent to the Compliance and Enforcement Program address in Appendix A, Part 1.1.2.

## 2.5 Corrective Information

- 2.5.1 If a permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit a relevant fact in a permit application or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Department, the permittee shall promptly submit the relevant fact or the correct information.
- 2.5.2 Information must be sent to the Permitting Program address in Appendix A, Part 1.1.1.

## 2.6 Bypass of Treatment Facilities

### 2.6.1 Prohibition of Bypass

Bypass is prohibited. The Department may take enforcement action against a permittee for any bypass, unless:

- 2.6.1.1 The bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
- 2.6.1.2 There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, including use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. However, this condition is not satisfied if the permittee, in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment, should have installed adequate back-up equipment to prevent a bypass that occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance; and
- 2.6.1.3 The permittee provides notice to the Department of a bypass event in the manner, as appropriate, under Appendix A, Part 2.6.2.

### 2.6.2 Notice of Bypass

- 2.6.2.1 For an anticipated bypass, the permittee submits notice at least 10 days before the date of the bypass. The Department may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the Department determines that it will meet the conditions of Appendix A, Parts 2.6.1.1 and 2.6.1.2.
  - 2.6.2.2 For an unanticipated bypass, the permittee submits 24-hour notice, as required in 18 AAC 83.410(f) and Appendix A, Part 3.4, Twenty-four Hour Reporting.
  - 2.6.2.3 Written notice must be sent to the Compliance and Enforcement Program address in Appendix A, Part 1.1.2.
- 2.6.3 Notwithstanding Appendix A, Part 2.6.1, a permittee may allow a bypass that:
- 2.6.3.1 Does not cause an effluent limitation to be exceeded, and
  - 2.6.3.2 Is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation.

## 2.7 Upset Conditions

- 2.7.1 In any enforcement action for noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limitations, a permittee may claim upset as an affirmative defense. A permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof to show that the requirements of Appendix A, Part 2.7.2 are met.

- 2.7.2 To establish the affirmative defense of upset, the permittee must demonstrate, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs or other relevant evidence that:
- 2.7.2.1 An upset occurred and the permittee can identify the cause or causes of the upset;
  - 2.7.2.2 The permitted facility was at the time being properly operated;
  - 2.7.2.3 The permittee submitted 24-hour notice of the upset, as required in 18 AAC 83.410(f) and Appendix A, Part 3.4, Twenty-four Hour Reporting; and
  - 2.7.2.4 The permittee complied with any mitigation measures required under 18 AAC 83.405(e) and Appendix A, Part 1.5, Duty to Mitigate.
- 2.7.3 Any determination made in administrative review of a claim that noncompliance was caused by upset, before an action for noncompliance is commenced, is not final administrative action subject to judicial review.

## 2.8 Existing Manufacturing, Commercial, Mining, and Silvicultural Discharges

- 2.8.1 In addition to the reporting requirements under 18 AAC 83.410, an existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural discharger shall notify the Department as soon as that discharger knows or has reason to believe that any activity has occurred or will occur that would result in:
- 2.8.1.1 The discharge, on a routine or frequent basis, of any toxic pollutant that is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following notification levels:
    - 2.8.1.1.1 One hundred micrograms per liter (100 µg/L);
    - 2.8.1.1.2 Two hundred micrograms per liter (200 µg/L) for acrolein and acrylonitrile, 500 micrograms per liter (500 µg/L) for 2,4-dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol, and one milligram per liter (1 mg/L) for antimony;
    - 2.8.1.1.3 Five times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application in accordance with 18 AAC 83.310(c)-(g); or
    - 2.8.1.1.4 The level established by the Department in accordance with 18 AAC 83.445.
  - 2.8.1.2 Any discharge, on a non-routine or infrequent basis, of a toxic pollutant that is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following notification levels:
    - 2.8.1.2.1 Five hundred micrograms per liter (500 µg/L);
    - 2.8.1.2.2 One milligram per liter (1 mg/L) for antimony;
    - 2.8.1.2.3 Ten times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application in accordance with 18 AAC 83.310(c)-(g); or
    - 2.8.1.2.4 The level established by the Department in accordance with 18 AAC 83.445.

## 3.0 Monitoring, Recording, and Reporting Requirements

### 3.1 Representative Sampling

A permittee must collect effluent samples from the effluent stream after the last treatment unit before discharge into the receiving waters. Samples and measurements must be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored activity or discharge.



### 3.2 Reporting of Monitoring Results

At intervals specified in the permit, monitoring results must be reported on the EPA discharge monitoring report (DMR) form, as revised as of March 1999, adopted by reference.

- i. Monitoring results shall be summarized each month on the DMR or an approved equivalent report. The permittee must submit reports monthly postmarked by the 15th day of the following month.
- ii. The permittee must sign and certify all DMRs and all other reports in accordance with the requirements of Appendix A, Part 1.12, Signature Requirement and Penalties. All signed and certified legible original DMRs and all other documents and reports must be submitted to the Department at the Compliance and Enforcement Program address in Appendix A, Part 1.1.2.
- iii. If, during the period when this permit is effective, the Department makes available electronic reporting, the permittee may, as an alternative to the requirements of Appendix A, Part ii, submit monthly DMRs electronically by the 15th day of the following month in accordance with guidance provided by the Department. The permittee must certify all DMRs and other reports, in accordance with the requirements of Appendix A, Part 1.12, Signature Requirement and Penalties. The permittee must retain the legible originals of these documents and make them available to the Department upon request.

### 3.3 Additional Monitoring by Permittee

If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than the permit requires using test procedures approved in 40 CFR Part 136, adopted by reference at 18 AAC 83.010, or as specified in this permit, the results of that additional monitoring must be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the DMR or annual report required by Appendix A, Part 3.2. All limitations that require averaging of measurements must be calculated using an arithmetic means unless the Department specifies another method in the permit. Upon request by the Department, the permittee must submit the results of any other sampling and monitoring regardless of the test method used.

### 3.4 Twenty-four Hour Reporting

A permittee shall report any noncompliance event that may endanger health or the environment as follows:

3.4.1 A report must be made:

3.4.1.1 Orally within 24 hours after the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances, and

3.4.1.2 In writing within five days after the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances.

3.4.2 A report must include the following information:

3.4.2.1 A description of the noncompliance and its causes, including the estimated volume or weight and specific details of the noncompliance;

3.4.2.2 The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times;

3.4.2.3 If the noncompliance has not been corrected, a statement regarding the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue; and

3.4.2.4 Steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.

3.4.3 An event that must be reported within 24 hours includes:

- 3.4.3.1 An unanticipated bypass that exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit (see Appendix A, Part 2.6, Bypass of Treatment Facilities).
- 3.4.3.2 An upset that exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit (see Appendix A, Part 2.7, Upset Conditions).
- 3.4.3.3 A violation of a maximum daily discharge limitation for any of the pollutants listed in the permit as requiring 24-hour reporting.
- 3.4.4 The Department may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis for reports under Appendix A, Part 3.4 if the oral report has been received within 24 hours of the permittee becoming aware of the noncompliance event.
- 3.4.5 The permittee may satisfy the written reporting submission requirements of Appendix A, Part 3.4 by submitting the written report via e-mail, if the following conditions are met:
  - 3.4.5.1 The Noncompliance Notification Form or equivalent form is used to report the noncompliance;
  - 3.4.5.2 The written report includes all the information required under Appendix A, Part 3.4.2;
  - 3.4.5.3 The written report is properly certified and signed in accordance with Appendix A, Parts 1.12.3 and 1.12.5;
  - 3.4.5.4 The written report is scanned as a PDF (portable document format) document and transmitted to the Department as an attachment to the e-mail; and
  - 3.4.5.5 The permittee retains in the facility file the original signed and certified written report and a printed copy of the conveying email.
- 3.4.6 The e-mail and PDF written report will satisfy the written report submission requirements of this permit provided the e-mail is received by the Department within five days after the time the permittee becomes aware of the noncompliance event and the e-mail and written report satisfy the criteria of Part 3.4.5. The e-mail address to report noncompliance is: [dec-wqreporting@alaska.gov](mailto:dec-wqreporting@alaska.gov).

### 3.5 Other Noncompliance Reporting

A permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not required to be reported under Appendix A, Parts 2.4 (Compliance Schedules), 3.3 (Additional Monitoring by Permittee), and 3.4 (Twenty-four Hour Reporting) at the time the permittee submits monitoring reports under Appendix A, Part 3.2. (Reporting of Monitoring Results). A report of noncompliance under this part must contain the information listed in Appendix A, Part 3.4.2 and be sent to the Compliance and Enforcement Program address in Appendix A, Part 1.1.2.

## 4.0 Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions

Alaska laws allow the State to pursue both civil and criminal actions concurrently. The following is a summary of Alaska law. Permittees should read the applicable statutes for further substantive and procedural details.

### 4.1 Civil Action

Under AS 46.03.760(e), a person who violates or causes or permits to be violated a regulation, a lawful order of the Department, or a permit, approval, or acceptance, or term or condition of a permit, approval or acceptance issued under the program authorized by AS 46.03.020 (12) is liable, in a civil action, to the State for a sum to be assessed by the court of not less than \$500 nor

more than \$100,000 for the initial violation, nor more than \$10,000 for each day after that on which the violation continues, and that shall reflect, when applicable:

- 4.1.1 Reasonable compensation in the nature of liquated damages for any adverse environmental effects caused by the violation, that shall be determined by the court according to the toxicity, degradability, and dispersal characteristics of the substance discharged, the sensitivity of the receiving environment, and the degree to which the discharge degrades existing environmental quality;
- 4.1.2 Reasonable costs incurred by the State in detection, investigation, and attempted correction of the violation;
- 4.1.3 The economic savings realized by the person in not complying with the requirements for which a violation is charged; and
- 4.1.4 The need for an enhanced civil penalty to deter future noncompliance.

## 4.2 Injunctive Relief

- 4.2.1 Under AS 46.03.820, the Department can order an activity presenting an imminent or present danger to public health or that would be likely to result in irreversible damage to the environment be discontinued. Upon receipt of such an order, the activity must be immediately discontinued.
- 4.2.2 Under AS 46.03.765, the Department can bring an action in Alaska Superior Court seeking to enjoin ongoing or threatened violations for Department-issued permits and Department statutes and regulations.

## 4.3 Criminal Action

Under AS 46.03.790(h), a person is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor if the person negligently:

- 4.3.1 Violates a regulation adopted by the Department under AS 46.03.020(12);
- 4.3.2 Violates a permit issued under the program authorized by AS 46.03.020(12);
- 4.3.3 Fails to provide information or provides false information required by a regulation adopted under AS 46.03.020(12);
- 4.3.4 Makes a false statement, representation, or certification in an application, notice, record, report, permit, or other document filed, maintained, or used for purposes of compliance with a permit issued under or a regulation adopted under AS 46.03.020(12); or
- 4.3.5 Renders inaccurate a monitoring device or method required to be maintained by a permit issued or under a regulation adopted under AS 46.03.020(12).

## 4.4 Other Fines

Upon conviction of a violation of a regulation adopted under AS 46.03.020(12), a defendant who is not an organization may be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$10,000 for each separate violation (AS 46.03.790(g)). A defendant that is an organization may be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding the greater of: (1) \$200,00; (2) three times the pecuniary gain realized by the defendant as a result of the offense; or (3) three times the pecuniary damage or loss caused by the defendant to another, or the property of another, as a result of the offense (AS 12.55.035(c)(B), (c)(2), and (c)(3)).

**APPENDIX - B: Acronyms** (for the purposes of this permit)

Abbreviations	Nomenclature
AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
ACGP	Alaska Construction General Permit
DOT&PF	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
AK-CESCL	Alaska-Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead
APDES	Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
AS	Alaska Statute
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAG	Community Advisory Group
CAM	Construction Activity Manual
C&D	Construction and Development
CGP	Construction General Permit
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CWA	Clean Water Act
DEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
DMR	Discharge Monitoring Report
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EISA	Energy Independence and Security Act
ELG	Effluent Limitation Guideline
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ESCP	Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
LID	Low Impact Development
MOA	Municipality of Anchorage
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MSGP	Multi-Sector General Permit
NMFS	United States National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units

Abbreviations	Nomenclature
NURP	Nationwide Urban Runoff Program
PCAM	Post-Construction Activity Manual
POA	Port of Anchorage
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
SCM	Storm Water Control Measure
SPCC	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure
SWMP	Storm Water Management Program
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
U.S.C.	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WQS	Water Quality Standard

**APPENDIX - C: Definitions** (for the purposes of this permit)

Word or Phrase	Definition
Animal facility	See “commercial animal facility”
Best Management Practice or BMP	Means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the United States. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage. See 40 CFR § 122.2. BMP refers to operational activities, physical controls or educational measures that are applied to reduce the discharge of pollutants and minimize potential impacts upon receiving waters, and accordingly, refers to both structural and nonstructural practices that have direct impacts on the release, transport, or discharge of pollutants. See also “storm water control measure (SCM).”
Bioretention	For the purposes of this permit, means the water quality and water quantity storm water management practice using the chemical, biological and physical properties of plants, microbes and soils for the removal of pollution from storm water runoff.
Canopy Interception	For the purposes of this permit, means the interception of precipitation, by leaves and branches of trees and vegetation that does not reach the soil.
Common Plan of Development	For the purposes of this permit, means a contiguous construction project where multiple separate and distinct construction activities may be taking place at different times on different schedules but under one plan. The “plan” is broadly defined as any announcement or piece of documentation or physical demarcation indicating construction activities may occur on a specific plot; included in this definition are most subdivisions and industrial parks.
Commercial Animal Facility	For the purposes of this permit, means a person or facility that boards or grooms dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, and/or horses for fees or services, or any person or facility that reconveys four or more cats in a calendar year, or any person or facility that breeds more than three litters of cats or dogs in a calendar year. See AMC Title 17.

Word or Phrase	Definition
Construction activity	For the purposes of this permit, includes, but not limited to, clearing, grading, excavation, and other site preparation work related to construction of residential buildings and non-residential buildings, and heavy construction (e.g., highways, streets, bridges, tunnels, pipelines, transmission lines and industrial non-building structures).
Construction General Permit	Means the current version of DEC’s general permit No. AKR10-0000
Control Measure	For the purposes of this permit, means any action, activity, Best Management Practice or other method used to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States.
Clean Water Act	Means the Clean Water Act (formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972) Pub.L. 92-500 as amended by Pub.L 95-217, Pub.L 95-576, Pub.L. 96-483 and Pub.L. 97-117, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.
Director	Means the DEC Director of the Division of Water
Discharge	When used without a qualifier, refers to “discharge of a pollutant” as defined at 40 CFR §122.2.
Discharge of a pollutant	For the purposes of this permit, means (a) any addition of any “pollutant” or combination of pollutants to “waters of the United States” from any “point source,” or (b) any addition of any pollutant or combination of pollutants to the waters of the “contiguous zone” or the ocean from any point source other than a vessel or other floating craft which is being used as a means of transportation. The definition includes additions of pollutants into waters of the United States from; surface runoff which is collected or channeled by man, discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances owned by a State, municipality, or other person which do not lead to a treatment works; and discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances, leading into privately owned treatment works. This term does not include an addition of pollutants by any “indirect discharger.”

Word or Phrase	Definition
Discharge of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity	For the purposes of this permit, refers to a discharge of pollutants in storm water runoff from areas where soil disturbing activities (e.g., clearing, grading, or excavation), construction materials or equipment storage or maintenance (e.g., fill piles, borrow areas, concrete truck washout, fueling) or other industrial storm water directly related to the construction process are located. (See 40 CFR §122.26(b)(14)(x) and 40 CFR §122.26(b)(15) for the two regulatory definitions of storm water associated with construction sites.)
Discharge of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activity	Is defined at 40 CFR § 122.26(b)(14)
Discharge-related Activities	For the purposes of this permit include: activities which cause, contribute to, or result in storm water point source pollutant discharges and measures to control storm water discharges, including the siting, construction, and operation of best management practices to control, reduce or prevent storm water pollution.
Discharge Monitoring Report	Means the DEC uniform form, including any subsequent additions, revisions or modification for the reporting of self-monitoring results by permittees.
Disconnect	For the purposes of this permit, means the change from a direct discharge into receiving waters to one in which the discharged water flows across a vegetated surface, through a constructed water or wetlands feature, through a vegetated swale, or other attenuation or infiltration device before reaching the receiving water.
Engineered infiltration	For the purposes of this permit, means an underground device or system designed to accept storm water and slowly exfiltrates it into the underlying soil. This device or system is designed based on soil tests that define the infiltration rate.
Entity	Means a governmental body or a public or private organization.
Erosion	Means the process of carrying away soil particles by the action of wind or water.



Word or Phrase	Definition
Evaporation	Means rainfall that is changed or converted into a vapor.
Evapotranspiration	Means the sum of evaporation and transpiration of water from the earth's surface to the atmosphere. It includes evaporation of liquid or solid water plus the transpiration from plants.
Extended filtration	For the purposes of this permit, means a structural storm water device which filters storm water runoff through a soil media and collects it in an underdrain which slowly releases it after the storm is over.
Facility or Activity	Means any NPDES point source or any other facility or activity (including land or appurtenances thereto) that is subject to regulation under the NPDES or APDES program.
Green infrastructure	For the purposes of this permit, means runoff management approaches and technologies that utilize, enhance and/or mimic the natural hydrologic cycle processes of infiltration, evapotranspiration and reuse.
Hydromodification	Means changes to the storm water runoff characteristics of a watershed caused by changes in land use.
Illicit Connection	Means any man-made conveyance connecting an illicit discharge directly to a municipal separate storm sewer.
Illicit Discharge	Defined at 40 CFR §122.26(b)(2) and refers to any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not entirely composed of storm water, except discharges authorized under an NPDES permit (other than the NPDES permit for discharges from the MS4) and discharges resulting from fire-fighting activities.
Impaired Water(s)	For purposes of this permit means any waterbody identified by the State of Alaska or EPA pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act as not meeting applicable State water quality standards. Impaired waters include both waters with approved or established Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and those for which a TMDL has not yet been approved or established.
Industrial Activity	For the purposes of this permit, refers to the eleven categories of industrial activities included in the definition of discharges of storm water associated with industrial activity at 40 CFR§ 122.26(b)(14).

