

New Notice of Intent for NPDES Permits

As of November 1, 2004, the Department of Environmental Protection is requiring use of the new Notice of Intent (NOI) for General and Individual NPDES Construction Permits. A few minor changes were made on the first two pages. Applicants now must check what type of project they are proposing (residential subdivision, commercial/industrial, etc.), where they obtained their latitude and longitude (EMAP, HGIS, etc.), and the type of land usage, such as agriculture or forest/woodland, along with a description.

One of the most notable changes on the new form is the question regarding fill materials. The applicant must now verify that fill materials have not been affected by a spill or regulated substance. If the fill has been affected by a spill or regulated substance, it may still be utilized if the various clean-up standards are met through remediation. All such fill must utilize Form FP-001, which certifies the origin of the fill material and the results of analytical testing. A copy of this form must be retained by the owner of the property receiving the fill.

The second major change on the NOI is in Section E, which has been completely revamped. The applicant must now check whether the PCSM plan was developed in accordance with an Act 167 Plan, an MS4 Permit, or the 2-yr/24 hour frequency storm. The project PCSW calculation table has been revised. You will also be required to better document the Best Management Practice you plan to implement. Also a new table has been developed which lists the most frequently implemented BMP's. You will now check off the BMP's that you will utilize, and also its intended function as to the whether it is for detention/retention, infiltration/recharge, or water quality. In addition you will be required to illustrate the volume of stormwater treated and acres treated by each BMP.

One of the most important things to remember when completing the new Notice of Intent is to read the instructions! Detailed directions are provided for each question, and an entire separate sheet is included to show how to fill out the calculation table in Section E. Important forms are also included, such as Form FP-001 to certify clean fill, a sample Municipal Notification Letter to municipalities and counties. This letter was previously referred to as the Act 14 notification letter. The new form must now contain answers to a series of Land Use Information questions. If the instructions are followed, the transition to the new form should be smooth for both the applicant and the Conservation Districts.

— Bridget Thompson

Delaware County Conservation District



Seminars scheduled for revised Notice of Intent

Back-to-back identical seminars dealing primarily with the state Department of Environmental Protection's revised NPDES Notice of Intent (NOI) will be held at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on November 19 at the Montgomery County 4-H Center on Route 113 in Creamery (one mile south of Skippack, on Route 73).

The seminars, each of which will last three hours, are sponsored by the Montgomery, Bucks, Chester and Delaware County Conservation Districts. Other topics to be covered will include clean fill policy and PCSWM requirements. A question and answer period will also be provided.

Developers, engineers, plan designers and municipal officials are urged to attend one of these two seminars that will feature presentations by DEP officials as well as Conservation District representatives. Post construction storm water management procedures will be reviewed and an update of the new BMP manual will be presented.

The deadline for registration by mail is November 15. A seminar mail application form is available on page 7 of this newsletter. Applications will also be accepted at the Delaware County Conservation District, 610-892-9499 until November 15.

Light refreshments will be available during both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Up to 80 persons will be able to attend each of these important seminars. For further information contact the Delaware County Conservation District at 610-892-9484.

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Post Construction meets a challenge in Edgmont Township

With new storm water regulations, developers are more focused on trying to meet two-year storm infiltration requirements. In Edgmont Township, the two-year storm is only the tip of the iceberg for one development.

Eagleview II is a 13.74 acre 30 single-family home lot development located in Edgmont Township, Delaware County. With no point discharge it was difficult to design post construction storm water management for this site. The site is situated above a shopping center on a significantly wooded area and with a small tributary about 100 feet downhill, adding to the challenge.

A large infiltration basin with a level spreader was proposed. The basin is designed to infiltrate runoff from the ten-year storm. A level spreader will function as an overflow. The seepage bed in the basin is comprised of filter fabric with AASHTO #1 stone and a 24" perforated pipe. All of the work on the basin is to be completed before the rest of the site improvements commence. So, keeping sediment and debris out of the system will be a priority. Vollmer Engineering created the design in conjunction with Ana Damerau of DEP and Ed Magargee of the Conservation District.



The basin is designed to infiltrate runoff from a ten-year storm.

The basin, which has been constructed and stabilized, is acting as a test project for future developments with infiltration.

*Kevin Boyle
Delaware County Conservation District*

Money available in the Red and White Clay Creek Watersheds for riparian restoration

Scientific research at the Stroud Water Research Center has shown that planting trees along small streams is very effective at improving water quality. The Center currently has a grant that enables it to offer free technical assistance to landowners in the Red & White Clay Creek Watersheds who want to help improve the creeks on their properties and help restore water quality in the region.

