

# To All Residents and Visitors of the Village of Lexington

## **NPDES PHASE II STORM WATER REGULATIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Village of Lexington over the past few years has been in the process of implementing and becoming compliant to new storm water discharge regulations set forth by the State Of Michigan. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program has regulated wastewater discharges since 1972. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has been delegated to implement this program in Michigan. Regulation of water pollution from industries and municipal sewage treatment facilities has greatly improved water quality and now the focus of regulation is being directed to storm water discharges. Storm water pollution has been identified as the leading cause of water quality standard violations.

To prevent water pollution from storm water, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began by implementing the Phase I rules in 1990. The Phase I program was directed at industries, large construction sites, and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) with populations over 100,000.

The Phase II Rules, published in 1999, required NPDES permits for storm water discharges from small MS4s in “Urbanized Areas “ and for small construction sites by March 10, 2003. Polluted storm water runoff from urban areas and construction sites is often discharged into local rivers and streams without treatment. The Storm Water Phase II Rules establish a storm water management program that is intended to improve water quality by reducing the quantity of pollution that enters the storm water systems.

The Urbanized Areas are based on the 2000 US Census blocks in a very complicated process. EPA did not influence how the areas were designated. The Census Bureau has been designating Urbanized Areas for many years and the designations are used by several agencies for many different purposes, including roadway funding.

The Phase II Rules require MS4s in Urbanized Areas to implement the following 6 minimum control measures:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Participation/Involvement
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control
- Post-Construction Storm Water Runoff Control for Development and Redevelopment
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Storm water management has historically been handled by many different agencies and departments, at all levels of government. This new regulation will most likely lead to difficult decisions made between agencies and departments to ensure that control is adequate and that conflicts will be minimized.

## **NPDES PHASE II REQUIREMENTS**

The MDEQ offers communities the opportunity to design and implement a regional storm water management program based on watershed boundaries through a special NPDES discharge permit. This is known as the Watershed Permit. This allows communities to work together to comply with the NPDES regulations without duplicating efforts. The communities and organizations in the Sanilac County Urbanized Area ( The Sanilac County Road Commission, and The Village of Lexington ) have recognized that meeting these regulations and requirements is an opportunity to work together on a regional basis, so as to be more effective, and to save time and money. Under the watershed-based permit, communities can cooperate to implement their Public Education Plan ( PEP ), Public Participation Process ( PPP ), and Illicit Discharge Elimination Program ( IDEP ). The watershed-based permit does have the additional requirement of a Watershed Management Plan ( WMP ).

## **ILLICIT DISCHARGE ELLIMINATION PLAN**

An IDEP is required by the Watershed Permit. Each community and organization will be required to adopt an ordinance that prohibits illicit discharges and establishes legal authority to locate and remove illicit connections. Detailed maps of each community that show the location of each storm water outfall must be updated. Outfall investigations include screening of all surface water bodies in the Sanilac Coastal Urban Watershed. The outfall screening will consist of dry-weather testing for pollution indicators such as: deposits, staining, odors, debris, foam, nitrogen, phosphorus, detergents, color, and floatable matter. Indications of pollution identified in the screening must receive follow-up to effectively eliminate improper discharges.

## **CLOSING**

The Village of Lexington is asking for everyone's help in this effort to try and keep contaminants from entering the streams and lakes that our village and state are so well known for. As citizens of the village you can help us to identify possible sources of pollution by reporting suspicious materials or fluids that may be entering our surface waters and ground waters.

The following is a list of **possible pollutants** which may be encountered but is not limited to:

<i>Paints, Varnishes, and solvents</i>	<i>Oils and other automotive fluids</i>
<i>Hazardous liquids and solid wastes</i>	<i>Refuse, garbage, litter, other discarded objects</i>
<i>Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers</i>	<i>Sewage, or animal wastes</i>
<i>Dissolved or particulate metals</i>	<i>Wastes from building construction</i>

If you observe any of these types of materials being dumped or discharged to the ground or waters within the village it should be reported immediately.

The following is a list of **acceptable** discharges which may be encountered:

<i>Water line flushing</i>	<i>Landscape irrigation runoff</i>
<i>Diverted stream flows</i>	<i>High groundwater, or springs</i>
<i>Pumped groundwater</i>	<i>Discharges from potable water sources</i>
<i>Foundation Drains</i>	<i>Air conditioning condensates</i>
<i>Sump pump drains</i>	<i>Waters from non-commercial car washing</i>
<i>Flows from wetlands</i>	<i>Residential swimming pool waters</i>
<i>Residual street wash water</i>	<i>Flows from emergency fire fighting activities</i>

If you observe any of these types of materials being dumped or discharged to the ground or waters within the village it is perfectly acceptable and no action is needed.

**To report an illicit or suspicious discharge or the discharge of any of the pollutants listed above please contact the Village of Lexington Offices at 810-359-8631 or the Village of Lexington Water Treatment Plant at 810-359-5901.** Your help on issues involving this matter will be greatly appreciated. Please remember that the actions that we take today to help keep our environment clean and safe will affect our children of tomorrow!!!!!!

Sincerely,  
Christopher M. Heiden  
Village of Lexington  
MS4 Program Manager

**For More Information Please Visit:**

[www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313\\_3682\\_3714-118486--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3682_3714-118486--,00.html)

[www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater)

[www.epa.gov/nps](http://www.epa.gov/nps)