Word or Phrase	Definition
Industrial Storm Water	For the purposes of this permit, refers to storm water runoff associated with the definition of discharges of storm water associated with industrial activity.
Infiltration	Means the process by which storm water penetrates into soil.
Low Impact Development	For the purposes of this permit, means storm water management and land development strategies applied at the parcel and subdivision scale that emphasizes conservation and use of on-site natural features integrated with engineered, small scale hydrologic controls to more closely mimic pre-development hydrologic functions.
Major Outfall	Is defined in 40 CFR §122.26(b)(5) and in general, means a municipal storm sewer outfall that discharges from a single pipe with an inside diameter of 36 inches or more.
Maximum Extent Practicable	Means the technology-based discharge standard for municipal separate storm sewer systems to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges that was established by CWA §402(p). A discussion of MEP as it applies to small MS4s is found at 40 CFR §122.34.
Measurable Goal	Means a quantitative measure of progress in implementing a component of the storm water management program.
Minimize	For the purposes of this permit, means to reduce and/or eliminate to the extent achievable using control measures (including best management practices) that are technologically available and economically practicable and achievable in light of best industry practices.
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System	Is used to refer to either a Large, Medium, or Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. The term, as used within the context of this permit, refers to small MS4s (see definition below) and includes systems operated by a variety of public entities (e.g., military facilities, prisons, and systems operated by other levels of government).

Word or Phrase	Definition
Municipality	Means a city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body created by or under State law and having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the CWA.
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer	Means a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains): (i) Owned or operated by a State, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, storm water, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the CWA that discharges to waters of the United States; (ii) Designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water; (iii) Which is not a combined sewer; and (iv) Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR §122.2.
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	Means the national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under sections 307, 402, 318 and 405 of the CWA. The term includes an approved program
Outfall	For the purposes of this permit, means a point source (defined below) at the point where a municipal separate storm sewer discharges to waters of the United States and does not include open conveyances connecting two municipal separate storm sewers or pipes, tunnels, or other conveyances which connect segments of the same stream or other waters of the United States and are used to convey waters of the United States.
Owner or Operator	Means the owner or operator of any facility or activity subject to regulation under the NPDES program.

Word or Phrase	Definition
Permitting Authority	Means the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Point Source	Means any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural storm water runoff.
Pollutant	Defined at 40 CFR ' 122.2. A partial listing from this definition includes: dredged spoil, solid waste, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, chemical wastes, biological materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and industrial or municipal waste.
Pollutant(s) of concern	Means any pollutant identified as a cause of impairment of any water body that will receive a discharge from a MS4 authorized under this permit.
Post-construction storm water management controls or permanent storm water management controls	Means those controls designed to treat or control runoff on a permanent basis once construction is complete.
Rainfall and Rainwater Harvesting	For the purposes of this permit, means the collection, conveyance, and storage of rainwater. The scope, method, technologies, system complexity, purpose, and end uses vary from rain barrels for garden irrigation in urban areas, to large-scale collection of rainwater for all domestic uses.
Redevelopment	For the purposes of this permit, means the alteration, renewal or restoration of any developed land or property that results in the land disturbance of 10,000 square feet or more, and that has one of the following characteristics: land that currently has an existing structure, such as buildings or houses; or land that is currently covered with an impervious surface, such as a parking lot or roof; or land that is currently degraded and is covered with sand, gravel, stones, or other non-vegetative covering.

Word or Phrase	Definition
Repair of Public Streets, Roads and Parking Lots	For the purposes of this permit, means repair work on permittee-owned or permittee-managed streets and parking lots that involves land disturbance including asphalt removal or regrading of 5,000 square feet or more. This definition excludes the following activities: pot hole and square cut patching; overlaying existing asphalt or concrete paving with asphalt or concrete without expanding the area of coverage; shoulder grading; reshaping or regrading drainage ditches; crack or chip sealing; and vegetative maintenance.
Runoff Reduction Techniques	Means the collective assortment of storm water practices that reduce the volume of storm water from discharging off site.
Sewershed	Means, for the purposes of this permit, all the land area that is drained by a network of municipal storm sewer system conveyances to a single point of discharge to a water of the United States.
Significant Contributors of Pollutants	Means any discharge that causes or could cause or contribute to a violation of surface water quality standards.
Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System	Is defined at 40 CFR §122.26(b)(16) and refers to all separate storm sewers that are owned or operated by the United States, A state, city, town, borough, county, parish, district association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, storm water, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the CWA that discharges to waters of the United States, but is not defined as large or medium municipal separate storm sewer system. This term includes systems similar to separate storm sewer systems in municipalities such as systems at military bases, large hospital or prison complexes, and highways and other thoroughfares. The term does not include separate storm sewers in very discrete areas such as individual buildings.
Snow Management	Means the plowing, relocation and collection of snow.

Word or Phrase	Definition
Soil Amendments	Means components added to in situ or native soils to increase the spacing between soil particles so that the soil can absorb and hold more moisture. The amendment of soils changes various other physical, chemical and biological characteristics so that the soils become more effective in maintaining water quality.
Source Control	Means practices that control storm water <i>before</i> pollutants have been introduced into storm water
Storm Event or Measurable Storm Event	For the purposes of this permit, means a precipitation event that results in an actual discharge from the outfall and which follows the preceding measurable storm event by at least 48 hours (2 days).
Storm Water	Is defined at 40 CFR §122.26(b)(13) and means storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.
Storm Water Control Measure (SCM)	Means physical, structural, and/or managerial measures that, when used singly or in combination, reduce the downstream quality and quantity impacts of stormwater. Also, SCM means a permit condition used in place of or in conjunction with effluent limitations to prevent or control the discharge of pollutants. This may include a schedule of activities, prohibition of practices, maintenance procedures, or other management practices. SCMs may include, but are not limited to, treatment requirements; operating procedures; practices to control plant site runoff, spillage, leaks, sludge, or waste disposal; or drainage from raw material storage. See “best management practices (BMPs).”
Storm Water Facility	Means a constructed component of a stormwater drainage system, designed or constructed to perform a particular function or multiple functions. Stormwater facilities include, but are not limited to, pipes, swales, ditches, culverts, street gutters, detention basins, retention basins, constructed wetlands, infiltration devices, catch basins, oil/water separators, sediment basins, and modular pavement.
Storm Water Management Program (SWMP)	Refers to a comprehensive program to manage the quality of storm water discharged from the municipal separate storm sewer system. For the purposes of this permit, the SWMP consists of the actions and activities conducted by the permittees during the previous permit term (as documented in Annual Reports submitted to DEC) and the specific requirements contained in this permit and subsequently documented by the permittees as required by this permit.

Word or Phrase	Definition
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)	Means a site specific plan designed to describe the control of soil or other materials to prevent pollutants in storm water runoff, generally developed for a construction site under the Construction General Permit, or an industrial facility under the the Multi-Sector General Permit. For the purposes of this permit, a SWPPP means a written document that identifies potential sources of pollution from permitted sites/facilities, describes practices to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges from the site, and identifies procedures that the operator will implement to comply with applicable permit requirements.
Total Maximum Daily Load	An analysis of pollutant loading to a body of water detailing the sum of the individual waste load allocations for point sources and load allocations for non-point sources and natural background. See 40 CFR §130.2.
Treatment Control	Means practices that “treat” storm water after pollutants have been incorporated into the storm water.
Visually Clean	Means, for the purposes of this permit, a qualitative evaluation of street sweeping effectiveness. The evaluation is carried out by trained street maintenance personnel as he or she walks adjacent to the swept roadway or gutter and makes a visually scan of the roadway and gutter. During the visual scan the evaluator estimates the percent cover and thickness of coarse solids (>75µm) and fine solids (<75µm) remaining on the roadway or gutter. Sweeping activities on any road or parking lot surface will continue until pavement and gutter sections are free of coarse solids and visually clear of fine solids. When coarse and fine solids are no longer visible to the inspector viewing the pavement section, the pavement and gutter is regarded as visually clean.
Waters of the United States	Has the meaning given in 40 CFR §1222.22
Watershed	Is defined as all the land area that is drained by a waterbody and its tributaries.

Word or Phrase	Definition
Wetlands	Means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.



**APPENDIX - D: Summary Annual Report**



## ALASKA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM MS4 – Summary Annual Report Form

### 1. MS4 Information

\_\_\_\_\_  
Permit Number Name of MS4

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Contact Person (First) (Last) (Title)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (including area code) Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Alaska Zip Code  
State

What size population does your MS4 serve? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the reporting period for this report? (mm/dd/yyyy) From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Water Quality Priorities

- A. Does your MS4 discharge to waters listed as impaired on a state 303(d) list?  Yes  No
- B. If yes, identify each impaired water, the impairment, whether a TMDL has been approved by EPA for each, and whether the TMDL assigns a wasteload allocation to your MS4. Use a new line for each impairment, and attach additional pages as necessary.

Impaired Water	Impairment	Approved TMDL		TMDL assigns WLA to MS4	
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

- C. What specific sources contributing to the impairment(s) are you targeting in your storm water program?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- D. Do you discharge to any high-quality waters (e.g., Tier 2, Tier 3, outstanding natural resource waters, or other state or federal designation)?  Yes  No
- E. Are you implementing additional specific provisions to ensure their continued integrity?  Yes  No

**3. Public Education and Public Participation**

- A. Is your public education program targeting specific pollutants and sources of those pollutants?  Yes  No
- B. If yes, what are the specific sources and/or pollutants addressed by your public education program?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- C. Note specific successful outcome(s) (e.g., quantified reduction in fertilizer use; NOT tasks, events, publications) fully or partially attributable to your public education program during this reporting period.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- D. Do you have an advisory committee or other body comprised of the public and other stakeholders that provides regular input on your storm water program?  Yes  No

**4. Construction**

- A. Do you have an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism stipulating:
  - Erosion and sediment control requirements?  Yes  No
  - Other construction waste control requirements?  Yes  No
  - Requirement to submit construction plans for review?  Yes  No
  - MS4 enforcement authority?  Yes  No
- B. Do you have written procedures for:
  - Reviewing construction plans?  Yes  No
  - Performing inspections?  Yes  No
  - Responding to violations?  Yes  No
- C. Identify the total number of active construction sites  $\geq$  1 acre in operation in your jurisdiction during the reporting period. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. How many of the sites identified in 4.C did you inspect during this reporting period? \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Describe, on average, the frequency with which your program conducts construction site inspections.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- F. Do you prioritize certain construction sites for more frequent inspections?  
If Yes, based on what criteria?  Yes  No
- G. Identify which of the following types of enforcement actions you used during the reporting period for construction activities, indicate the number of actions, or note those for which you do not have authority:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Notice Of Violation	# _____	No Authority <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Administrative Fines	# _____	No Authority <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Stop Work Orders	# _____	No Authority <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Civil Penalties	# _____	No Authority <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Criminal Actions	# _____	No Authority <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Administrative Orders	# _____	No Authority <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Other _____	# _____	
- H. Do you use an electronic tool (e.g., GIS, data base, spreadsheet) to track the locations, inspection results, and enforcement actions of active construction sites in your jurisdiction?  Yes  No
- I. What are the 3 most common types of violations documented during this reporting period?  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_
- J. How often do municipal employees receive training on the construction program? \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Illicit Discharge Elimination**

- A. Have you completed a map of all outfalls and receiving waters of your storm sewer system?  Yes  No
- B. Have you completed a map of all storm drain pipes and other conveyances in the storm sewer system?  Yes  No
- C. Identify the number of outfalls in your storm sewer system. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Do you have documented procedures, including frequency, for screening outfalls?  Yes  No
- E. Of the outfalls identified in 5.C, how many were screened for dry weather discharges during this reporting period? \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Of the outfalls identified in 5.C, how many have been screened for dry weather discharges at any time since you obtained MS4 permit coverage? \_\_\_\_\_
- G. What is your frequency for screening outfalls for illicit discharges? Describe any variation based on size/type. \_\_\_\_\_

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- H. Do you have an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism that effectively prohibits illicit discharges?  Yes  No
- I. Do you have an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism that provides authority for you to take enforcement action and/or recover costs for addressing illicit discharges?  Yes  No
- J. During this reporting period, how many illicit discharges/illegal connections have you discovered? \_\_\_\_\_
- K. Of those illicit discharges/illegal connections that have been discovered or reported, how many have been eliminated? \_\_\_\_\_
- L. How often do municipal employees receive training on the illicit discharge program? \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Storm Water Management for Municipal Operations**

- A. Have storm water pollution prevention plans (or an equivalent plan) been developed for:
  - All public parks, ball fields, other recreational facilities and other open spaces  Yes  No
  - All municipal fleet and building maintenance activities  Yes  No
  - All municipal construction activities, including those disturbing greater than 1 acre  Yes  No
  - All municipal storm water system maintenance  Yes  No
  - All municipal snow disposal site operation and maintenance activities  Yes  No
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Are storm water inspections conducted at these facilities?  Yes  No
- C. If Yes, at what frequency are inspections conducted? \_\_\_\_\_
- D. List activities for which operating procedures or management practices specific to storm water management have been developed (e.g., road repairs, catch basin cleaning). \_\_\_\_\_

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- E. Do you prioritize certain municipal activities and/or facilities for more frequent inspection?  Yes  No
- F. If Yes, which activities and/or facilities receive most frequent inspections? \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Do all municipal employees and contractors overseeing planning and implementation of storm water-related activities receive comprehensive training on storm water management?  Yes  No
- H. If yes, do you also provide regular updates and refreshers?  Yes  No

I. If so, how frequently and/or under what circumstances?

**7. Long-term (Post-Construction) Storm Water Measures**

- A. Do you have an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to require:
  - Site plan reviews for storm water/water quality of all new and re-development projects?  Yes  No
  - Long-term operation and maintenance of storm water management controls?  Yes  No
  - Retrofitting to incorporate long-term storm water management controls?  Yes  No

B. If you have retrofit requirements, what are the circumstances/criteria?

C. What are your criteria for determining which new/re-development storm water plans you will review (e.g., all projects, projects disturbing greater than one acre, etc.)

D. Do you require water quality or quantity design standards or performance standards, either directly or by reference to a state or other standard, be met for new development and re-development?  Yes  No

E. Do these performance or design standards require that pre-development hydrology be met for:

- Flow volumes  Yes  No
- Peak discharge rates  Yes  No
- Discharge frequency  Yes  No
- Flow duration  Yes  No

F. Please provide the URL/reference where all post-construction storm water management standards can be found.

G. How many development and redevelopment project plans were reviewed during the reporting period to assess impacts to water quality and receiving stream protection? \_\_\_\_\_

H. How many of the plans identified in 7.G were approved? \_\_\_\_\_

I. How many privately owned permanent storm water management practices/facilities were inspected during the reporting period? \_\_\_\_\_

J. How many of the practices/facilities identified in 7.I were found to have inadequate maintenance? \_\_\_\_\_

K. How long do you give operators to remedy any operation and maintenance deficiencies identified during inspections? \_\_\_\_\_

L. Do you have authority to take enforcement action for failure to properly operate and maintain storm water practices/facilities?  Yes  No

M. How many formal enforcement actions (i.e., more than a verbal or written warning) were taken for failure to adequately operate and/or maintain storm water management practices? \_\_\_\_\_

N. Do you use an electronic tool (e.g., GIS, database, spreadsheet) to track post-construction BMPs, inspections and maintenance? \_\_\_\_\_

O. Do all municipal departments and/or staff (as relevant) have access to this tracking system?  Yes  No

P. How often do municipal employees receive training on the post-construction program? \_\_\_\_\_

## **8. Additional Information**

Please include any additional information on the performance of your MS4 program. If providing clarification to any of the questions on this form, please provide the question number (e.g., 2C) in your response.

### Certification Statement and Signature

Yes I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Per Appendix A, Part 1.12.2 This report to be signed as follows: **For a municipal, State, Federal, or other public facility:** by either a principal executive or ranking elected official; **for a corporation,** a responsible corporate officer.