The greatest challenge to water quality is excess nutrient and sediment runoff. Forested stream buffers are the most effective tools for removing nutrient and sediment pollution from stormwater runoff.

A Riparian Buffer Consultant from the Stroud Water Research Center will create a Riparian Buffer Management Plan for interested landowners at no cost. This plan will give the landowner all the information required to plant and manage a riparian buffer. A variety of native trees and shrubs will be specified for planting. Additionally, the consultant will be available to address any questions that may arise over time concerning the management of the buffer.


Once the plan has been completed, the landowner will be eligible for cost share assistance from the federal government to install the buffer. Funding is also available for fencing to exclude livestock from the stream, streambank crossings for livestock and equipment access, as well as for streambank restoration. In order to be eligible for this assistance, the landowner must have a stream on their property in the Red or White Clay Creek Watersheds that is not forested. The property may be commercial or residential.

The goal of this program is to restore fifty miles of riparian buffers in both watersheds.

For more information contact Jessie Benjamin at 610-869-4285 or Jessie@taprootnativesdesign.com

*Jessie Benjamin
Tap Root Native Design*

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Brandywine/Christina Basin Tour

On Friday, September 10, 2004, the Chester County Conservation District held their annual Brandywine Christina River Basin Tour in partnership with the Christina Basin Task Force. The Brandywine/Christina watershed covers over half of Chester County, Pennsylvania and New Castle County, Delaware. The tour was held to showcase a few of the many sites that have implemented federally-funded Best Management Practices (BMPs) to better the watershed. About forty people attended the tour and six sites (three in each county) were highlighted.

The Chester County sites that were visited on the tour included an agricultural waste management system at Christian Fisher's farm in Honey Brook Township, a stormwater basin retrofit in Caln Township in the Ashbridge Square shopping center, and the mushroom waste management system at Greenwood Mushrooms in Kennett Township.

The tour viewed BMPs implemented in Christian Fisher's agricultural waste and barnyard runoff management systems, including a manure tank, a drop box to catch driveway water, and roof gutters over his barnyard. These BMPs are used in an effort to keep the clean water clean and contain the dirty water. These water quality improvements utilized funds from an EPA 319 grant for the Brandywine/Christina watershed at an 80 percent cost-share rate.

Ashbridge Square shopping center in East Caln Township was the next stop on the tour. In an effort to preclude stormwater runoff and flooding problems in this area, this project, which included a basin retrofit and wetland enhancement, was implemented using an estimated \$16,000 of

Christina EPA funds. Plants installed in the basin include duck potato, soft rush, hibiscus, New York iron weed, vervain, purple coneflower, butterfly weed, purple lovegrass, and brown-eyed susan. The basins are also expected to provide water quality enhancement for the adjacent shopping center parking lot by assisting in the removal of hydrocarbons, sediment, and other non-point source pollutants.

The final stop in Chester County was Greenwood Mushrooms in Kennett Township to view the mushroom waste collection system for the newly constructed mushroom houses. This system also uses the principle of separating dirty and clean water. When compost is loaded into the houses from the wharf, the dirty runoff is directed to the stormwater drop boxes and is blocked from flowing to the stormwater basin through the usage of inserts. Instead, the dirty water travels to a holding tank. When the loading wharf is clean, all of the stormwater runoff is allowed to flow to the stormwater basin. This waste management system at Greenwood Mushrooms was funded by the Red & White Clay Program PL-566 at a 65 percent cost share rate.

The tour stops in New Castle County included Shue Middle School "Smartyards" demonstration project, Wilmington's combined sewer overflows project, and a stream restoration project.

The Shue Middle School created a demonstration site for the Smartyards program by installing a backyard habitat garden. The children at

Shue Middle School spent a year learning about the program, and eventually designed and installed the garden themselves under the supervision of their teachers. This project is intended to promote wildlife habitat and aid in protecting the quality of streams, while serving as an ongoing educational tool for the children involved and the surrounding community.

The site in Wilmington toured a combined sewer system. An extensive management system was designed and installed to prevent the sewer from overflowing into streams and rivers in a large rainfall event. This system is a part of Wilmington's Long Term Control Plan that is being implemented to aid the city in catching and treating 85 percent of the flow from the combined overflow system.

