



# MS4 Storm Water Compliance & Assistance Program Update

March 2008

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## **NEW!** Tennessee MS4 Association Kickoff Meetings

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, one of the first actions of the **Qualified Local Program Innovation Grant** will be the development and facilitation of the Tennessee MS4 Association, with kickoff meetings to be held this month. During these meetings, we will discuss the goals of the innovation grant, the establishment of the Tennessee MS4 Association and the creation of an advisory committee that will assist in the development of criteria for the QLPs.

We believe that actively promoting a self-sustaining Tennessee MS4 Association will be key to the long-term success of the QLP and MS4 programs by providing an invaluable forum for communicating program information. The association will be facilitated by John Chlarson, who is with the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS). It will initially include four regional groups meeting quarterly, along with a statewide conference-styled event to be held annually.

We look forward to seeing all of you at one of these meetings:

Region	Venue	Date & Time
West Tennessee	Collierville Public Services Complex	March 19, 2008, 9-12pm
Middle Tennessee	Williamson County Administrative Complex Auditorium	March 20, 2008, 9-12pm
East Tennessee	Knox County Soil Conservation District Office	March 26, 2008, 9-12pm
Southeast Tennessee	Development Resource Center, Conference Room 1A	March 27, 2008, 9-12pm

Please contact Jennifer Watson with any questions.

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### EPA, TDEC, & MS4s collaborate on Green Infrastructure Design Elements for the 2008 MS4 Permit

Several EPA programs, including the Office of Wastewater Management and Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation are working together to support Tennessee's storm water program by developing specific storm water permit language that recognizes the water quality benefits from green infrastructure approaches. We will include requirements for the integration of low impact development and the use of green infrastructure in future construction activities in our reissuance of the MS4 permit in 2008.

In December 2007, EPA and state representatives met with over 20 large and small MS4s from across the state. We were very pleased to see the participation of the MS4s and to hear their comments and concerns, which ultimately will yield protective permit language that will complement their storm water programs and the overall goal of improving water quality in the State of Tennessee.

### MS4 Phase II Permit Reissuance

The MS4 Phase II permit expired on February 26, 2008. MS4 permittees were required to submit a notification form to Jim McAdoo to maintain coverage under the permit.

The division is currently working to finalize the draft permit. It should be available for public comment soon, with the goal for reissuance by late summer 2008.

If you have questions about the notification form or specifics about the draft permit, please contact Robert Karesh or Jim McAdoo.



## Draft 2008 303(d) List

The division has published a draft 2008 303(d) List, which is a compilation of waters in Tennessee that do not currently meet one or more water quality standards. The List is mandated by the federal Clean Water Act and is updated and prioritized for future TMDL study efforts every two years.

The division will be holding a series of public meetings in February and early March to discuss the list, plus we will accept written comments until March 17, 2008. Following the public review period, we will modify the 303(d) List as appropriate and will submit it to EPA for review and approval.

The list may be downloaded or viewed at: <http://state.tn.us/environment/wpc/ppo/2008draft303dlistPN.pdf>

If you have any questions, call Greg Denton at 615-532-0699 or [Gregory.Denton@state.tn.us](mailto:Gregory.Denton@state.tn.us). Please feel free to forward this message to others you feel might be interested in this public participation process.

## **NEW!** Guidance Available for MS4 TMDL Minimum Monitoring Requirements

The implementation portion of the TMDLs require that MS4s evaluate their program's effectiveness and demonstrate compliance by developing and implementing monitoring programs. UT-MTAS has developed guidance that discusses the minimum monitoring requirements and provides assistance in developing monitoring plans. The guidance also includes electronic monitoring reporting forms for recording and submittal of monitoring results. The guidance and monitoring forms are available at the following links:

**Minimum Monitoring Requirements for NPDES MS4 Program Effectiveness and Compliance:**

[http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/Citydept/SW/monitoring\\_requirements.pdf](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/Citydept/SW/monitoring_requirements.pdf)

**Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Worksheet:**

[http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/Citydept/SW/macroinvertebrate\\_monitoring.xls](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/Citydept/SW/macroinvertebrate_monitoring.xls)

**Pathogen Monitoring Worksheet:**

[http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/Citydept/SW/pathogen\\_monitoring.xls](http://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/Citydept/SW/pathogen_monitoring.xls)

For questions about specific monitoring requirements, please contact Robert Karesh. For questions concerning data collection or data management, please contact Debbie Arnwine at [Debbie.Arnwine@state.tn.us](mailto:Debbie.Arnwine@state.tn.us) or at (615) 532-0703.

## Reduce Costs by Using Low Impact Development Practices

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released a new report *Reducing Stormwater Costs through Low Impact Development (LID) Strategies and Practices*, which contains 17 case studies from across North America that show the economic viability of LID practices. Using these practices in construction projects can lower costs while improving environmental results.

"Low impact development can deliver big benefits for the environment and the economy and this report has the numbers to prove it," said Assistant Administrator for Water Benjamin H. Grumbles. "It pays to save watersheds, reuse stormwater, and grow sustainably with green infrastructure."

LID practices are innovative stormwater management practices to manage urban stormwater runoff at its source. The goal is to mimic the way water moved through an area before it was developed by using design techniques that infiltrate, evapotranspire, and reuse runoff close to its source. Some common LID practices include rain gardens, grassed swales, cisterns, rain barrels, permeable pavements and green roofs. LID practices increasingly are used by communities across the country to help protect and restore water quality. The report highlights examples that, in most cases, reduce project costs while improving environmental performance. Total capital savings ranged from 15 to 80 percent, with a few exceptions in which LID project costs were higher than conventional stormwater management costs. For a copy of the report: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/costs07/>.

### *LID and Green Infrastructure Links*

**Low Impact Development Center:**  
<http://www.lowimpactdevelopment.org/>

**EPA Low Impact Development Page:**  
<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/lid/>

**EPA Green Infrastructure Page:**  
[http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program\\_id=298](http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=298)

**Center for Neighborhood Technology:**  
<http://www.cnt.org/>

**KY Institute for the Environment & Sustainable Development**  
<http://louisville.edu/org/kiesd/>