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Signature

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Date

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Signature

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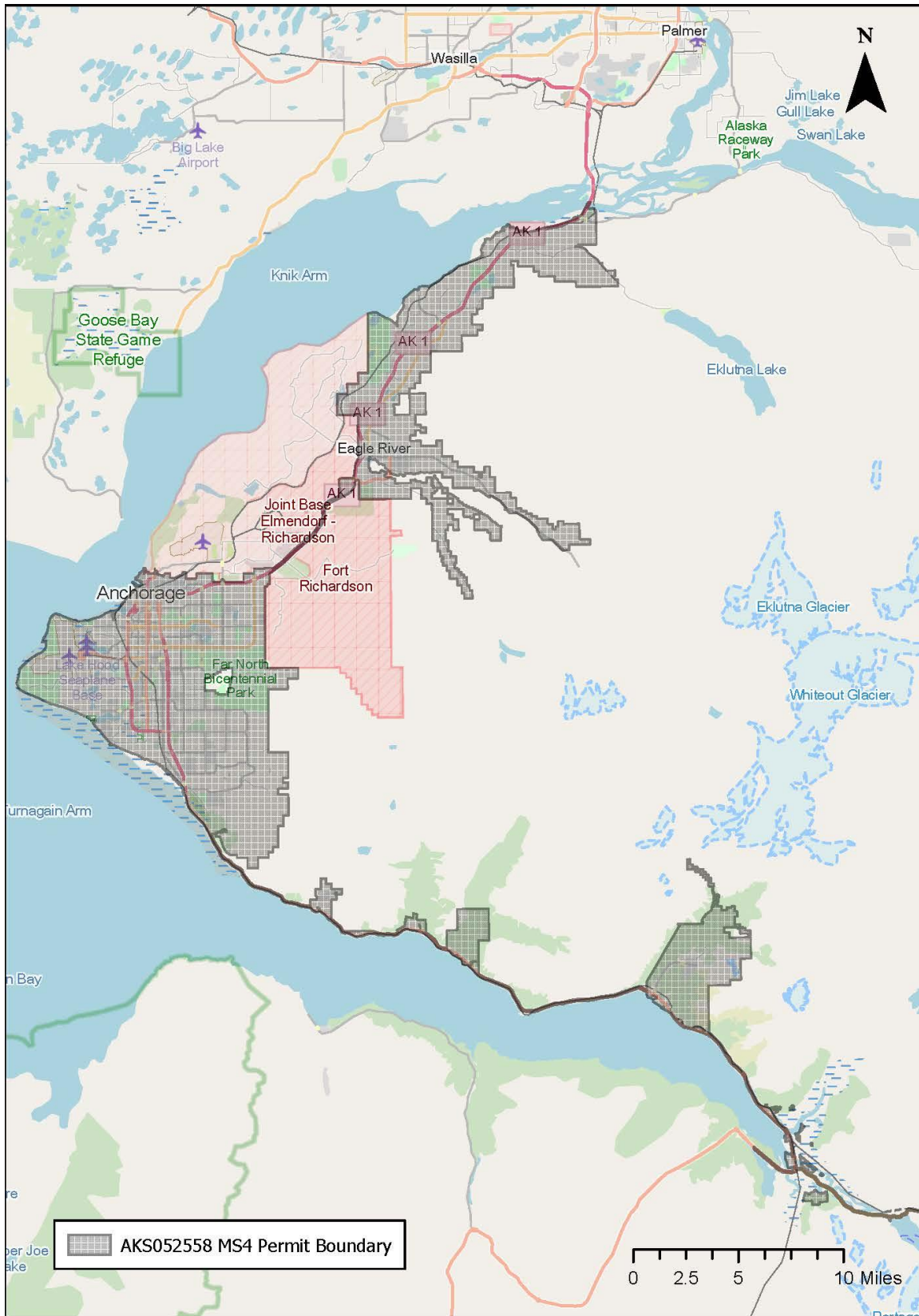


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Date

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**APPENDIX - E: Map** (Approximate Boundary)







## ALASKA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

### PERMIT FACT SHEET – DRAFT

Permit Number: AKS052558

Anchorage Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

#### ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program

555 Cordova Street

Anchorage, AK 99501

Public Comment Period Start Date: May 1, 2020

Public Comment Expiration Date: June 1, 2020

[Alaska Online Public Notice System](#)

Technical Contact: William Ashton  
 Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
 Division of Water  
 Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program  
 555 Cordova Street  
 Anchorage, AK 99501  
 907-269-6283  
 Fax 907-269-3487  
[William.Ashton@alaska.gov](mailto:William.Ashton@alaska.gov)

Issuance of the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Permit for Storm Water Discharges from the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) within the

#### **MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE AND THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**

(hereafter “permittees”)

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department or DEC) is issuing a MS4 Permit (permit) for discharges from a Phase I MS4. The permit authorizes and sets conditions on the discharge of pollutants from municipal activities to waters of the United States. In order to ensure protection of water quality and human health, the permit establishes conditions, prohibitions, and management practices for discharges of storm water from the MS4s owned or operated by the permittee.

This fact sheet explains the nature of potential discharges from MS4 activities and the steps in the development of the permit, including:

- Information on public comment, public hearing, and appeal procedures;
- A listing of proposed control measures and other conditions;
- Technical material supporting the conditions in the permit; and
- Proposed inspection, monitoring, and reporting requirements in the permit.

## Appeal Process

The Department has both an informal review process and a formal administrative appeals process for final APDES permit decisions. An informal review request must be delivered within 20 days after receiving the Departments decision to the Director of the Division of Water at the following address:

Director, Division of Water  
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
P.O. Box 111800  
Juneau, AK 99811-1800

Location: 410 Willoughby Avenue, Juneau

Interested persons can review 18 AAC 15.185 for the procedures and substantive requirements regarding a request for an informal Department review. See <http://dec.alaska.gov/commish/review-guidance/informal-reviews> for information regarding reviews of Department decisions.

An adjudicatory hearing request must be delivered to the Commissioner of the Department within 30 days of the permit decision or a decision issued under the informal review process. An adjudicatory hearing will be conducted by an administrative law judge in the Office of Administrative Hearings within the Department of Administration. A written request for an adjudicatory hearing shall be delivered to the Commissioner at the following address:

Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
P.O. Box 111800  
Juneau, AK 99811-1800

Location: 410 Willoughby Avenue, Juneau

Interested persons can review 18 AAC 15.200 for the procedures and substantive requirements regarding a request for an adjudicatory hearing. See <http://dec.alaska.gov/commish/review-guidance/> for information regarding appeals of Department decisions.

## Documents are Available

The permit, fact sheet, and related documents can be obtained by visiting or contacting the Department between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the addresses below. The permit, fact sheet, and related documents can also be located on the Departments Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program website <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/wastewater/>.

Dept of Environmental Conservation Division of Water Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program 555 Cordova Street Anchorage, AK 99501 (907) 269-6285
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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department or DEC) is proposing to reissue an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) permit that authorizes the discharge of pollutants in storm water discharges associated with municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).

The permit and fact sheet reference various state and federal regulations. The state regulations are found in the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC), Chapter 83 “Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program” (18 AAC 83). The federal regulations are incorporated by reference into the state APDES regulations in 18 AAC 83.010(b)(3). As an aid to readers, however, the permit and fact sheet in some areas cite the federal regulations where specific regulatory language can be found. If any discrepancy exists between the fact sheet and the actual permit language, the permittee must comply with the permit as written.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines “municipal separate storm sewer” and those considered to be “large” and “medium” as Phase I MS4’s and “small” as Phase II MS4’s at Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 122.26(b). In general, a MS4 includes any publicly-owned conveyance or system of conveyances used for collecting and conveying storm water that discharges to waters of the United States. An MS4 include roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm drains. EPA has designated large, medium and small MS4s based on the population the system served; these regulated MS4s must obtain National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage for their discharges. MS4 permits require the implementation of storm water management program (SWMP) to control pollutants in the MS4 discharge to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). The regulatory background for the NPDES municipal storm water permit program, the types of pollutants typically found in urban runoff, and other information can be found in Appendix A of the fact sheet for the 2010 permit.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Delegation of Authority

In October 2008, EPA approved Alaska’s application to administer the NPDES Program in the State of Alaska. The State’s program is called the APDES Program. EPA’s approval of the application included transferring authority to administer the APDES Program in phases. Authority to administer the storm water program transferred to DEC on October 31, 2009.

### 2.2 Permit Area and Applicants

In accordance with Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and federal regulations at 40 CFR §122.32, the permit coverage area is on a system-wide basis for the following MS4 operators:

Permittee	Physical Address	Mailing Address
Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Watershed Management Section Project Management & Engineering Department	4700 Elmore Road Anchorage, Alaska 99507	P.O. Box 196650 Anchorage, Alaska 99519
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) Central Region	4111 Aviation Avenue Anchorage, Alaska 99519	4111 Aviation Avenue Anchorage, AK 99519

The MS4s owned and operated by the permittees are located within the corporate boundary of the MOA. Surface runoff within the MOA is directed to a network of subsurface conveyances, ditches, and surface streets. These systems provide drainage for an area of approximately 1,955 square miles, which includes the areas under the direct jurisdiction of the MOA, as well as the smaller communities of Eagle River, Girdwood, Chugiak, and Eklutna. The MS4s discharge to waters of the United States, as discussed below in Section 3.2.

The permit specifically authorizes the discharge of urban runoff through the MS4s owned and operated by the MOA and DOT&PF, provided the permittees comply with the permit terms and conditions limiting the discharge of pollutants to their MS4s to the maximum extent practicable (MEP).

Regulated storm water discharges associated with industrial activity and/or construction activity are authorized to discharge through these MS4s, only when those discharges are separately permitted under the appropriate APDES permit. For example, storm water discharges associated with air transportation activities at facilities owned by the permittees, namely Ted Steven International Airport and Merrill Field, are separately required to manage pollutants from aircraft, vehicle and equipment maintenance and cleaning areas. They must obtain authorization to discharge such “industrial storm water” through the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport General Permit (ANC-GP) and DEC’s Multi-Sector General Permit for Storm water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities (Permit #AKR060000) (MSGP), respectively. Storm water discharges from gravel or sand sources owned or operated by the permittees must obtain APDES permit coverage under the MSGP. Currently, there are twenty-nine facilities that operate under the MSGP for industrial discharges of storm water with the MOA MS4. Discharge from vehicle or equipment maintenance areas must be permitted under the MSGP. Discharges from construction activities disturbing one or more acres operated by the permittees are subject to the requirements of the APDES General Permit for Storm water Discharges from Construction Activity (Permit #AKR100000) (Construction General Permit or CGP).

Storm water discharges from all other MOA or DOT&PF areas and facilities that are not associated with regulated industrial operations or construction activity meeting the regulatory definition at 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14) and (15) – including, but not limited to, drainage and runoff from permittee-owned parking areas, storage areas, and/or structural storm water runoff management controls – are therefore authorized by this permit.

There are two MS4 permitted areas within the corporate boundary of the MOA: Port of Alaska and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. While they operate within the corporate boundary of the MOA MS4, they are separate and excluded from the requirements of the MOA MS4 because they are operating under their own separate MS4 permit requirements.

### **2.3 Description of the Permittee**

The terms municipal separate storm sewer and small municipal separate storm sewer system are defined at 40 CFR §122.26(b)(8) and (b)(16), respectively. MS4s include any publicly-owned conveyance or system of conveyances used for collecting and conveying storm water that discharges to waters of the United States. The term municipality is defined at 40 CFR §122.2. An MS4 can be owned or operated by a federal, state, local or tribal entity, and includes systems at military bases, large hospital or prison complexes, and highways and other thoroughfares. The term does not include separate storm sewers in very discrete areas, such as individual buildings or industrial facilities.

The permittee’s surface runoff within its jurisdiction is directed to a system of mostly interconnected conveyances, which consist of subsurface storm sewers, roadside ditches, and surface streets.

## 2.4 Permit History

EPA previously issued an NPDES permit for the MS4s owned and operated by the MOA and the ADOT&PF on January 5, 1999; the permit expired on October 28, 2003. Following the application requirements specified in 40 CFR § 122.26(d) and direction from EPA, the permittees submitted an application for reissuance of their permit to EPA on July 9, 2003. The permit was reissued on October 29, 2009, based on a complete application, with an effective date of February 1, 2010. The expiration date for the permit was January 31, 2015. The permit was reissued and became effective on August 1, 2015. The expiration date is July 31, 2020.

## 2.5 Storm Water Management Program Accomplishments

The permittees have managed urban storm water discharges from their MS4s in accordance with their storm water management program and associated NPDES permit requirements since 1995. During the permit term (February 1, 2010 to January 31, 2015), the permittees produced a variety of specific assessments and guidance material to address storm water discharges within the MOA, including the following:

- Little Campbell Creek Management Plan, 2010;
- Street Sweeping Performance and Assessment Report, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014;
- Public Perception Survey, 2010;
- Dry Weather Screening Report, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014;
- Anchorage Education Program Report, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014;
- Storm Water Outfall Monitoring Report, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014;
- Sedimentation Basin OGS Evaluation Project Report, 2012;
- Street Sweeping and Storm Water Controls Performance Evaluation, 2013;
- Snow Site Controls Monitoring, 2013;
- Low Impact Development Monitoring Report, 2013, 2014;
- Low Impact Development Implementation Plan, 2014; and
- Annual Meeting Report, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014.

During the permit term August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2020 the permittees produced a variety of specific assessments and guidance material to address storm water discharges within the MOA, including the following:

- Anchorage Education Program Report, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019;
- Annual Meeting Report, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020;
- Street Sweeping Performance and Assessment Report, 2016, 2017, 2018;
- Catch Basin Fill Rate Data, 2018;
- Covered Sand Storage Evaluation, 2018;
- Dry Weather Screening Report, 2016, 2017, 2018;
- Low Impact Development Evaluation, 2018;

- Pesticide Use Report, 2016, 2017;
- Prohibited Discharge Complaints Map, 2016, 2018;
- Public Outreach Report, 2016;
- Storm Water Outfall Monitoring Report, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019;
- Storm Water Outfall Monitoring Evaluation, 2018;
- Street Sweeping Report, 2017, 2018;
- Snow Disposal Site Monitoring Data Report, 2016, 2017, 2018;
- SOP Updates, 2016, 2017; and
- SWPPP Inspection Report, 2016, 2017, 2018.

### **3.0 DESCRIPTION OF MUNICIPALITY AND RECEIVING WATERS**

#### **3.1 Municipal Activity**

##### **3.1.1 Municipal Summary**

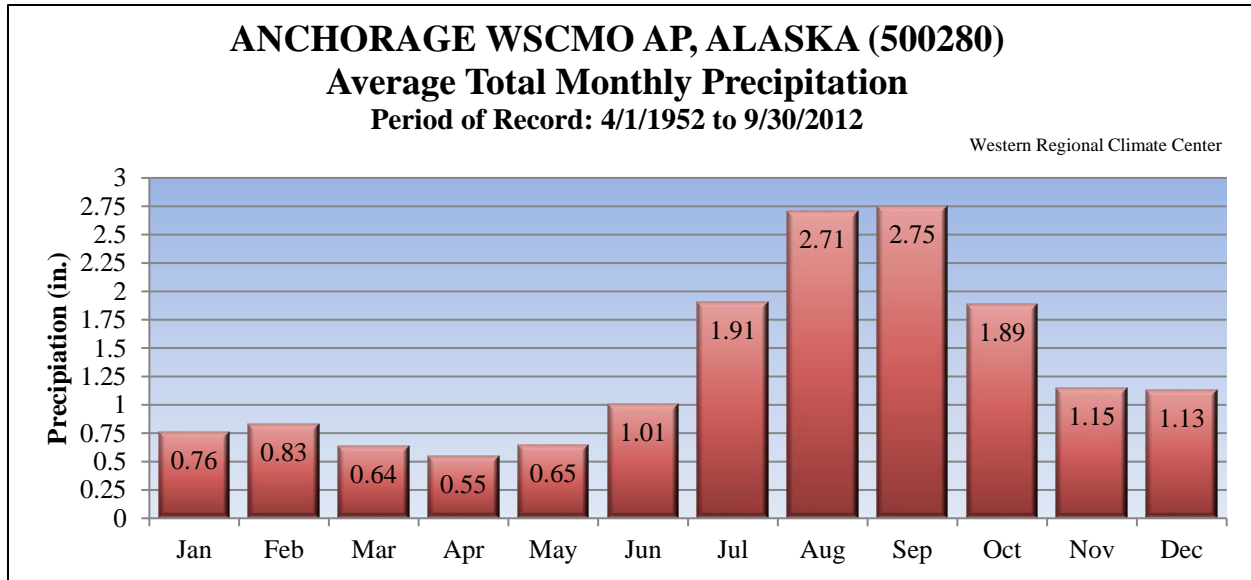
Anchorage (officially called the Municipality of Anchorage, MOA) is a unified home rule municipality in the southcentral part of Alaska. It is the northernmost city in the United States with more than 100,00 residents and is the largest community in North America north of the 60<sup>th</sup> parallel. With an estimated 291,538 residents in 2018, it is Alaska's most populous city and contains more than 40 percent of the state's total population. The municipality has a total area of 1,961.1 square mile, of which 1,697.2 sq. mi. is land and 263.9 sq.mi. is water. Anchorage lies in a subarctic climate but with strong maritime influences that effect a moderate climate. In regard to rainfall, the climate has semi-arid influences. The average annual precipitation at the airport is 15.9 inches. Most of the precipitation falls in late summer. Average daytime summer temperatures range from approximately 55 to 78 degrees F; average daytime winter temperatures range from 5 to 30 degrees F. Anchorage has a frost-free growing season that averages slightly over 101 days.

Anchorage's largest economic sectors include transportation, military, municipal, state, and federal government, tourism, corporate headquarters for oil and gas industry, and resource extraction. Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC) is the world's third busiest airport for cargo traffic. Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson is a combined Air Force Base and Army Installation that employs approximately 8,500 civilian and military personnel.

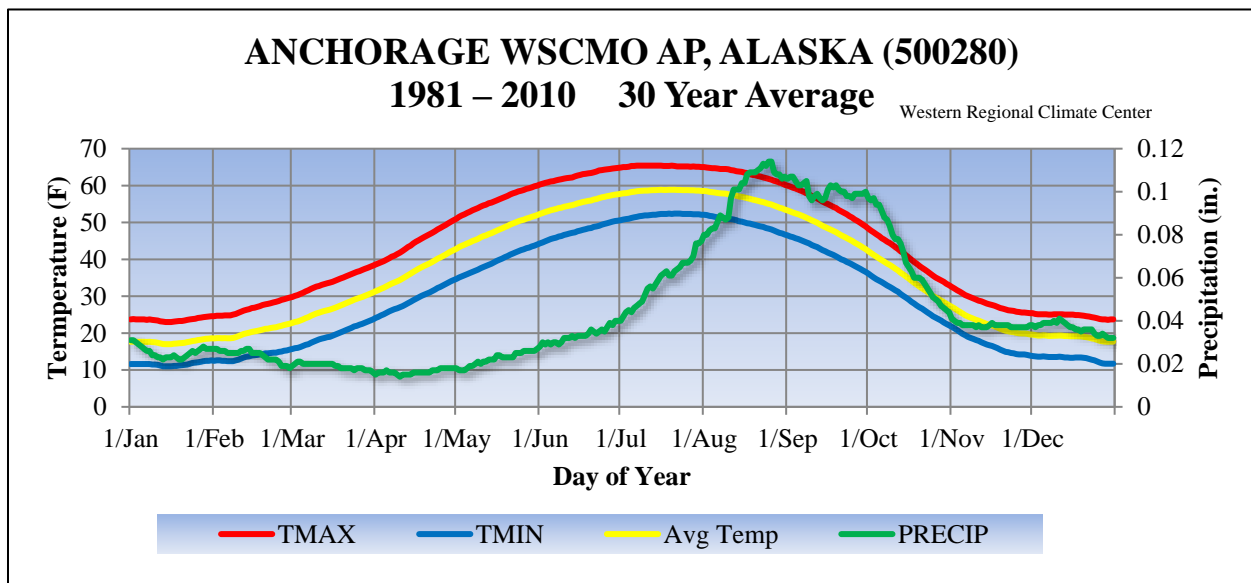
##### **3.1.2 Precipitation and Temperature**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Western Regional Climate Center maintains historical climate information for various weather stations throughout the western United States. Annual average precipitation at the airport in Anchorage is approximately 15.9 water equivalent inches per year (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). Snow is the predominant precipitation during the winter months.