The final site on the tour was a cemetery in New Castle County where a stream restoration project was done to protect the nearby mausoleum from structural damage by the encroaching stream channel, and to improve the quality of the stream. Cross vanes were installed to decrease erosion on the streambanks. A pool-riffle system was created to enhance aquatic habitat.

The tour demonstrated the many conservation efforts that have established multiple BMPs throughout the Brandywine and Christina watershed in both Chester and New Castle Counties. These efforts are contributing towards a greater purpose in protecting and remediating the streams and waterways within this watershed.

*Beth Arnold, Urban Resource Conservationist
Chester County CD*



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Bartram Park W-weir by pictures



This photo shows the existing conditions of the eroded bank and gravel bar.



The filling of the eroded bank began with covering an exposed sewer line with several tons of R-5 stone. The R-5 was then covered with material from the gravel bar.



Once the second arm was completed all erosion controls were removed and the banks received a final grade. The stream flowed freely through the two points and began to scour out holes in the channel as designed. Coir matting was placed on disturbed banks and native plants, seeds and live stakes were installed. This picture shows the weir completed and functioning.



Giant sandbags were placed by the front-end loader to divert stream flow away from disturbed areas. This erosion and sediment control was purchased from ACF Environmental.



The W-weir was constructed one arm at a time. Here you can see the first arm nearing completion. Once completed, the sandbags were switched to the other side of the stream and the water diverted through the opened arm.



The first big test! Only one month after completion, the stream overflows its banks completely covering the weir. It went on to survive another bankfull event and two hurricanes. The only damage after a harsh summer was two fallen stones easily restored with the loader.



Water that passed under the sand bags was pumped into a filter bag away from the disturbed section. The filter bag drained away from the bank preventing any trenches from forming.



The first arm of the weir begins to have water flow through. Work then began on the second arm. The first stone of the second arm can be seen at right.



A tour of the site was held in recognition of five years passing since Hurricane Floyd. The tour showed the progress made restoring an urban area into a naturalized well functioning floodplain.

Bucks Board and Staff tour conservation projects

Some 20 Bucks County Conservation District staff and board members viewed a wide variety of projects during the district's second annual bus tour of projects that required district participation and personnel.

First among seven sites visited was Warrington Lake, one of a series of Bucks County's flood control dams/lakes. It is also a part of a district three-year Growing Greener-funded lake and stream assessment. Warrington Lake is the subject of continuing debate involving residents who use it for recreation purposes and Aqua Pennsylvania (formerly Philadelphia Suburban Water Co.)

According to Gretchen Schatschneider, district watershed specialist, Aqua Pennsylvania operates a drinking water intake 25 miles south of the Warrington Lake. A blue-green algae produced in the lake washed into—and seeded—the Neshaminy Creek last summer. The algae, established in the lake that feeds the Aqua Pennsylvania water intake, both smells and tastes bad.

The district, along with county government officials and the water company, are working to identify a solution to the problem.

Next on the tour was a visit to the site of a 200-house development in Hilltown Township, where earth movers are using state-of-the-art global positioning systems on their equipment. The firm, Allan Myers, has grading plans downloaded on their equipment, which permits its equipment operators to determine elevations with exceptional accuracy without having to leave their cabs.

A visit to the Hilltown Township farm of district Farm-Family-of-the-Year Kenneth and Janet Beer gave evidence of what they did to win the award twice over the last 30 years and what they did to win the award again this year. In addition to extensive conservation practices on their home farm, the Beers spent considerable time and money to institute similar practices on two nearby properties that they farm through lease arrangements.


Brayton gardens, a TH Properties housing development in Richland Township, presented an unusual challenge. The 230-acre development, in close proximity to the sprawling Quakertown Swamp, required a 25-acre basin. When the basin was completed, water naturally covered most of the bottom of the basin and quickly came to resemble wetlands. Standing water at some of the head walls entering the basin led newly settled residents (most of whom were unaccustomed to life in the country) to immediately complain to township officials of mosquitoes and West Nile virus.

The giant basin, meanwhile, is turning into a magnificent natural area lined by tall trees and a wide walking path, but some residents remain wary of what some are calling the swamp in their midst.


The final tour stop was the former Mrs. Paul's fish processing plant site in the middle of Doylestown. The site, which required a Department of Environmental Protection Act 2 cleanup, took over a year of cleanup and preparation before construction could get underway. When fully built out, the five-acre site will boast 35 luxury homes with selling prices that start at a cool \$500,000.

*Fred Groshens
Bucks County CD*

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Jeff McKenna returns to Montgomery County

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