

Status Report:
NPDES in Lawrence
March 2011

Overview - The Kansas Department of Health and Environment issued a [permit](#) to the City of Lawrence on September 24, 2004, authorizing and at the same time regulating stormwater discharges from the city. This permit is a requirement of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), defined in amendments to the federal Clean Water Act.

As a permitted storm sewer operator, we're required to implement codes and practices to reduce pollution discharged from our storm sewers into the Kansas and Wakarusa Rivers. The program places emphasis on (1) public education about the impacts of stormwater pollution (2) enforcement of local laws to prohibit stormwater pollutants.

Federal Law – Per the Code of Federal Regulations, [40CFR122.34](#), Lawrence must:

- educate the public about the impacts of storm water discharges on water bodies and the steps that the public can take to reduce pollutants in storm water
- prohibit, through ordinance, non-storm water discharges into the storm sewer system and implement appropriate enforcement procedures and actions
- implement a plan to detect and address non-storm water discharges, including illegal dumping
- inform public employees, businesses, and the general public of hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste
- reduce pollutants from construction activities; require, through ordinance, erosion and sediment controls, control of waste materials and sanctions to ensure compliance
- implement procedures for site plan review which incorporate consideration of potential water quality impacts
- implement procedures for receipt and consideration of information submitted by the public
- implement strategies and an ordinance to address post-construction runoff from new development and redevelopment projects; include a combination of structural and/or non-structural practices appropriate for your community
- implement municipal operation and maintenance training to prevent and reduce storm water pollution from activities such as park and open space maintenance, fleet and building maintenance, new construction and land disturbances, and storm water system maintenance

Additional background and guidance is provided in the EPA's 1999 [Report to Congress on the Phase II Storm Water Regulations](#).

This regulation applies to all storm sewer operators within 465 urbanized areas across the nation. These areas contain 196 million people, or 70% of the U.S. population. Over the first 5-year permit term, each city is required to implement a program tailored to local conditions that meets the minimum standards set by the EPA.

City Code - Lawrence's stormwater pollution prevention [ordinance](#) was adopted in 2001 in preparation for these requirements. The ordinance applies to a broad range of pollutants and sources, and is based on model ordinances provided by the EPA. While most of the code language is taken directly from the original EPA rule; our ordinance also reflects several months of local public meetings and input.

Public Education - Consistent with EPA requirements, public education is a primary goal in the City's pollution prevention program. Public Works added an additional staff member in 2002 to assist with public education and ordinance enforcement. Educational materials have included flyers, web pages, announcements and presentations. We've also provided topic specific guidance to many groups such as contractors, restaurants and retailers.

Construction Site Pollution



Our *storm sewer system* consists of streets, curb inlets, surface drains and ditches. Runoff from rainfall and snow melt enters this system and is then discharged directly into our streams and rivers without treatment.

Construction site debris and sediment can obstruct this system and discharge harmful pollutants into water bodies. Pollutants commonly discharged from construction sites include sediment, solid waste, construction materials, concrete truck washout, paint, oil and debris.




For more information contact:
Shawna Trarbach, Stormwater Quality Technician
785-832-3136
www.lawrenceks.org/public_works/stormwater



Yard Waste

Yard waste entering storm drains or streams increases the risk of **flooding** and adds **pollutants** to the environment.

Leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste should be composted or placed in cans, City carts, or compostable paper bags for Monday curbside pick-up.



Storm Sewer vs. Sanitary Sewer

Our *storm sewer system* consists of street curbs, curb inlets, surface drains and ditches. Runoff from rainfall and snow melt enters this system and is then discharged directly into our streams and rivers without prior treatment.

Our *sanitary sewer system* is what our home plumbing and inside drains are connected to. This system goes to the sewer treatment plant before discharge into the river.





"No person shall release into the storm drainage system any discharge that is not composed entirely of uncontaminated stormwater . . ."

City of Lawrence
Stormwater Pollution Prevention Ordinance
Adopted September, 2001

Enforcement - The stormwater pollution prevention ordinance establishes the "Notice of Violation" as the first step in code enforcement. The Notice of Violation is given on a standardized form that instructs the responsible person to correct the violation. It has been our policy to use the Notice as an educational tool whenever possible.

Further enforcement actions are authorized in the event of continuing or dangerous violations, including stop-work orders, termination of water service, criminal prosecution or physical correction of the violation and recovery of cost. Stop-work orders have been issued where construction sites repeatedly fail to address violations.



Notice of Violation
 City of Lawrence — Department of Public Works
Stormwater Pollution

Responsible Person _____

Date of Violation _____ Location _____

Description of Violation _____

Remedy _____

_____ to be completed by _____

City of Lawrence laws prohibit the discharge of pollutants to the stormwater drainage system. Potential enforcement actions may include stop work orders, abatement and recovery of costs, termination of city services, prosecution and/or fines. You may appeal this notice in writing within 15 days of the notice date. Appeals should be addressed to the Director of Public Works, P.O. Box 708, Lawrence, KS 66044, 785-832-3123.

Signature of responsible person (optional) _____
Date

Enforcement personnel _____
Phone number _____
Notice Date

Implementation – Lawrence’s first five-year permit term ended on September 30, 2009. Federal law specifies that the program defined in our current permit must be fully implemented by that date. We’ve prioritized several major tasks as follows:

NPDES Phase II Implementation	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Household hazardous waste program	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Street sweeping program	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Public education	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Pollution prevention ordinance	█	█								
Construction site enforcement		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Set up Notice of Violation			█							
Illicit discharge enforcement			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
City employee education				█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Contractor and business education					█	█	█	█	█	█
Update Lawrence watershed mapping						█				
Monitor outfalls and track pollutants							█	█	█	█
Update zoning and development codes							█	█		
Platting and site planning enforcement								█	█	█