**Figure 1: Average Total Monthly Precipitation (water equivalent) in Anchorage, Alaska**



**Figure 2: Temperature record for Anchorage**

The average rainfall depth in the Anchorage area, based on 45 years of 24-hour precipitation data obtained from NOAA and collected at Anchorage International Airport, demonstrates that approximately 90% of all storms in the Anchorage area result in a rainfall volume of 0.52 inches or less (USEPA 2010 Fact Sheet, Appendix E).

### 3.2 Receiving Waters

#### 3.2.1 Water Quality Standards

Regulations in 18 AAC 70 require that the conditions in permits ensure compliance with Alaska Water Quality Standards (WQS). The state’s WQS are composed of use classifications, numeric and/or narrative water quality criteria, and an antidegradation policy. The use classification system designates the beneficial uses that each water body is expected to achieve. The numeric and/or narrative water quality criteria are the criteria deemed necessary by the state to support the beneficial use classification

of each water body. The antidegradation policy ensures that the beneficial uses and existing water quality are maintained.

Water bodies in Alaska are designated for all uses unless the water has been reclassified under 18 AAC 70.230 as listed under 18 AAC 70.230(e). Some water bodies in Alaska can also have site-specific water quality criterion per 18 AAC 70.235, such as those listed under 18 AAC 70.236(b).

Alaska WQS designate seven uses for fresh waters (A) water supply: (i) drinking; culinary, and food processing; (ii) agriculture, including irrigation and stock watering; (iii) aquaculture; (iv) industrial; (B) water recreation: (i) contact recreation, (ii) secondary recreation; and (C) growth and propagation of fish, shellfish, other aquatic life, and wildlife. Waters within MOA have been classified by DEC in 18 AAC 70.020 as fresh water with the designated uses described above.

For marine waters Alaska WQS designate seven uses (A) water supply (aquaculture, seafood processing, and industrial); (B) water recreation (contact and secondary); (C) growth and propagation of fish, shellfish, other aquatic life, and wildlife; and (D) harvesting for consumption of raw mollusks or other raw aquatic life. Waters adjacent to MOA's western boundary (Knik Arm) have been classified by DEC in 18 AAC 70.020 as marine water with the designated uses described above.

### 3.2.2 Water Quality Status of Receiving Water

DEC proposes to authorize storm water discharges from the MS4s owned and operated by the permittees to waters of the United States within the corporate limits of the MOA.

Waters receiving discharges from the MS4s include: Cook Inlet, Knik River, Eklutna River, Edmonds Lake Creek, Mink Creek, Parks Creek, Mirror Creek, Little Peters Creek, Peters Creek, Carol Creek, Fire Creek, Eagle River, Meadow Creek, South Fork Eagle River, Ship Creek, Chester Creek, North Fork Chester Creek, Middle Fork Chester Creek, South Fork Chester Creek, Fish Creek, Campbell Creek, North Fork Campbell Creek, South Fork Campbell Creek, Little Campbell Creek, Craig Creek, Bayshore Creek, Furrow Creek, Hood Creek, Little Survival Creek, Rabbit Creek, Elmore Creek, Little Rabbit Creek, Potter Creek, Rainbow Creek, Bird Creek, Indian Creek, Tidewater Slough, Alyeska Creek, California Creek, Glacier Creek, Virgin Creek, Winner Creek, Crow Creek, Peterson Creek, Twentymile River, Portage Creek, and Placer River, their tributaries, associated lake systems, and wetlands

In 18 AAC 70.020, DEC has classified state waters within MOA as:

- fresh water, with the following designated uses: water supply, water recreation, and growth and propagation of fish, shellfish, other aquatic life, and wildlife; and
- marine water, with the following designated uses: water supply, water recreation, and growth and propagation of fish, shellfish, other aquatic life, and wildlife with the addition of harvesting for consumption of raw mollusks or other raw aquatic life.

### 3.2.3 Potential Municipal Impact on Water Quality

Storm water is the surface runoff that results from precipitation events and snow melt. Storm water flowing across land surfaces has the potential to contain or mobilize high levels of contaminants. Under most natural conditions, storm water runoff is slowed and filtered as it flows through vegetation and wetlands. These flows soak into the ground, gradually recharging groundwater, and eventually seep into surface receiving waters.

Urban development has significantly altered the natural infiltration capability of the land, and often generates a host of pollutants that are associated with the activities of dense populations. This developed

area in turn causes an increase in storm water runoff volumes and pollutant loadings in the storm water discharged to receiving waters. Urban development increases the amount of impervious surface in a watershed, as naturally vegetated areas are replaced with parking lots, roadways, and commercial, industrial, and residential structures. These surfaces inhibit rainfall infiltration into the soil and reduce evaporation and transpiration, thereby increasing the amount of precipitation which is converted to runoff. Storm water and snow melt runoff washes over impervious surfaces, picking up pollutants while gaining speed and volume because of the inability to disperse and filter into the ground.<sup>1</sup>

Uncontrolled storm water discharges from areas of urban development can negatively impact receiving waters by changing the physical, biological, and chemical composition of the water, resulting in an unhealthy environment for aquatic organisms, wildlife, and humans. The Nationwide Urban Runoff Program (NURP), conducted by EPA between 1978 through 1983, demonstrated that storm water runoff is a significant source of pollutants. The study indicated that discharges from separate storm sewer systems draining from residential, commercial, and light industrial areas carried more than 10 times the annual loadings of total suspended solids (TSS) than discharges from municipal sewage treatment plants providing secondary treatment. The study also identified a variety of other contaminants, such as oil and grease, copper, lead, and zinc that were detected frequently at levels of concern. Numerous other studies and reports have confirmed the average pollutant concentration data collected in the NURP study.

### 3.2.4 Impaired Waters

A number of water bodies in the greater Anchorage watershed are on the 303(d) list of impaired waters. The WQS that have been exceeded historically include those for fecal coliform, dissolved oxygen and petroleum products. In analyses done to 2009, the source of these pollutants has been broadly attributed to storm water runoff within the greater Anchorage area. Thirteen fecal coliform TMDLs developed for various water bodies in the Anchorage area have been completed by DEC and are approved by EPA. (ADEC, 2010)

Discharges to Ship Creek are subject to additional constraints as Ship Creek is designated as “impaired” on DEC’s CWA §303(d) list due to increased levels of fecal coliform bacteria and petroleum, oil, and grease. Any water body that does not, or is not expected to meet applicable WQS is described as impaired or as a water quality-limited segment. Section §303(d) of the CWA requires states to develop Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) management plans for water bodies that are determined to be impaired. A TMDL is the amount or loading capacity of a specific pollutant that a water body can receive and still comply with applicable WQS, such as those mandated by the CWA.

The segment of Ship Creek from the mouth to the Glenn Highway bridge was originally Section §303(d) listed because fecal coliform bacteria and petroleum hydrocarbons, oil and grease exceeded the respective water quality standards for these parameters. An approximate two-mile stretch within this segment of Ship Creek (Glenn Highway bridge to mouth of Ship Creek) traverses Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER), and the JBER storm sewer system outfall discharges to Ship Creek 1.3 miles downstream from the upper boundary of the impaired segment.

#### 3.2.4.1 Petroleum Hydrocarbons, Oil, and Grease

DEC has not established a TMDL for petroleum hydrocarbons, oil, and grease in Ship Creek. This means that Ship Creek is a Category 5, Section 303(d) listed water body with respect to petroleum hydrocarbons, oil, and grease. Category 5 water bodies are impaired by pollutant(s) for one or more designated uses and are awaiting establishment of a TMDL. In 2011, DEC completed a petroleum hydrocarbon assessment of Ship Creek. The finding of the report was Ship Creek is currently meeting

<sup>1</sup> 64 FR 68725-27 (December 8, 1999)

state WQS for petroleum hydrocarbon. DEC in its draft 2012 Integrated Report to EPA requested that the impairment status be removed. As of April 2015, the draft *2012 Integrated Report* had not been approved by EPA, so the impairment status has not changed. The Final *2012 Integrated Report* removed Ship Creek listing for Petroleum Hydrocarbons from Category 5 and placed it in Category 2.

#### 3.2.4.2 *Fecal Coliform Bacteria*

DEC listed Ship Creek on its 1990 CWA section §303(d) list of impaired waterbodies for excessively high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. Ship Creek is still on the list but has a TMDL (DEC, 2004). This means that Ship Creek is a Category 4a water body with respect to fecal coliform bacteria impairment. Category 4a water bodies are impaired, but TMDLs have been established for them.

The fecal coliform bacteria levels found in Ship Creek regularly exceed State of Alaska thresholds for contact recreation such as wading and boating.

Throughout the Anchorage area, there are fourteen water bodies, including Ship Creek, listed as impaired due to the presence of fecal coliform bacteria. Potential sources of fecal coliform bacteria include the waste of all warm blooded animals including human sewage. Sewer system leaks are not considered to be a notable source in the Anchorage area. Domestic and wild animals are the greatest sources of the bacteria. Wild animals with the greatest contribution are likely waterfowl such as ducks and geese. Mammals such as moose and bears are also potential sources. Many wild animals use corridors along streams for forage and movement through populated areas. One of the largest sources of fecal coliform bacteria in Anchorage is domestic animals, mostly dogs. There are about 65,000 dogs in Anchorage, which produce 48,000 pounds of waste each day. Parks and paths near waterways as well as street runoff into storm drains are both conduits for fecal coliform bacteria to enter streams. JBER contributes both of the above discussed sources for potential fecal coliform bacteria pollution into Ship Creek.

High levels of fecal coliform bacteria can occur any time of year, though generally the coldest months of winter have lower levels. Spring snowmelt and periods of high rainfall during the summer often result in spikes of the bacteria in Ship Creek. Sediment influx is also a factor in the timing of fecal coliform bacteria spikes. Early spring generally has the highest spikes of fecal coliform bacteria due to the massive influx of sediment washed into streams from winter road sanding. The bacteria attach to grains of sand and can also sink to the bottom and are re-suspended later due to a high flow event. Street sweeping early in the spring greatly helps this problem by cleaning up a large portion of the grit and preventing it from washing down storm drains.

### 3.3 Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Any water body that does not, and/or is not expected to meet applicable water quality standards is described as “impaired” or as a “water quality-limited segment.” Section 305 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1315, requires the State to include that waterbody on its list of impaired waters submitted biannually to EPA for approval. Section 303(d) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d), requires States to develop water quality management plans, in the form of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), for water bodies determined by the State to be impaired. TMDLs define both waste load allocations (WLAs) and load allocations (LAs) that specify how much of a particular pollutant can be discharged from both regulated and unregulated sources, respectively, such that the waterbody will again meet State water quality standards.

A number of water bodies in the Anchorage watershed are on the State’s 303(d) of impaired waters. The WQS that have been exceeded include those for fecal coliform bacteria, dissolved oxygen and petroleum products. The source of these pollutants has been broadly attributed to storm water runoff. Thirteen fecal

coliform bacteria TMDLs developed for various water bodies in the Anchorage area have been completed and approved by EPA. Three additional TMDLs for fecal coliform bacteria, dissolved oxygen, and petroleum products are scheduled for completion by DEC in the coming years.

The permittees must work to reduce pollutant discharges in runoff from the urban area to meet the goals of the TMDLs such that these waters will again meet Alaska WQS. DEC has proposed actions and activities intended to specifically control fecal coliform bacteria and petroleum products as the primary pollutants of concern. DEC has also included requirements to broadly monitor and assess how effective such controls are when fully implemented by the permittees.

## 4.0 Basis for Permit Conditions

### 4.1 General Information

The conditions established by the permit are based on Section 402(p)(3)(B) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §1342(p)(3)(B), and 40 CFR 122.26 adopted by reference in 18 AAC 83.010(b)(3); which requires an APDES permit for MS4 discharges to 1) effectively prohibit non-storm water discharges from entering the MS4, and 2) require controls necessary to reduce pollutants in MS4 discharges to the MEP, including management practices, control techniques, system design and engineering methods, and other such provisions determined by DEC to be appropriate.

As authorized by 40 CFR §122.44(k), the permit will be utilizing BMPs, in the form of required pollution prevention measures and a comprehensive SWMP, as the mechanism to implement the statutory requirements. While Section 402(p)(3)(B)(iii) of the CWA clearly includes structural controls as a component of MEP, the Department encourages municipalities to first explore opportunities for pollution prevention measures, reserving more costly structural controls for where source controls are infeasible or ineffective.

EPA's permitting approach for storm water discharges uses best management practices (BMPs) in the first five year permit (1998 permit), and expanded or better tailored BMPs in subsequent permit(s) (2010 and 2015 permit) with the goal of WQS attainment. See *"Interim Permitting Approach for Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations in Storm Water Permits,"* 61 Fed. Reg. 43761 (Aug. 26, 1996). EPA reiterated this approach to address how to incorporate WLAs for storm water discharges into NPDES permits in its November 2014 guidance entitled, *"Revisions to the November 22, 2002 Memorandum "Establishing Total Maximum Daily Load Wasteload Allocations for Storm Water Sources and NPDES Permit Requirements Based on Those WLAs" (USEPA 2014).*<sup>2</sup>

For the 2020 permit, DEC determined that BMPs, implemented and enforced through a comprehensive storm water management program (SWMP), are the most effective mechanisms for reducing the discharge of pollutants to the MEP and for complying with the water quality provisions of the CWA. This permit proposes to continue the use of BMPs as the primary means to ensure storm water discharges meet WQS and the WLAs set forth in the TMDLs. In accordance with EPA policy and guidance, DEC also proposes monitoring and other specific actions based on the TMDL analysis to augment the SWMP activities set forth in the permittees NPDES permit application. Further discussion of these requirements is contained below.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/stormwater/upload/EPA\\_SW\\_TMDL\\_Memo.pdf](http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/stormwater/upload/EPA_SW_TMDL_Memo.pdf)

## 4.2 Permit Requirements for TMDL Implementation

As previously noted, all APDES permit conditions must be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of available WLAs (see 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(d)(1)(vii)(B)). EPA's 2014 TMDL Guidance Memo (USEPA, 2014) further defines how NPDES permit conditions for regulated storm water discharges can be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of available WLAs through the use of narrative BMPs. Where BMPs are used as permit limitations to implement WLAs, the permit must require monitoring activities as necessary to assure compliance with the WLAs.

The TMDLs for receiving waters in the Anchorage area attribute storm water runoff as the sole contributor of fecal coliform bacteria, and, thus, assign the entire WLA to urban storm water from the regulated MS4s subject to the proposed permit. In two cases, the TMDLs for Jewell Lake and Hood/Spenard Lake, the TMDLs were approved before the issuance of the 2002 TMDL Guidance Memo (USEPA 2002) and therefore include storm water discharges as a load allocation. A load allocation is typically an allocation for non-point sources; however, within the Anchorage area, municipal storm water runoff is regulated under the APDES program and is therefore considered a point source. Despite the discrepancy, this permit recognizes also the load allocations attributed to runoff within these TMDLs.

As discussed above, the TMDL Guidance Memo recommends that the permitting authority (DEC) use BMPs to implement WLAs and load reduction targets in a APDES permit. In addition, when BMPs are used, the permit must provide a mechanism to require the use of expanded or better tailored BMPs when monitoring demonstrates they are necessary to implement the WLA and protect water quality. DEC uses this approach in the permit. As such, the permit requires the implementation of certain practices to meet the WLAs and load reduction targets. In addition, the permit requires water quality monitoring to help determine whether the permittees are meeting those WLAs and targets. If water quality monitoring indicates failure to protect water quality, DEC will consider re-evaluating the actions and activities outlined in the permit and may modify the permit requirements if necessary.

In its 2003 report entitled *Fecal Coliform in Anchorage Streams: Sources and Transport Processes*, the MOA determined that elevated fecal coliform bacteria concentrations in Anchorage streams occur mainly on a seasonal basis during summer associated with increasing rainfall and associated runoff. Fecal coliform bacteria levels appear to be directly responsive to snow melt, precipitation events, and increased seasonal stream flows. Different land uses within a particular watershed, combined with the types of storm drainage conveyances and the degree of stream modification, all in some manner affect fecal coliform bacteria levels found in a particular stream. The primary source of the elevated fecal coliform bacteria concentrations in Anchorage streams is of animal (non-human) origin, and is transported over landscaped surfaces within densely urbanized areas drained by curb and gutter piped conveyance systems. Runoff from rural residential areas also contributes fecal coliform bacteria to streams, but to a lesser degree, due to the ditched storm water conveyance systems that allow for more infiltration of storm water runoff. Domestic pets and wildlife, particularly waterfowl, are thought to be the primary sources of fecal coliform bacteria; secondary sources may include human contaminants mobilized from exposed garbage. Piped and/or on-site sewerage systems, and street surface material are considered to be minor contributing sources.

Given the available evidence, the report indicates that controlling fecal coliform contamination will likely be accomplished through source control of storm water runoff hydraulics using various strategies appropriate to either densely urban or rural residential land uses. Specific control strategies are suggested, such as:

- Providing public education, including signage, describing storm water system uses, management, and impacts.
- Implementing and enforcing setback and storm water controls for all animal holding areas, including formal design requirements for all large-scale facilities.
- Restricting use of on-site drain-field systems for select landforms.
- Implementing on-site storm water detention and infiltration standards (otherwise known as low-impact development or LID) for all commercial and residential development and redevelopment.
- Disconnection of storm water outfalls, allowing storm water to infiltrate into soils before entering surface waters rather than directly connecting storm water flows to surface waters.
- Optimizing use of ditch and swale designs for storm water drainage systems, including required application of these structures to all ‘headwater’ streets.
- Implementing requirements for installation of storm water runoff sheet flow controls (“yard breaks”) for all driveways, and yards, and other landscaping served by curb and gutter piped drainage systems.
- Optimizing street sweeping practices and schedules to remove fine particulates for all curb and gutter road systems.
- Optimizing storm water hydraulic connection to natural wetlands, or to detention and water quality treatment basins.
- Implementing riparian zone conservation and recovery programs (including implementation of function-based setback standards), and restricting stream channel ditching and armoring.
- Implementing non-obstructive stream crossing design standards and retrofit of existing constricted stream crossings .

Because Anchorage is a northern city located in a precipitation shadow, it has unique climatic conditions that provide specific challenges for implementing storm water controls.<sup>3</sup> The effectiveness of many storm water BMPs is reduced in cold climates; however, several types of BMPs have been found to be effective at rates appropriate for implementing the Anchorage area TMDLs. These BMPs include: wet ponds, shallow marsh wetlands, submerged gravel wetlands, detention and dry extended detention ponds, and infiltration basins. These structural controls are estimated to reduce fecal coliform bacteria loadings at rates of 70-90%. In Anchorage, storm events are generally of long duration, yielding low amounts of precipitation, with fewer intense periods of precipitation. A high percentage of storm events produce snow that generally accumulates until the spring melt. The most effective types of BMPs for such a precipitation scenario have been found to be those that control drainage at a site-level scale (i.e., LID practices), as opposed to practices that try to treat the water after it enters the conveyance system. The MOA is actively encouraging LID practices for new construction and retrofitting. In particular, yard breaks and rain gardens are practices that allow for infiltration of storm water at the site where it is generated. This permit incorporates requirements for the permittees to continue the use of such practices to control the total volume of runoff from entering the MS4 and receiving waters, and to reduce overall

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<sup>3</sup> Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, *Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for Fecal Coliform Bacteria in the Waters of Campbell Creek and Campbell Lake in Anchorage, Alaska*, May 2006.

pollutant loading. In addition, continued monitoring of the effectiveness of these practices will increase confidence that the techniques are working as intended.

Given the multiple and often complex variables that contribute to fecal coliform bacteria pollutant loading throughout the Anchorage area, it is not currently possible to know the exact mix of appropriate control strategies that will consistently reduce pollutant loadings in discernable amounts throughout all Anchorage watersheds. Both DEC, through the TMDL development process, and MOA, through its assessment of fecal coliform bacteria sources and transport, have narrowed the scope of likely actions that will reduce fecal coliform bacteria levels. DEC suggests that the permittees implement a variety of SWMP activities with a specific focus on controlling fecal coliform bacteria.

DEC further suggests that the permittees consider the Little Campbell Creek watershed as an appropriate watershed within which to measure the effectiveness of BMPs. Within this watershed, each of the land uses commonly found in the Anchorage area, (i.e., forested, semi-rural, residential, commercial/ industrial) are represented. The upper portion of the watershed is primarily forest cover. Urban land use (including landscaping, total impervious surfaces, and streets) accounts for land cover in the lower Little Campbell Creek basin. Storm water management actions that are deemed effective at reducing fecal coliform bacteria levels in this watershed can then reasonably be implemented throughout the other TMDL watersheds in the future.

In Part II.B.2 of the 2010 permit, EPA proposed that the permittees require the design, construction, and maintenance of practices that manage rainfall on-site, and prevent the off-site discharge of the precipitation from all rainfall events less than or equal to the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile rainfall event. As previously noted, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile rainfall event for the Anchorage area is estimated to be approximately 0.52 inches. In the 2010 permit, EPA proposed that the permittees control 100 percent of all rainfall events equal to or less than the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile rainfall event because small, frequently-occurring storms account for a large proportion of the annual precipitation volume, and the runoff from those storm events also significantly alters discharge frequency, rate and temperature. The runoff produced by these small storms, and the initial portion of larger storms, has a strong negative cumulative impact on receiving water hydrology and water quality. In areas that have been developed, runoff is generated from almost all storms, both small and large, due to the impervious surfaces associated with development and the loss of soils and vegetation. In contrast, natural or undeveloped areas discharge little or no runoff from small storms because the rain is absorbed by the landscape and vegetation. Studies in other areas of the country have shown that increases in runoff event frequency, volume and rate can be diminished or eliminated through the use of green infrastructure designs and practices, which infiltrate, evapotranspire and capture and use storm water. See Appendix E of the fact sheet for the 2010 permit for further information. The 2015 and 2020 permits have retained this requirement.

## 5.0 PERMIT CONDITIONS

This section is intended to help the permittees and members of the public understand the intent and basis of the permit language. If any confusion or conflicts exist between this summary and the actual permit language, the permittee must comply with the permit as written.

The conditions established by the permit are based on Section 402(p)(3)(B) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §1342(p)(3)(B), and 18 AAC 83.105-120. This section requires that permits for an MS4 must effectively prohibit non-storm water discharges from entering the MS4 and requires controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the MEP, including management practices, control techniques and system, design and



engineering methods, and other provisions as the permitting authority determines appropriate for the control of such pollutants.

The permit uses BMPs as the primary means to control the sources of pollution in storm water discharges. DEC has determined that BMPs implemented and enforced through a comprehensive local SWMP are the most effective mechanism for reducing the discharge of pollutants to the MEP and for complying with the water quality provisions of the CWA. EPA considers MEP to be an iterative process in that an initial SWMP (1998 permit) is proposed and then periodically upgraded as new BMPs (2010, 2015 and 2020 permits) are developed or new information becomes available concerning the effectiveness of existing BMPs.<sup>4</sup> DEC concurs with EPA's iterative process approach for MS4 improvement. NPDES regulations at 40 CFR §122.44(k) allow for use of BMPs when numeric limits are infeasible. EPA's *Interim Permitting Approach for Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations in Storm Water Permits Policy* (August 1996) addresses the use of BMPs in storm water permits to provide for attainment of WQS. This policy is available on-line at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/swpol.pdf>.

The APDES application requirements for MS4 permittee's at 18 AAC 83.110 describe in detail the information that must be submitted to DEC to obtain permit coverage. The MS4 permittee is required to develop, implement, and enforce a SWMP designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from its MS4 to the MEP, to protect water quality, and to satisfy the water quality requirements of the CWA. DEC then determines the specific permit conditions necessary to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the MEP. DEC carefully considered the program information submitted by the permittee in its APDES application (MOA, 2020) to develop the required permit conditions.

## 5.1 Applicability

### 5.1.1 Discharges Authorized Under this Permit

The permit authorizes the discharge of storm water to waters of the United States from all portions of the MS4 which are owned and operated by the permittees within the MOA. The permit limits the authorization to discharge municipal storm water in a variety of ways:

- Storm water runoff that is commingled with process wastewater, non-process wastewater, and storm water associated with industrial or construction activity (as defined in 40 CFR §122.26(b)(14) and (15)) are authorized to be discharged from the MS4, provided the commingled flows are authorized by a separate individual or general APDES permit (e.g., CGP, MSGP) as necessary.
- Certain types of discharges unrelated to precipitation events (i.e., "non-storm water discharges"), which are listed in 40 CFR §122.26(d)(2)(iv)(B)(1) are allowed to enter the MS4, as long as the discharges are not considered to be sources of pollution to the waters of the United States. However, the permittees are responsible for the quality of the combined discharge and therefore have an interest in locating any uncontrolled or un-permitted discharges to the storm drain system. In Part 3.5, the permit requires the permittees to continue to prohibit, through ordinance or other enforceable means, all other so-called illicit discharges into the MS4(s). The permittees conduct a dry weather screening program to identify illicit discharges to the MS4. Fecal coliform bacteria and turbidity have been the parameters reported in the 2010 permit cycle. (MOA, 2014a).
- Discharges from the MS4s must not cause violations of state WQS.

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<sup>4</sup> 64 FR 68754 (December 8, 1999)

## 5.1.2 Limitations on Permit Coverage

### 5.1.2.1 Non-Storm Water Discharges

The permit authorizes the discharge of non-storm water if it meets one of three conditions: (1) the discharge is in compliance with a separate APDES permit, (2) the discharge is the result of a spill due to unusual and severe weather event, seismic event, or consists of an emergency discharge, where reasonable and prudent measures have been taken to prevent or minimize the impact of such discharge, or (3) consists of uncontaminated water from a list of approved sources, and the discharge is not a source of pollution to waters of the United States.

### 5.1.2.2 Discharges Threatening Water Quality

The permit does not authorize the discharge of storm water that DEC determines will cause, or have the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to, violations of WQS.

### 5.1.2.3 Snow Disposal to Receiving Waters

Disposal of snow directly into waters of the United States, or directly to the MS4, is prohibited, due to concerns that the accumulated snow and melt water may contain elevated levels of chloride and other salts, suspended sediment, turbidity, and metals associated with sediment and turbidity. Discharges of snow melt resulting from or associated with the permittee's snow management practices (such as street plowing and application of traction material) are conditionally authorized, provided such activities are conducted in accordance with BMPs and a manner that minimizes adverse water quality impacts. DEC recognizes the permittees use of the snow management practice of using ditches for snow storage as an acceptable management practice. The primary function of using the ditches during the winter months is for snow storage and as is part of the permittees snow disposal and management practices. The ditches are maintained by the permittees and are lined with gravel, soil, and vegetation that allows melting of snow and rainwater to infiltrate into the ground to help filter pollutants from directly entering surface receiving waters. As stated in the permit, discharges from the permittees snow disposal and snow management practices are authorized under the permit when such practices are operated using appropriate BMPs required in the permit. BMPs may include detention basins, dikes, berms, ditches, and vegetative buffers. BMPs shall be designed, operated, and maintained to prevent and reduce pollutants in the discharges to MEP so as to avoid excursions above WQS.

## Permit Requirements for TMDL Implementation

As previously noted, all APDES permit conditions must be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of available WLAs (40 CFR 122.44). EPA's 2014 TMDL Guidance Memo (USEPA, 2014) further defines how APDES permit conditions for regulated storm water discharges can be consistent with the assumptions and requirements of available WLAs through the use of narrative BMPs. Where BMPs are used as permit limitations to implement WLAs, the permit must require monitoring activities as necessary to assure compliance with the WLAs. The permit requires the wet weather monitoring of ten outfalls during the permit term (Part 4.1.7). The permit also requires the dry weather screening at fifteen outfalls during the permit term (Part 3.5.4)

## 5.2 Storm Water Management Program Requirements

### 5.2.1 General Requirements

The permittees are required to update, implement, and enforce a SWMP designed to reduce pollutants to the MEP, to control the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 in order to protect water quality, and to satisfy the water quality requirements of the CWA.

The APDES permit application submitted by the applicant in January 2020 contains proposed revisions to the 2015 permit. The 2020 permit includes the specific activities put forth by the permittee. Reports to be submitted and compliance dates are contained in Table 1: Schedule of Submissions of the permit. Annual reports are required to document program accomplishments. DEC may review and approve any plans or plan modifications required by the permit.

### **5.2.2 Reviewing and Updating the Storm Water Management Program**

The SWMP is intended to be a functioning mechanism for the permittee to use. Therefore, minor changes and adjustments to the various SWMP elements are expected and may be necessary to more successfully adhere to the goals of the permit. DEC has determined that minor changes to the SWMP shall not constitute the need for permit modifications as defined in the regulations at 18 AAC 83.135. Part 2.3 of the permit describes procedures to be used to perform additions and minor changes to the SWMP. The permit does not allow the permittee to remove elements in the SWMP that are required through permit conditions or regulatory requirements. Any changes requested by the permittee will be reviewed by DEC.

### **5.2.3 Transfer of Ownership, Operational Authority, or Responsibility for SWMP Implementation**

DEC does not intend to mandate a permit modification should the permittee annex additional lands or accept the transfer of operational authority over portions of the MS4. Implementation of appropriate SWMP elements for these additions (annexed land or transferred authority) is required. The permittee must notify DEC of any such additions or transfers in the Annual Report. DEC may require a modification to the permit based on such new information.

### **5.2.4 Storm Water Management Program Requirements**

The permittees are required to continue their SWMP that is designed to limit, to the MEP, the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to protect water quality and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the CWA. The basic framework outlined by EPA regulations for the municipal SWMP is discussed in Appendix A of the Fact Sheet for the 2010 permit.

In the 2020 permit, DEC has refined, or in some cases incorporated additional, SWMP actions and activities to further ensure that storm water discharges from the permittees MS4s meet water quality standards to the MEP. DEC intends certain requirements to specifically address the load and waste load allocations set forth in the TMDL plans for the receiving waters within the Anchorage area. The SWMP activities also provide opportunities for the permittees to collectively target programs and pollutant reductions in other waters that TMDLs have not yet been approved.

The 2020 permit follows the format of the 2010 and 2015 permits, with minor changes. The proposed permit contains provisions directing overall program management, planning, and coordination between permittees and with other entities. The required storm water management actions and activities are contained in Part 3 of the permit and are broadly summarized as:

1. Construction Site Runoff Control Program
2. Storm Water Management for Areas of New Development and Redevelopment
3. Industrial and Commercial Storm Water Discharge Management
4. Storm Water Infrastructure and Street Management
5. Illicit Discharge Management
6. Public Education and Involvement

Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and recordkeeping requirements are specified in Part 4 of the permit. The permit requires the permittees to monitor water quality and project effectiveness in a variety of ways. Approved quality assurance plans (QAPs) must be used in conjunction with all sampling and monitoring activities; annual reports will provide narrative documentation of program implementation and accomplishments.

### 5.3 Control Measure Requirements

Part 2.2 of the permit address DEC's expectations for the overall SWMP and program coordination. Permit Part 2.6 allows the permittees to share implementation of SWMP activities. The premise of "shared implementation" allows the permittees to cooperate with other organizations and acknowledge that shared responsibility to DEC through the Annual Reports. This opportunity to share responsibility for particular SWMP actions and activities is optional, and may be used at the permittees discretion. This requirement differs from the interjurisdictional agreement between MOA and DOT&PF required in Part 1.3.3 of the permit, insofar as Part 2.6 allows the permittees to engage with outside entities that are not subject to the terms and conditions of the permit in order to accomplish the required SWMP activities. The permittees remain responsible for compliance with the permit in the event the entity fails to implement the required action/activity.

As required by the permit, with each annual report the MOA reported the costs of the program for each of the permittees.

Under the 2010 permit, the MOA completed one watershed plan for Little Campbell Creek and updated the plan for Chester Creek in compliance with the permit conditions. The 2015 permit identifies that MOA will continue to complete watershed plans for each municipal watershed. Watershed planning is a valuable opportunity to engage the community and identify necessary choices and actions that will maintain or restore watershed quality. DEC has included the requirement in Part 2.7 to develop another watershed plan.

#### 5.3.1 Construction Site Storm Runoff Control Program

Storm water discharges generated during construction activities can cause an array of physical, chemical, and biological water quality impacts. A primary concern at most construction sites is the erosion and transport process related to fine sediment. Storm water runoff from construction sites also include pollutants related to the construction activity itself, such as phosphorus, nitrogen, pesticides, petroleum derivatives, construction chemicals, and solid wastes that may become mobilized when vegetation is removed and the landscape is altered for development.

Preventing erosion (as well as the runoff containing other pollutants) from active construction sites is fundamental to protecting water quality in urban areas. Properly implemented and enforced construction site ordinances requiring erosion, sediment and material management controls can effectively reduce these pollutants. Municipal jurisdictions are in the best position to define how construction activities are to be designed and conducted, as well as to enforce requirements. Other public entities, such as state transportation entities, are in a similar position to control activities conducted within their jurisdiction/rights of way. DEC expects MS4 operators to use ordinances, or other reasonable mechanisms as provided by State law, to create baseline expectations for construction activity occurring within their areas in order to protect water quality. DEC expects MS4 operators to fully enforce those requirements when necessary.

DEC is requiring that the permittees continue to enforce a construction site storm water management program to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff from private and public construction activities that

involve a total land disturbance of 10,000 square feet or more at a single construction site or as part of a common plan of development.

In Part 3.1 of the permit, DEC is requiring that the permittees refine their existing program in the following ways:

- Permittees must adopt, implement and enforce requirements for erosion, sediment and onsite material controls consistent with DEC's APDES requirements for construction sites.
  - Although DOT&PF does not have the power to enact ordinances, DOT&PF may comply with this requirement by ensuring that DOT&PF staff, contractors, and right-of-way permits follow the construction-related requirements developed by the permittees. These requirements must be developed to complement the requirements of the Alaska CGP to ensure adequate and enforceable local oversight of construction projects.
- Permittees must update the MOA Erosion, Sediment Control and Material Containment manual, and the equivalent DOT&PF manual (or other directive).
- Permittees must refine plan review and approval procedures.
- Permittees must continue to inspect sites and enforce local requirements, as necessary.
- Permittees must implement a written enforcement policy for construction sites.
- Permittees must ensure that their plan review and inspection staff are sufficiently trained regarding local construction requirements, as well as provide appropriate education for construction site operators.

The permittees made considerable progress in their Construction Site Storm Water Management Program during the first, second and third permit terms, evidenced by increased awareness of the requirements for managing storm water among construction operators, and in the number of construction site operators who applied for coverage under the CGP. The required activities in the 2020 permit for MOA and DOT&PF's are intended to build a more complete and effective local program.

In the 2020 permit, the permittees would continue to implement a Construction Operator Certification program; this program would provide appropriate training to manage onsite activities to protect water quality. Over the last several years, DEC, DOT & PF, MOA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and others have established the Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (AK-CESCL) training program for Alaska, designed to accomplish the same purpose. DEC has chosen to broadly require the permittees to provide ongoing education and training for construction site operators, and to require that there is one person onsite at all times during construction who is appropriately trained. The AK-CESCL program has provided training for construction site operators within the Anchorage area. To meet the training requirement, the MOA and DOT each host one to two AK-CESCL trainings in the spring of each year of the permit term.

Table 1 provides a summary of the inspections carried out during the permit term by the MOA. For each of these inspections, the SWPPP or other site documentation was reviewed and a physical inspection of the site was performed to confirm there were no illicit discharges. At the conclusion of each visit, an inspection report of findings and any required corrections was given to the site representative. Where corrections were indicated, a re-inspection was scheduled to confirm compliance. Where compliance isn't achieved within the specified period of time, a stop work order is issued until compliance is achieved. During the permit term no stop work orders were issued.

**Table 1: Summary of Construction Inspections carried out by the MOA 2016-2019**

Type of Facility	2016	2017	2018	2019	2014
Commercial	358	255	319	140	186
Residential	492	424	418	518	450

Reducing sediment and other materials from construction sites supports the necessary actions to accomplish the pollutant reductions called for in the Anchorage area TMDLs. Sediments from street surfaces play a role in how urban fecal contamination is transported in storm water runoff. Adequate erosion and sedimentation control during the active construction phase serves to reduce the amount of material potentially discharged directly from the site and/or is tracked out by construction vehicle traffic and accumulates on paved street surfaces.

**5.3.2 Storm Water Management for Areas of New Development and Redevelopment**

Part 3.2 of the permit requires the permittees to continue and improve their program to reduce pollutants in permanent (i.e., post-construction) runoff from new development and redevelopment through enforceable requirements, plan review and approval, inspection and education. In addition, the permit proposes that the permittees further evaluate the use of green infrastructure and LID practices through pilot projects.

Uncontrolled runoff from new development and redevelopment areas can significantly and negatively affect receiving water bodies if appropriate considerations are not taken at the planning, design and construction stages. Typical storm water management practices have resulted in the current convention of control and treatment strategies that are largely hard infrastructure engineered, end-of-pipe, and site-focused practices concerned with controlling peak flow rate and suspended solids concentrations control. A 2008 National Research Council report on urban storm water confirmed the shortcomings of such storm water control efforts. Three of the report’s findings on storm water management approaches are particularly relevant.

- 1 Individual controls on storm water discharges are inadequate as the sole solution to storm water in urban watersheds;
- 2 Storm water control measures such as product substitution, better site design, downspout disconnection, conservation of natural areas, and watershed and land-use planning can dramatically reduce the volume of runoff and pollutant load from new development; and
- 3 Storm water control measures that harvest, infiltrate, and evapotranspire storm water are critical to reducing the volume and pollutant loading of small storms.<sup>5</sup>

The practice of storm water management is evolving beyond engineered approaches applied at the site level to an approach that looks at managing storm water at the regional, neighborhood, and site scales through natural approaches. EPA refers to such approaches as “green infrastructure” techniques, which represent long term storm water management that are more cost-effective, sustainable, and environmentally friendly.<sup>6</sup> Green infrastructure is the use of soil, trees, vegetation, and wetlands and open space (either preserved or created) in urban areas to capture rain while enhancing wastewater and storm water treatment. A comprehensive green infrastructure approach to storm water management seeks to:

<sup>5</sup> National Research Council, 2008.

<sup>6</sup> Information on EPA’s green infrastructure recommendations can be found online at <https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure>

- *Preserve*: Protect and enhance natural features, such as undisturbed forests, meadows, wetlands, and other natural areas that provide natural storm water management.
- *Reduce*: Reduce land consumption and use land efficiently to reduce total watershed or regional impervious cover.
- *Recycle*: Recycle land by directing new development to already degraded land, e.g., parking lots, vacant buildings, abandoned malls.
- *Reuse*: Direct storm water into the ground near where it fell through infiltration, evapotranspiration, or reuse techniques.<sup>7 8</sup>

LID techniques are those that serve to mimic the predevelopment site hydrology in order to store, infiltrate, evaporate and detain runoff.

MOA has adopted many aspects of a “green infrastructure” and “LID” approach for new development and redevelopment. In addition to its watershed planning/management activities and open space policies, MOA published a Low Impact Development Design Guidance Manual containing specific guidelines for the use of rain gardens, infiltration trenches, soak away pits and filter strips at new development sites.<sup>9</sup>

MOA since 2008 has sponsored an incentive program for installing rain gardens supported by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The program supported the installation of thirty-one gardens in 2010, thirty-three in 2011, fourteen in 2012, nine in 2013, and four in 2014. The program has since discontinued due to a lack of funding.

Through the 2010 permit, EPA and DEC required the permittees to increase the utilization of LID and green infrastructure approaches, and to push the local design requirements to require a volume based target for onsite storm water management. In the 2020 permit, DEC continued the emphasis on LID and green infrastructure. In Permit Part 3.2, DEC has proposed that each permittee;

- Update the implementation of an ordinance or other regulatory means to require installation and maintenance of permanent storm water management controls at new development or redevelopment sites
  - DEC is requiring that, prior to the expiration date of the permit, the permittees revise their existing design specifications to require onsite treatment of the first 0.52 inches of rainfall.
- Develop/update a design criteria manual that specifies acceptable management controls;
- Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure/LID Strategy and Projects, including evaluations to examine the effectiveness of various practices at permittee – owned locations
- Deleted specific requirements for: rain gardens; riparian zone management; repair of public streets, roads, or parking lots; and parking lot retrofits and included them under general consideration of Part 3.2.3.1.
- Maintain a system to review and approve plans

<sup>7</sup> National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution From Urban Areas, EPA-841-B-05-004, January 2006; and 64 FR 68725 – 68728 and 68759, December 8, 1999.

<sup>8</sup> Technical Guidance on Implementing Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act, US EPA, December 2009.

<sup>9</sup> <http://anchoragewatershed.com/development.html>

- Ensure proper operation and maintenance (O&M) of permanent controls through inventory and tracking of control facilities, O&M agreements, and inspection and enforcement of permittee requirements as necessary
- Conduct training and provide education for permittee staff and local audiences.

DEC proposes that the permittees explore the use of techniques like water reuse or water harvesting, in addition to infiltration techniques, as a possible means to control such a target volume at new development and redevelopment sites. It is worth investigating whether such alternative techniques will work in the Alaskan climate to provide additional options for managing runoff from impervious areas.

Retrofitting existing development is also a crucial consideration to better manage storm water runoff. Parking lots and snow disposal sites are excellent candidate locations for evaluating the effectiveness of site level management techniques designed to reduce receiving water impacts from both pollutants and overland flow. The permittees in the 2010 permit term designed and constructed five pilot projects. In the 2015 permit term, the permittees monitored the projects to determine the five pilot projects effectiveness.

In 2013 the permittees proposed a modification to this Part and DEC approved the modification. The modification consists of the permittees developing a five-year implementation plan for complying with Part II.B.2 (a). In the 2015 permit DEC changed the retention requirement to a treatment requirement.

### **5.3.3 Industrial and Commercial Storm Water Discharge Management**

Permit Part 3.3 requires the permittees to continue managing industrial and commercial storm water to reduce the discharge of pollutants from industrial and commercial operations to the MS4. Specifically, DEC proposes that the permittees:

- Bi-annually maintain an inventory and map of certain industrial and commercial activities, including all snow disposal sites and animal confinement facilities. The purpose of the inventory is to assist the permittees in identifying problem areas, with particular emphasis on sources known to likely contribute fecal coliform bacteria or other pollutants of concern to receiving waters. The inventory and map should be updated at least annually using information obtained from field activities and intra-agency sources (e.g., business licenses, pretreatment permits, sanitary sewer hookups) to ensure that the inventory remains current and accurate. For facilities identified as needing a separate APDES permit under the storm water requirements, the permittees may inform sources of their obligation directly, or notify DEC by providing basic facility information for further action.
- Update inventory of all known public and privately owned snow disposal sites within the permit area, and evaluate whether additional local requirements are necessary to adequately protect water quality.
- Evaluate whether animal confinement facilities are sufficiently managing animal waste material to prevent water quality problems, and consider possible revisions to AMC Title 17 to require all discharges from commercial animal confinement facilities to be controlled onsite. Animal confinement facilities include kennels, pens, recreational facilities, stables, zoos and show facilities. The purpose of this requirement is to reduce fecal coliform bacteria levels from domestic animal waste and ensure that all possible controls are in place to implement the fecal coliform bacteria WLAs of the various TMDLs for the Anchorage area.



These activities support the pollutant reduction goals of the TMDL by requiring the permittees to focus their assessment, education and enforcement efforts on those types of facilities that are most likely to discharge pollutants of concern.

In the 2010 permit, EPA included a list of a wide variety of commercial facilities, such as carpet cleaners, car washes, mobile vehicle washing operations, retail gasoline outlets, retail automotive services (including repair facilities), and any other commercial facility that is likely to contribute fecal coliform bacteria and/or petroleum products to receiving waters. EPA also included requirements for an industrial and commercial facility inspection/enforcement program whereby all facilities would be inspected at least once every two years for compliance with local ordinances and projected compliance with WQS. In the 2003 application, the permittees identified that they would enact performance standards for two industry categories commonly associated with citizen complaints. In 2012, the MOA evaluated snow disposal areas and animal facilities and developed performance standards for these activities. In light of the other activities required by the 2015 permit, DEC has included in the 2020 permit requirements for the permittees to focus their SWMP efforts on at least two different types of commercial or industrial activities in order to reduce pollutant discharges to the MS4s and nearby receiving waters as necessary. This effort is continued in the 2020 permit for animal facilities.

#### **5.3.4 Storm Water Infrastructure and Street Management**

The permittees must continue to operate and maintain their MS4s and associated permittee-owned facilities to prevent or reduce pollutant runoff to the MEP. As described in the 2020 permit and consistent with the approved TMDLs in the Anchorage area, DEC requires that the permittees must:

- Maintain a storm water system inventory and map of the entire MS4;
- Inspect and maintain all catch basins and storm sewer system inlets;
- Design, fund, build and operate a facility to process catch basin and inlet cleaning materials (both solid and liquid portions of the waste stream) for proper handling and disposal;
- Ensure adequate pollutant reduction from street and road maintenance activities by updating the Street Maintenance Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs); maintaining the inventory of sand and salt usage on streets and roads, and maintain covered storage facilities at each permittee's primary sand/salt/material storage locations;
- Update the Street and Road Sweepings Management Plan to identify areas as needing street sweeping on a high, medium or low frequency schedule, and implement street sweeping to optimize pollutant removal based on the results of the report *Anchorage Street Sweeping and Storm Water Controls: 2013 Performance Evaluation* Report Number WMP Apr14001;
- Ensure the proper use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers in all permittee uses and activities; and
- Conduct regular training for appropriate permittee staff.

Much of the work to develop a comprehensive, system-wide maintenance program was accomplished during the previous permit terms, and permittees can modify and update existing SOPs and manuals as necessary. DEC has proposed requirements in the 2020 permit to continue the permittees focus on permittee-owned portions of the MS4, and to provide specific expectations for the performance of those activities.

Proper operation and maintenance of the storm drain system demands that SOPs reflect the required maintenance of the overall MS4, including implemented or proposed BMPs. Because of the diverse

nature of the MS4 (i.e., streets, parking lots, storm water ponds, underground pipes, drainage ditches, etc.), individual SOPs, including inspection and maintenance schedules, are necessary for each type of infrastructure and facility. The SOPs should include a protocol for testing and safely disposing of waste materials and water.

DEC in Part 3.4 includes that the permittees continue to inventory street maintenance materials and to improve equipment and practices used for sweeping arterial and collector streets. Street flushing in the early spring is considered a major source of pollutants to the Anchorage area receiving waters. The permittees must continue to diligently manage the application and removal of materials. Street sweeping should be conducted as a precursor to flushing of streets to minimize accumulated pet waste and other contaminants from being delivered to local streams. This requirement is consistent with the implementation of the fecal coliform bacteria TMDLs, and is reflected in the permit text specifying high, medium, and low frequency street sweeping schedules. For the 2020 permit the tandem sweeper requirement was discontinued for the summer and fall sweepings and retained for the spring sweeping. The permittees will continue to report on the “visually clean” evaluation annually to ensure this reduction in sweeping requirement does not affect the quality of the road sweeping effort.

The report *Anchorage MS4 Street Sweeping Report for 2013* provided the following summary:

Both swept dirt loads and residual dirt loads remaining on the street surfaces after sweeping are higher than national norms. Swept dirt loads are expected to be higher than national norms due to the amount of winter traction sanding employed by the different MS4 operators due to the nature of Anchorage’s wintertime climate. However, reported load numbers may be biased high due to inaccurate measurement techniques for determining volume of sediment from typically wet slurries delivered by the street sweepers. Hypothesis for high post sweep dirt loads include: overemphasis on full width sweeping; not enough sweeping passes; overwatering when sweeping; road conditions including weathered road surfaces and uneven gutter pans; track out from unpaved areas; and unrestricted parking on streets during sweeping operations.

The report *Anchorage Street Sweeping and Storm Water Controls: 2013 Performance Evaluation Report* Number WMP Apr14001 contained the following recommendations:

1. Modify street sweeping practices to improve particulate (mineral and organic) pollutant removal performance from a water quality perspective;
2. Adopt and implement optimum design criteria for catch basins and Oil/Grit Separators;
3. Develop and implement monitoring and modeling tools to support seasonal street sweeping performance assessment and long-term (5-year interval) performance evaluation of storm water systems;
4. Based on seasonal sweeping performance monitoring and long-term modeling evaluations, identify and implement modifications to sweeping practices and storm water control as maintenance schedules; and
5. Sweeping using vacuum sweepers should not be performed on the same day that flushing or heavy sprinkling is done.

The use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers by MOA and DOT&PF maintenance crews can be a source of pollutants if the chemicals are not selected appropriately, used properly, and stored safely. It is important that permittee staff tasked with applying or otherwise handling these chemicals be trained regarding BMPs for reducing the discharge of these pollutants to the MS4 and receiving waters. Additionally, an effort should be made to investigate and encourage the use of alternative products that

achieve the same or similar results and pose less risk to the environment. When chemicals are being applied, they should be used only per label instructions and only as needed. Chemical use should be avoided just prior to or during wet weather to reduce the amount of chemicals mobilized in runoff. Finally, future landscaping efforts should focus on the use of native or low-maintenance vegetation where possible to reduce the need for fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides by selecting plants that are well-adapted to local conditions.

### 5.3.5 Illicit Discharge Management

An illicit discharge is any discharge to a MS4 that is not composed entirely of storm water. Exceptions to this definition, such as firefighting activities, certain types of *de minimus* discharges, or otherwise permitted discharges, are addressed in Part 1.4.1 of the permit.

The permittees previously established a program to prohibit, detect and respond to illicit discharges during the 1998 permit term. In the 2020 application, the permittees proposed to continue providing complaint response, dry weather screening of outfalls, investigation of pollutant sources, and to enact to performance standards for two industries commonly associated with complaints.

In the 2020 permit, DEC requires that each permittee continue to take the following actions:

- Update the ordinance or other regulatory mechanism prohibiting non-storm water discharges, as necessary;
- Maintain a program to receive and to respond complaints from the public;
- Map locations of illicit discharge/connections to identify priority areas;
- Continue dry weather screening of outfalls, including mandatory follow-up actions to identify and/or eliminate problems;
- Maintain all spill prevention and response capabilities, including a used oil and toxic material disposal program, through coordination with appropriate entities to provide maximum water quality protection at all times; and
- Provide training for appropriate municipal and state staff to respond to spills, complaints and illicit discharges/connections to the MS4.

The permit requires the permittees to continue their illicit discharge complaint reporting and response program through the use of a telephone hotline, community education, and detailed response procedures. A system and protocols should be in place to track calls from citizens and to direct reports of discharges/dumping to the appropriate emergency response authorities. Staff designated to handle calls should be trained in storm water issues and emergency response so they can gather and transfer the right information to responders. Conducting an investigation as soon as possible after the initial complaint report is crucial to the success of this activity. Sources of illicit discharges are often intermittent or mobile, yet the frequency or severity of such discharges can have lasting effects on water quality. The nature, extent, and conclusions of each inspection should be recorded with the original complaint to provide a full picture of each incident. This information will not only be helpful in tracking permittee activities in spill response, but it also provides detailed information about the types and locations of discharges, their possible sources, and other information pertinent to targeting future inspection, outreach, and education activities. Additionally, a complete file documenting an incident can provide better evidence in cases where a criminal citation is issued.

Data collected through reporting of illicit discharges and connections, as well as through dry weather screening, can reveal important trends in pollutant generation and transport to the MS4. The permittees

mapped the occurrences of illicit discharges. During the 2010 permit term, the number of reported illicit discharges were 5 in 2010, 26 in 2011, 18 in 2012, and 35 in 2013. During the 2015 permit term, the number of reported illicit discharges were 13 in 2016, 18 in 2017, 23 in 2018, and in 18 in 2019.

DEC requires that the permittees continue to conduct dry weather analytical and field screening monitoring of outfalls. DEC requires that samples taken during dry weather screening be screened for pH, total chlorine, detergents, total copper, total phenols, fecal coliform bacteria, and turbidity. DEC has also included a requirement that follow-up activities must begin within 15 days of identifying elevated concentrations of screening parameters. During the 2010 permit cycle, reports from the dry weather screening program identified various outfalls with discharges containing elevated fecal coliform bacteria levels; however, these reports contained limited discussion concerning subsequent actions taken by the permittees to determine the source of the pollution. Given the TMDL WLAs for fecal coliform bacteria, it is crucial for the permittees to effectively follow-up on such information to ensure that the dry weather discharges are being eliminated.

Threshold limits for monitoring results are important to distinguish pollutant spikes from normal background conditions at a particular outfall. MOA has established threshold levels which, when exceeded, results in retesting to determine whether the sample was an isolated event or an ongoing water quality issue. The permittees should also consider establishing a visual baseline for each outfall type to establish what constitutes “normal” dry weather flows so as to distinguish between background conditions (ground water sources, for example) and abnormal non-storm water flows prohibited by the permit.

The proposed permit requires the permittees to appropriately respond to spills and facilitate the proper management, disposal and/or recycling of used oil, vehicle fluids, toxic materials, and other household hazardous wastes. Permittees should encourage recycling and proper disposal of used oil and household hazardous waste through community outreach and public education. Education in schools could include youth instructing youth, classroom presentations, and interactive learning methods. Community outreach and public education could target “do-it-yourselfers,” promote local and certified collection centers at fire stations and gas stations, and identify curbside collection opportunities.

Permittees must provide training to staff regarding how to identify and respond to illicit discharges, connections and/or spills to the MS4. Municipal staff can be the “eyes and ears” of the storm water program if they are trained to identify illicit discharges and spills or evidence of illegal dumping.

In the 2020 permit the permittees must monitor a minimum of 30 outfalls per year for evidence of illicit discharges, and conduct monitoring at outfalls where illicit discharges are suspected. Evidence of illicit discharges may include: flow during dry weather conditions; odor, color, clarity, floatables, deposits/stains, foam, or sheen suggestive of abnormal non-storm water flows; and/or reports of dumping prohibited by the permit. Monitoring may include sampling, field screening, and/or characterization of such flows. Monitoring may also include, if appropriate, recognition of up to three MS4 access points within the outfall’s upgradient drainage system to identify potential pollutant sources.

The permittees continued ability to adequately respond to reports of illicit discharges, and to effectively eliminate those discharges where necessary, supports the implementation of the Anchorage area TMDLs. Continued outfall screening and dedicated investigation of those outfalls found to have elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria or petroleum products will further reduce pollutant loading to receiving waters.

### 5.3.6 Public Education and Involvement

DEC maintains that the public can provide valuable input and assistance to the local SWMP. Public support is crucial to the success of a SWMP and citizens that participate in the development and decision making process are more likely to take an active role in its implementation. Community education and opportunities for public involvement are important elements of successful water quality protection programs.

The permittees began their public education program in the mid 1990's and continued efforts during the 2015 permit term. In 2005, the MOA conducted a Watershed Public Awareness Survey to determine public knowledge of watershed issues, proper disposal of material that could affect water quality, and local watershed outreach activities.<sup>10</sup> The survey results indicated that there is a general understanding of watersheds and water quality problems among Anchorage residents. To increase public understanding of key issues, the survey's authors recommended that future outreach activities include targeted messages focused on the following ideas/topics:

- Everyone lives in a watershed;
- Water released into the storm drain system flows to local waterways and may impact water quality;
- Correct car washing locations, and describe potential impacts on water quality when cars are washed in the street; and
- Proper disposal of pet waste and impacts on water quality that pet waste can cause.

The survey also recommended using television and newspapers as a means of reaching the public, and promoting the MOA water quality hotline.

In the 2003 application, the permittees identified education projects that would occur in concert with the revisions to the construction site management activities and source controls associated with new development and redevelopment. Education efforts to be targeted included projects devoted to promoting rain gardens for residential yards, parking lot retrofits, riparian zone/outfall disconnection, construction operator certification, and training on construction site plan requirements.

During the 2015 permit term the MOA, on behalf of the permittees, entered into an agreement with the Anchorage Waterways Council (AWC) to conduct the ongoing public education required by the permit. The AWC worked with schools, neighborhoods, property managers, residents, businesses, and local citizens to educate and improve environmental stewardship in the community. The Scoop the Poop committee is a special group solely focused on reducing dog waste and fecal coliform bacteria in local waterways. "Creeks as Classrooms" is a program that AWC teaches in the Anchorage School District and other youth groups year-round for students to learn about creek stewardship, water quality monitoring, recycling, and the science of life in the creeks. AWC selected a neighborhood and distributed quarterly storm water newsletters and has been observed regularly for measurable positive changes in behavior. Through Scoop the Poop, Creeks as Classrooms, focused neighborhood observations, flyers, publications, Creek Clean-Up Day, AWC continues to foster storm water education in the MOA. The 2020 permit continues these activities.

DEC is requiring the following public education and involvement requirements to include the actions outlined by the permittees:

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<sup>10</sup> *Anchorage Watersheds and Their Protection: A Survey of Anchorage Residents*, MOA, December 2005.

- Conduct broad public outreach and education efforts to various audiences highlighting basic information on the impacts of storm water runoff on receiving waters;
- Conduct specific training/outreach to the public and MS4 permittee staff to ensure support for various requirements of this permit, including appropriate construction site management, new development and redevelopment techniques, illicit discharge response, and maintenance of storm water infrastructure and streets;
- Organize an annual meeting to exchange information and provide opportunities for intra-agency and interagency coordination;
- Continue to maintain and promote a publicly accessible storm water website. The existing website must be updated to reflect the activities and resources of both permittees.

In their 2003 permit application, the permittees outlined a “receiving water hydrology and chemical monitoring program” to be designed and conducted through a technical advisory board (TAB), supported by the permittees. The TAB was carried out during the 2010 permit term and was discontinued during the 2015 permit term. During the 1998 permit term, the role of the TAB was specified in the permit “to assist with providing information to public forums on issues related to storm water pollution and the monitoring program.”<sup>11</sup> During the 2010 permit term, a TAB was not used, and is not required in the 2020 permit.

Annual meetings have in the past been a valuable means of educating the public as well as local officials and other stakeholders who are not directly involved in storm water management. The meetings also provide a forum to share technical information between different groups who work on water quality issues in the area. The permittees held these meetings annually during the both the 1998 and 2010 permit terms. During the 2010 permit term, the annual meeting attracted approximately 100 participants a year. During the 2015 permit term, the annual meeting attracted approximately 110 participants a year. DEC is retaining the annual meeting requirement

## **5.4 Dissolved Copper Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Record Keeping Requirements**

### **5.4.1 Monitoring and Evaluation of Overall Program Effectiveness**

The Phase II storm water regulations at 40 CFR §122.34(g) require that the permittee evaluate program compliance, the appropriateness of BMPs in their SWMPs, and progress towards meeting their measurable goals. These requirements have been included in Part 4 of the permit.

The Monitoring Program Plan must be designed to meet the following objectives:

- Assess compliance with this permit;
- Measure the effectiveness of the permittee’s SWMP;
- Measure the chemical, physical, and biological impacts to the receiving waters resulting from storm water discharges;
- Characterize storm water discharges;
- Identify sources of specific pollutants; and
- Detect and eliminate illicit discharges and illegal connections to the MS4.

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<sup>11</sup> Part II.A.5.c of NPDES Permit #AKS052558, issued January 20, 1999

The nature of the monitoring activities to be implemented by the permittee largely depends on the measurable goals selected by the permittee. Measurable goals in the permit application are primarily measures of the level of effort given to implementing a particular BMP (such as frequency of street sweeping), but may also encompass actual measures of water quality improvement. DEC encourages a mix of physical, chemical, biological, and programmatic indicators to evaluate the appropriateness of BMPs and progress towards achieving their measurable goals. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine whether or not the MS4 is meeting the requirements of the minimum control measures of the permit. During the 2010 permit term, the permittee opted for measurable goals that defined and reported on a level of effort for implementation of BMPs. This information was submitted to DEC in the Annual Report. The monitoring included the following: pesticide screening, dry weather screening, structural controls, snow storage site retrofits, storm water outfalls, and LID monitoring. For chemical, biological, or physical storm water monitoring conducted by the permittee, Part 4.1.2 of the permit includes requirements related to representative monitoring, test procedures, and recording results. All chemical, physical, or analytical monitoring must be conducted according to a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). The permit required a revised QAPP to be submitted to DEC and be available upon request.

The 2020 permit requires continued monitoring of the following: pesticide screening, dry weather screening, storm water outfalls, and LID monitoring. Sampling for dissolved copper was added to wet weather outfall monitoring and using the test method in 40 CFR Part 136. The purpose of the addition is to more accurately assess whether copper is present within Anchorage stormwater runoff. Based on the monitoring during the 2010 permit term, Permit Part 4.1.8 was added to specify the evaluation of specific BMPs and their effectiveness to reduce the monitoring results for turbidity and fecal coliform bacteria in specific catchment areas.

The evaluation of snow storage retrofits (Part 4.1.9) is considered complete in the 2015 permit term so it is deleted from the 2020 permit.

#### 5.4.2 Annual Reports

In general, the annual report must document and summarize implementation of the SWMP during the previous year and evaluate program results and describe planned changes towards continuous improvement. DEC requires the permittee to use the Summary Annual Report Template in the permit to obtain summary information about the status of the MS4. In addition to the summary annual report, the permittee must also submit a more detailed annual report. Requirements for the minimum control measures in Part 3.0 of the permit detail specific information to be reported for each control measure. The detailed annual report should clearly illustrate three key items for each SWMP area:

- **Summary of the Year's Activities.** The summary should describe and quantify program activities for each SWMP component. Responsible persons, agencies, or departments should be included in the summary. Each activity should be described in relation to achievement of established goals or performance standards.
- **Description of SWMP Effectiveness.** The annual report should not only describe the previous year's activities, but should also highlight the SWMP's effectiveness (Part 4.3 of the permit) using indicators required in Part 4.1 of the permit.
- **Planned Activities and Changes.** The annual report should describe activities planned for the next year highlighting any changes made to improve control measures or program effectiveness.

The Annual Report(s) may be submitted to DEC in electronic format (preferred) on CD-ROM(s) using universally available document formats, such as Adobe Acrobat PDF or other available means.

However, while the Annual Report text can be submitted in electronic format, the required certification

statement must be signed and dated in hard copy by the permittee as directed in Appendix A, Part 1.12.2 of this permit.

During the 2015 permit term, the annual reports were submitted on-time and contained a proper summary of the work accomplished during the year and described the task due that particular year. All tasks were reported in the year they were required to be reported on.

### **5.4.3 Recordkeeping**

Part 4.5 of the permit requires the permittee to keep all records required by the permit for a period of at least five years. Records need to be submitted only when requested by DEC. The permittee's SWMP must be available to the public; the permittee may charge a reasonable fee for copies, and may require a member of the public to provide advance notice of their request. DEC encourages the permittee to make their program materials available to the public electronically via a website or other viable means.

### **5.4.4 Addresses**

Submittals required by the permit must be made to the address specified in the permit, Appendix A, Part 1.12.

## **5.5 Appendices**

### **5.5.1 Standard Conditions (Appendix A)**

Appendix A of the permit contains standard regulatory language that must be included in all APDES permits. These requirements are based on the regulations and cannot be challenged in the context of an individual APDES permit action. The standard regulatory language covers requirements such as monitoring, recording, and reporting requirements; compliance responsibilities; and other general requirements.

### **5.5.2 Acronyms (Appendix B)**

Appendix B is a list of acronyms found in the permit and fact sheet which aids in the understanding of the permit and its requirements.

### **5.5.3 Definitions (Appendix C)**

Appendix C contains definitions of statutory, regulatory, and other terms important for understanding the permit and its requirements.

### **5.5.4 Annual Report Form (Appendix D)**

Appendix D contains an annual report form for summarizing the annual results of storm water activities.

## **6.0 ANTIBACKSLIDING**

18 AAC 83.480 requires that "effluent limitations, standards, or conditions must be at least as stringent as the final effluent limitations, standards, or conditions in the previous permit." 18 AAC 83.480(c) also states that a permit may not be reissued "to contain an effluent limitation that is less stringent than required by effluent guidelines in effect at the time the permit is renewed or reissued." All permit requirements are at least as stringent as the previous permit.



## 7.0 ANTIDEGRADATION

Section 303(d)(4) of the CWA states that, for water bodies where the water quality meets or exceeds the level necessary to support the waterbody's designated uses, WQBELs may be revised as long as the revision is consistent with the State's antidegradation policy and implementation methods. Alaska's current Antidegradation Policy and implementation methods are presented in 18 AAC 70.015 *Antidegradation policy* (Policy) and in 18 AAC 70.016 *Antidegradation implementation methods for discharges authorized under the federal Clean Water Act* (Implementation Methods). The Policy and Implementation Methods amended through April 6, 2018 are consistent with 40 CFR 131.12; and were approved by EPA on July 26, 2018.

The following subsections document the Department's conformance with the Policy and Implementation Methods for reissuance of the Permit.

### 7.1 Receiving Water Status, Tier Determination, and Analysis Requirements

Alaska's antidegradation policy (through 18 AAC 70.015(a)(1)-(3)) identifies three tiers of water quality and water quality protections, Tiers 1, 2, and 3 respectively. An antidegradation analysis is tier-specific. Using the Policy and corresponding Implementation Methods, the Department determines a Tier 1 or Tier 2 classification and protection level on a parameter by parameter basis. A Tier 3 protection level would apply to a designated waterbody or segment.

- Tier 1 requires existing water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect existing uses be maintained and protected. Tier 1 applies to all waters of the U.S. in the state. If criteria are exceeded for a water quality parameter (and the receiving water is not a Tier 3 water), then Tier 1 is the only protection level. This can be due to naturally occurring constituents in the water or can be due to pollutants introduced by humans.
- Tier 2 applies when the water quality for a parameter does not exceed the applicable criteria, and is presumed to apply as the default protection level for all parameters in all waters in Alaska unless found otherwise.
- Tier 3 applies to designated waters and no lowering of the water quality is allowable unless temporary and limited. At this time, no Tier 3 waters have been designated in Alaska.

Tier 1 protection applies to all waters of the U.S. in the state, the analysis must be conducted with implementation procedures in 18 AAC 70.016(b)(5). For Tier 2 protection level the analysis is performed on a parameter by parameter basis consistent with 18 AAC 70.016(c)(1) and 18 AAC 70.015(a)(2) that states if the quality of water exceeds levels necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and recreation in and on the water, that quality must be maintained and protected, unless the Department authorizes a reduction in water quality for a short-term variance under 18 AAC 70.200, a zone of deposit under 18 AAC 70.210, a mixing zone under 18 AAC 70.240 or another purpose as authorized in a department permit, certification, or approval. Lastly, because the antidegradation analysis is for a general permit, 18 AAC 70.016(e) also applies.

### 7.2 Tier 1 Analysis of Existing Use Protection

The summary below presents the Department's analyses and findings for the Tier 1 analysis of existing use protections per 18 AAC 70.016(b)(5) finding that:

- (A) *existing uses and the water quality necessary for protection of existing uses have been identified based on available evidence, including water quality and use related data, information submitted by the applicant, and water quality and use related data and information received during public comment;*

- (B) *existing uses will be maintained and protected, and*
- (C) *the discharge will not cause water quality to be lowered further where the department finds that the parameter already exceeds applicable criteria in 18 AAC 70.020(b), 18 AAC 70.030, or 18 AAC 70.236(b).*

For the purpose of this analysis, the Department classifies the impaired water bodies (Categories 4 or 5) in *Alaska's Final 2014/2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report* as Tier 1 for the parameters causing the impairment. Compliance with permit conditions will limit discharges to those water bodies listed as impaired. As a result, water quality in those water bodies is likely to improve subject to compliance with permit conditions. Accordingly, DEC finds that the existing uses in those water bodies designated as Tier 1 for the parameters they are impaired for will be maintained and protected. The remainder of this antidegradation analysis conservatively assumes that all other waters are Tier 2 waters, which provides for the next highest level of protection.

### 7.3 Tier 2 Analysis for Lowering Water Quality

Scope of Tier 2 Analysis. Per 18 AAC 70.016(c)(2), an antidegradation analysis is only required for those waterbodies needing Tier 2 protection and which have any new or existing discharges that are being expanded based on permitted increases in loading, concentration, or other changes in effluent characteristics that could result in comparative lower water quality or pose new adverse environmental impacts. Per 18 AAC 70.016(c)(2)(A), the analysis will only be conducted for the portion of the discharge that represents an increase from the existing authorized discharge. Additionally, per 18 AAC 70.016(c)(3), DEC is not required to conduct an antidegradation analysis for a discharge that is not expanding.

Per 18 AAC 70.990(75), “new or expanded” with respect to discharges means discharges that are regulated for the first time or discharges that are expanded such that they could result in an increase in pollutant load or concentration or other discharge characteristics that could lower water quality or have other adverse environmental impacts.

In the context of the permit, there are no increases in permitted loads or concentration to existing, previously regulated discharges. Therefore, for Tier 2 protection, the analysis must comply with 18 AAC 70.016(c)(7)(A-F). Lastly, the analysis and associated finding are summarized below.

#### Tier 2 Analysis.

Per Antidegradation Policy and Implementation Methods [18 AAC 70.016\(c\)\(7\)\(A-F\)](#) stipulates that after review of available evidence, the department finds that the proposed discharge will lower water quality in the receiving water, the department will not authorize a discharge unless the department finds that

- 18 AAC 70.016(c)(7) (A) the reduction of water quality of water exceeds levels necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish, wildlife, and recreation in and on the water, that quality must be maintained and protected, and not violate water the applicable criteria of 18 AAC 70.020 or 18 AAC 70.235, or whole effluent toxicity limit in 18 AAC 70.235, unless the Department authorizes a reduction in water quality for a short-term variance under 18 AAC 70.200, a zone of deposit under 18 AAC 70.210, or a mixing zone under 18 AAC 70.240.

The adaptive management approach (from permit cycle to permit cycle) is used in MS4 permits (unlike other types of NPDES permits) because there is not a need to require strict compliance with WQS if discharges are controlled to the MEP and comply with such other provisions as the NPDES authority determines to be appropriate (See *Defenders of Wildlife v. Browner*, 191 F3d 1159 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir., 1999)). The MEP provision of the CWA allows the NPDES authority the broad discretion whether to require strict compliance with state WQS.

A key requirement in the storm water Phase II rule<sup>12</sup> is a report (40 CFR 122.34(g)(3)) that includes “the status of compliance with permit conditions, an assessment of the appropriateness of identified [control measures] and progress towards achieving identified measurable goals for each of the minimum control measures.” This assessment is critical to the storm water program framework which uses an adaptive management approach of implementing controls, conducting assessments, and designating refocused controls leading toward attainment of water quality criteria. The permittee is required to conduct an annual effectiveness assessment to assess the effectiveness of significant control measures, SWMP components, and the SWMP as a whole. The permittee is to assess and modify, as necessary, any or all existing SWMP components and adopt new or revised SWMP components to optimize reductions in storm water pollutants through an iterative process. This iterative process includes routine assessment of the need to further improve water quality and protect beneficial uses, review of available technologies and practices to accomplish the needed improvement, and evaluate resources available to implement the technologies and practices. Through this type of analysis, the applicable criteria found in 18 AAC 70.020 will be maintained and protected.

With respect to 18 AAC 70.235 and 18 AAC 70.030, no site-specific criteria has been designated for any of the subject water bodies and permit conditions are designed to control potentially toxic discharges.

The Department has determined that reducing water quality will not violate the applicable criteria of 18 AAC 70.020, 18 AAC 70.235, or the whole effluent toxicity limit in 18 AAC 70.030, and that the finding is satisfied.

- 18 AAC 70.016(c)(7) (B) each requirement under 18 AAC 70.016(b)(5) for a discharge to a Tier 1 water is met:

As discussed in the preceding Tier 1 analysis, the waters within a project site are protected for all uses. Hence, this finding is satisfied.

- 18 AAC 70.016(c)(7) (C) point source and state-regulated nonpoint source discharges to the receiving water will meet requirements under 18 AAC 70.015(a)(2)(D) where all wastes and other substances discharged will be treated and controlled to achieve (i) for new and existing point sources, the highest statutory and regulatory requirements, and (ii) for non-point sources, all cost-effective and reasonable best management practices the most effective and reasonable methods of pollution prevention control and treatment will be applied to all wastes and other substances to be discharged. To make this finding the department will
  - Identify point sources and state-regulated nonpoint sources that discharge to, or otherwise impact the receiving water;
  - Consider whether there are outstanding noncompliance issues with other point source permits or required state-regulated nonpoint source best management practices, consider whether receiving water quality has improved or degraded over time, and if necessary and appropriate, take actions that will achieve the requirements of 18 AAC 70.015(a)(2)(D); and
  - Coordinate with other state and federal agencies as necessary.

DEC generally implements permit conditions that specify that a municipality implement controls, BMPs or control measures, and other activities to reduce pollutants as identified in a SWMP. The SWMP may address control measures such as: public education and outreach, public participation/involvement, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff control, post construction runoff control, and pollution prevention/good housekeeping. The SWMP must also include measureable goals to

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<sup>12</sup> Stormwater Phase II Final Rule (64 FR 68722).

evaluate the effectiveness of individual control measures and the SWMP as a whole, requirements for industrial storm water discharges to the MS4, and reporting requirements.

The site-specific, activity-specific process of developing, implementing, and adjusting the pollution control practices contained in the SWMP constitutes the type of alternatives analysis and use of “the most effective and reasonable” . . . “methods of pollution, prevention, control, and treatment” cited as requirements under Alaska’s antidegradation policy for activities that would degrade water quality.

Control measures that prevent or minimize water quality impacts from municipal activities and construction activities are described in Part 3.0 of the proposed MS4 permit and in Chapters 4 and 5 of the *Alaska Storm Water Guide* (DEC, 2009). The *Alaska Storm Water Guide* provides detailed information on temporary storm water controls for active construction sites. The storm water management process outlined in those chapters consists of the development of a SWMP which provides the basis for all pollutant discharge prevention/minimization activities. As noted below, development of the SWMP requires a comprehensive evaluation of the community, the proposed construction activities, and possible pollutant discharges. This information is used to create the SWMP, which contains structural and non-structural management practices; specifications for selecting, sizing, siting, operating, and maintaining them; and procedures for inspecting the management practices and repairing or replacing them as needed.

A permittee is required to implement erosion, sediment, and other storm water management practices to avoid or minimize pollutant discharges, as detailed in Part 3.0 of the permit. Alternative control measures that may provide equal or better water quality protection are also allowable, and encouraged, especially where those alternatives would provide better water quality and environmental protection.

The Department uses an integrated approach in the permit for developing and implementing “methods of pollution, prevention, control, and treatment” required by Alaska’s antidegradation policy. This integrated approach includes requirements for:

- Erosion and sediment control, pollution prevention measures and prohibiting certain discharges (Part 3.1),
- Revised and expanded training requirements for the construction and post-construction (Part 3.1 and 3.2), and
- Monitoring of storm water discharges for illicit discharges (Part 3.5).

Most pollution controls at construction sites are not installed in isolation, but instead are part of a suite of control measures that are all designed to work together. Designers use the treatment train approach to design a series of practices that minimize storm water pollution and achieve compliance with Alaska Construction General Permit (CGP, AKR100000) requirements. For example, a designer may use as a series of control measures to prevent sediment discharges from a site – a diversion ditch at the top of a disturbed slope (to minimize storm water flowing down the slope), mulching on the slope (to minimize erosion), and silt fence at the bottom of the slope (to capture sediment). This treatment train would help protect the slope better than relying on a single control measure, such as silt fence.

The site-specific nature of the SWMP, the requirement that it be implemented in a manner that addresses storm water impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and provisions that the approach be adjusted to ensure ongoing storm water management effectiveness provide the implementation methods needed to appropriately support the antidegradation policy.

The Department has determined the methods of pollution prevention, control, and treatment in the permit to be the most effective and reasonable, which will be applied to all wastes and other substances to be discharged, and the finding is satisfied.

- 18 AAC 70.016(c)(7) (D) the alternatives analysis provided demonstrates that (i) a lowering of water quality under 18 AAC 70.015(a)(2)(A) is necessary; when one or more practicable alternatives that would prevent or lessen the degradation associated with the proposed discharge are identified, the department will select one of the alternatives for implementation; and (ii) the methods of pollution prevention, control, and treatment applied to all waste and other substances to be discharged are found by the department to be the most effective and practicable;

The *MS4 Permit Improvement Guide* (EPA, 2010), in conjunction with the six minimum control measures, constitutes the highest regulatory requirements for municipal storm water management. This permit, as part of the iterative process of improvement of MS4 permits, forms the basis from which incremental changes will be made in the future through changes in the permit requirements.

Green infrastructure is an approach that communities can choose to maintain healthy waters, provide multiple environmental benefits and support sustainable communities. Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage water and create healthier urban environments. At the scale of a city or county, green infrastructure refers to the patchwork of natural areas that provides habitat, flood protection, cleaner air, and cleaner water. At the scale of a neighborhood or site, green infrastructure refers to storm water management systems that mimic nature by soaking up and storing water.

LID is an approach to land development (or re-development) that works with nature to manage storm water as close to its source as possible. By preserving and recreating natural landscape features, LID minimizes effective imperviousness, creating functional and appealing site drainage that treats storm water as a resource rather than a waste product. Bioretention facilities, rain gardens, vegetated rooftops, rain barrels, and permeable pavements are some of the LID practices used to adhere to these principles. By implementing LID principles and practices, water can be managed in a way that reduces the impact of built areas and promotes the natural movement of water within an ecosystem or watershed. Applied on a broad scale, LID can maintain or restore a watershed's hydrologic and ecological functions.

The requirements contained in the Alaska CGP, the SWPPP development process (Part 5 of the CGP permit), development and implementation of the SWMP to include construction site storm water runoff control and post-construction storm water management control measures and good housekeeping measures (Part 3 of this permit), and BMP's provided in the *Alaska Storm Water Guide* (Chapter 4) comprise a comprehensive, integrated approach for developing and implementing "methods of pollution, prevention, control, and treatment" required by Alaska's antidegradation policy.

The Department has determined that the permit complies with the highest statutory and regulatory requirements for the industry and types of pollutants expected from this industry. The department concludes that this finding is satisfied.

- 18 AAC 70.016(c)(7) (E) except if not required under (4)(F) of this subsection, the social or economic importance analysis provided under (4)(G) and (5) of this subsection demonstrates that a lowering of water quality accommodates important social or economic development under 18 AAC 70.015(a)(2)(A); and

In order to conduct their important ongoing municipal and civic functions, the permittees require that infrastructure be constructed and maintained to accommodate important economic and social development in the area. Without road construction and maintenance, as well as storm water collection systems with discharge points, successful operations of the permittees important functions (and the citizens they serve) would be severely hampered. Storm water discharges associated with the permittee

activities will be controlled via the requirements of applicable SWMPs, which implement the most effective and reasonable practices. Accordingly, in order to provide important services and employment opportunities to the resident and visiting population, the lowering of water quality is necessary.

The Department has determined that the lowering of water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic and social development in the area where the waters are located and that the finding is satisfied.

- 18 AAC 70.016(c)(7) (F) 18 AAC 70.015 and this section have been applied consistent with 33 U.S.C. 1326 (CWA §316) with regard to potential thermal discharge impairments.

Discharges authorized under the permit are not associated with a potential thermal discharge impairment; therefore, the finding is not applicable.

## 8.0 OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### 8.1 Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies (commonly known as the “Services”) to consult with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to determine if the permitted actions could beneficially or adversely affect any threatened or endangered species. As a state agency, DEC is not required to consult with these federal agencies regarding permitting actions; however, DEC voluntarily contacted the agencies to notify them of the development of the permit and to obtain listings of threatened and endangered species near the proposed discharges. There is one listed species for Cook Inlet, the Beluga Whale with a designated critical habitat in the greater Cook Inlet and Knik Arm. The Services will be provided the draft permit and fact sheet during public review. Any comments received from the Services regarding the listing of threatened or endangered species will be considered prior to reissuance of this permit.

### 8.2 Essential Fish Habitat

Essential fish habitat (EFH) includes the waters and substrate (sediments, etc.) necessary for fish from commercially-fished species to spawn, breed, feed, or grow to maturity. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (January 21, 1999) requires federal agencies to consult with NOAA when a proposed discharge has the potential to adversely affect (reduce quality and/or quantity of) EFH. As a state agency, DEC is not required to consult with federal agencies regarding permitting actions; however, DEC has initiated discussions with NFMS on this permit.

This permit includes non-fishing activities that may have the potential to adversely affect the quantity or quality of EFH in upland and riverine systems. DEC addressed EFH considerations in its Antidegradation Analysis. DEC believes with the addition of the non-numeric effluent limits (the control measures detailed in Part 3.0 of the permit) that all the non-fisheries impacts expected by this industry are being addressed in the permit.

Most pollution controls at construction sites are not installed in isolation, but instead are part of a suite of control measures that are all designed to work together. Designers use the treatment train approach to design a series of practices that minimize storm water pollution and achieve compliance with APDES CGP requirements. For example, a designer may use as a series of control measures to prevent sediment discharges from a site – a diversion ditch at the top of a disturbed slope (to minimize storm water flowing down the slope), mulching on the slope (to minimize erosion), and silt fence at the bottom of the

slope (to capture sediment). This treatment train would help protect the slope better than relying on a single control measure, such as silt fence. Because the permit encourages the treatment train approach, DEC believes the permit addresses EFH considerations.

### **8.3 Permit Expiration**

The permit will expire five years from the effective date of the permit.

## 9.0 REFERENCES

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- USEPA 1999. Phase II Storm water Final Rule, 64 FR 68728-68731.



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- USEPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency). 2002a. *Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans, QA/G-5*. EPA 240-R-02-009. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Information, Washington, DC.
- USEPA. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) 2002b. *Establishing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Wasteload Allocations (WLAs) for Storm water Sources and NPDES Permit Requirements Based on Those WLAs*. Memorandum from Robert H. Wayland, III, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, and James A. Hanlon, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC.
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**Department of Environmental Conservation  
Response to Comments**

**For**

**Anchorage Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System**

**APDES Permit No. AKS052558**

**Public Noticed May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020**

**June 22, 2020**



**Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation  
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, AK 99501**

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Summary of Facility / Permit**

The Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit addresses storm water discharges within the Municipality. There are multiple outfalls into many receiving waters. The permit addresses construction activities, post construction activities, monitoring for illicit discharges, snow disposal practices, street sweeping requirements and practicing pollution prevention techniques. No mixing zone is proposed.

### **1.2 Opportunities for Public Participation**

The Department of Environmental Conservation proposed to issue an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) wastewater discharge permit to the MOA MS4. To ensure public, agency, and tribal notification and opportunities for participation the Department:

- identified the permit on the annual Permit Issuance Plan posted online at: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/index.htm>
- notified potentially affected tribes that the Department would be working on this permit via letter, fax and/or email
- posted a preliminary draft of the permit on-line for a 10-day applicant review *March 16, 2020* and notified tribes and other agencies
- formally published public notice of the draft permit on *May 1, 2020* in *the Anchorage Daily News* and posted the public notice on the Department's public notice web page
- posted the proposed final permit on-line for a 5-day applicant review
- sent email notifications via the APDES Program List Serve when the preliminary draft, draft, and proposed final permits were available for review

The Department received comments from *two* interested parties on the draft permit and supporting documents. The Department received one comment on the proposed final permit. The Department also requested comment from the Departments of Natural Resources (DNR) Fish and Game (DFG), the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This document summarizes the comments submitted and the justification for any action taken or not taken by DEC in response to the comments.

### **1.3 Final Permit**

The final permit was adopted by the Department on June 23, 2020. There were changes from the public noticed permit. Significant changes are identified in the response to comments and reflected in the final fact sheet for the permit.

## 2 Comments on the Permit

### 2.1 Comment Summary

The Department received one comment asking for additions to the list of receiving waters on the title page. Proposed additions in **bold**:

... is authorized to discharge from all municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) outfalls existing as of the effective date of this permit to receiving waters of the United States which include **but are not limited to:** Cook Inlet, **Knik River**, Eklutna River, Edmonds Lake Creek, Mink Creek, **Parks Creek**, Mirror Creek, **Little Peters Creek**, Peters Creek, **Carol Creek**, Fire Creek, Eagle River, Meadow Creek, South Fork Eagle River, Ship Creek, Chester Creek, North Fork Chester Creek, Middle Fork Chester Creek, South Fork Chester Creek, Fish Creek, Campbell Creek, North Fork Campbell Creek, South Fork Campbell Creek, Little Campbell Creek, Craig Creek, **Bayshore Creek**, Furrow Creek, Hood Creek, Little Survival Creek, Rabbit Creek, **Elmore Creek**, Little Rabbit Creek, Potter Creek, **Rainbow Creek**, Bird Creek, Indian Creek, **Tidewater Slough**, **Alyeska Creek**, **California Creek**, Glacier Creek, **Virgin Creek**, **Winner Creek**, **Crow Creek**, **Peterson Creek**, **Twentymile River**, **Portage Creek**, and **Placer River**, their tributaries, associated lake systems, and wetlands located within the corporate boundary of the Municipality of Anchorage, in accordance with the conditions set forth herein.

#### Response:

DEC revised the list of receiving waters as requested. Changes were made based on this comment.

### 2.2 Comment Summary

The Department received one comment on the list of impaired receiving waters within the MOA, Table 2 in Permit Part 1.4.4.1. Specifically, the addition of Eagle River for the identified pollutants of concern (ammonia, chlorine, copper, lead, silver) is confusing and inappropriate for the MS4 permit. The pollutants are solely connected to the Eagle River Wastewater Treatment Facility, and the responsibility for their tracking and removal belongs to Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility and not with the MS4 permittees. The commenter requested the removal of this waterbody from the table.

#### Response:

DEC revised Table 2 to delete the reference to Eagle River. Changes were made based on this comment.

### 2.3 Comment Summary

The Department received two comments on Permit Part 3.3.2.1, the first comment was to add the word “surface” before water quality. So the sentence reads, “... regulating private snow disposal sites to adequately protect surface water quality...”

#### Response:

DEC added the word surface so the reference is to surface water quality. Changes were made based on this comment.

### 2.4 Comment Summary

The Department received two comments on Permit Part 3.3.2.1, the second comment was on the use of the word “effective.” Specifically, what is “effective” and how is “effective” being determined? Effective

is subjective at best, is there a baseline testing results that are to be met? Are Best Practices to be referenced or adhered to? Who is to determine that efficacy is being met?

**Response:**

Part 3.3.2.1 was subsumed into Part 3.3.2 and Part 3.3.2 was revised to read as follows to remove the term “effective”:

Within four years from the permit effective date, the permittees must update the inventory and map locations of all permittee-owned and privately owned snow disposal sites that discharge directly to the MS4 or to receiving waters. Within four years from the permit effective date, the permittees must evaluate whether the current snow disposal ordinance and design criteria protect surface water quality by explicitly regulating the operation of private snow disposal sites within the MOA. Within four years write a report based on the results of the evaluation conducted above and submit the report with the corresponding Annual Report.

Changes were made based on this comment.

## 2.5 Comment Summary

The Department received one comment on Permit Part 3.4.2.2. The commenter wanted to extend the timeline for compliance as follows:

By the end of the permit term the permittees must identify locations and complete designs for one or more facilities to process catch basin and inlet cleaning materials (both solid and liquid portions of the waste stream) for proper handling and disposal. Funding for these facilities must be identified by the end of the fifth year for construction completion by the end of the second year of the subsequent permit term. The permittees may complete this part by following part 2.6, Shared Implementation with outside entities. Existing disposal sites may qualify, with proper documentation, to meet this permit requirement.

**Response:**

APDES permits cannot specify a requirement in a permit term to be carried out in the subsequent permit term. Part 3.4.2.2 was modified to address some of the changes proposed:

By the end of the permit term the permittees must design, fund, build, and operate one or more facilities to process catch basin and inlet cleaning materials (both solid and liquid portions of the waste stream) for proper handling and disposal. The permittees may complete this Part by following Part 2.6, Shared Implementation with outside entities. Existing disposal sites may qualify, with proper documentation, to meet this permit requirement.

Changes were made based on this comment.

## 2.6 Comment Summary

The Department received one comment on Appendix E on the incorporation of the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport within the permit boundary. The commenter believes that now that the Airport has an individual industrial storm water permit an exclusion from the MS4 permit makes for more distinct lines of authority.

**Response:**

The Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport has been within the MS4 permit boundary since the first MS4 permit. Regulated storm water discharges associated with industrial activity and/or construction activity are authorized to discharge through these MS4s, only when those discharges are separately permitted under the appropriate APDES permit. For example, storm water discharges associated with air transportation activities at facilities owned by the permittees, namely Ted Steven Anchorage International Airport and Merrill Field, are separately required to manage pollutants from aircraft, vehicle and equipment maintenance and cleaning areas. They must obtain authorization to discharge such “industrial storm water” through the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport General Permit (Permit #AKR061000) (ANC-GP) and DEC’s Multi-Sector General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities (Permit #AKR060000) (MSGP), respectively. Storm water discharges from gravel or sand sources owned or operated by the permittees must obtain APDES permit coverage under the MSGP. Currently, there are twenty-nine facilities that operate under the MSGP for industrial discharges of storm water within the MOA MS4. Discharge from vehicle or equipment maintenance areas must be permitted under the MSGP. Discharges from construction activities disturbing one or more acres operated by the permittees are subject to the requirements of the APDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Construction Activity (Permit #AKR100000) (Construction General Permit or CGP).

Storm water discharges from all other MOA or DOT&PF areas and facilities that are not associated with regulated industrial operations or construction activity meeting the regulatory definition at 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14) and (15) – including, but not limited to, drainage and runoff from permittee-owned parking areas, storage areas, and/or structural storm water runoff management controls – are therefore authorized by the MS4 permit. There are two MS4 permitted areas within the corporate boundary of the MOA: Port of Alaska and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. While they operate within the corporate boundary of the MOA MS4, they are separate and excluded from the requirements of the MOA MS4 because they are operating under their own separate MS4 permit requirements. If the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport storm water permit was an MS4 permit, and not an industrial storm water permit, it would be excluded from the MOA MS4 permit boundary.

No changes were made based on this comment.

**2.7 Comment Summary**

The Department received one comment on Proposed Final Permit on including the DEC Division of Environmental Health “Recommendations for general construction projects” with respect to public water system sources.

**Response:**

The commenter has made the same comment for including the recommendations in the Construction General Permit (AKR100000) and the Multi-Sector General Permit (AKR060000). Based on these earlier comments the Division of Water included a permit part on Projects near a Public Water System in both these permits. Both these permits deal with industrial activity that can be co-located to a public water system and source area.

Within the MOA MS4 permit the construction general permit and the multi-sector general permit address the industrial activities within the municipality that could affect public water systems. To include the recommendations in the MS4 permit would be duplication.

No changes were made based on this comment.