

# FACT SHEET



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Storm Water and Construction Office of Water Quality

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[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

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### **Description:**

- Storm water discharges are generated by run-off from land undergoing construction and impervious areas such as paved streets, parking lots and building rooftops during rainfall and snow events.
- In November 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) began Phase I of its Storm Water program requiring states to develop regulatory programs.
- Today, regulations known as Storm Water Phase II have been established in Indiana to reduce the impacts of storm water run-off from construction, industrial, municipal, governmental and institutional sources.
- General Storm Water rules are found in the Indiana Administrative Code at 327 IAC 15 (Article 15). Storm water run-off that is associated with construction/land disturbance is addressed under 327 IAC 15-5.

### **Environmental Impacts:**

- Storm water run-off that is associated with construction activities can have a significant impact on water quality. Storm water impacts can occur during active construction, as well as from run-off that is associated with the post-construction land use.
- As storm water flows over a construction site, sediment and other pollutants can be washed onto nearby properties and into waterbodies. The post-construction land use can also generate pollutants as storm water run-off discharges off of the property. The post-construction land use will determine the level and type of pollutants that are generated.
- Polluted storm water run-off can adversely affect the physical and biological integrity of Indiana's surface waters. Pollutants can reduce the recreational use of Indiana's waters and be detrimental to the habitat and diversity of aquatic organisms, fish, and other wildlife.

### **IDEM's Role:**

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- In accordance with this goal, IDEM administers 327 IAC 15-5 (Rule 5).
- Rule 5 requires a General Permit to be obtained prior to all land disturbing activities of one (1) acre or more.
- The General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Construction Plan/Storm Water Pollution Plan for each project meeting the applicability requirements of the rule.
- Project site owners are also required to file a complete Notice of Intent with the IDEM.

### **Citizen's Role:**

Citizen involvement has been and will continue to be a vital component of IDEM's overall plan to protect Indiana's environment and the health of Hoosiers. There are a number of ways citizens can prevent contaminated storm water run-off and help protect the quality of Indiana's lakes, streams and wetlands.

- In residential areas:
  - Don't dump unwanted cleaners, used motor oil, or old gasoline on the ground or into the storm sewer.
  - Follow the label when using pesticides and herbicides to avoid applying too much and reduce the chance for excess chemicals to wash off of surfaces when it rains.
  - Don't sweep leaves or grass clippings into storm drains.
- At construction sites:
  - Use erosion and sediment control measures during construction and excavation activities to prevent bare soil from washing into drains, ditches and nearby surface waters.
- At industrial sites:
  - Use appropriate storm water quality measures and implement management strategies to prevent refuse, equipment, raw materials and other potential sources of water pollutants from being exposed to rain and storm water.
- Submit complaints about storm water pollution to IDEM's Pollution Complaint Coordinator by completing an online form at [www.idem.IN.gov/5274.htm](http://www.idem.IN.gov/5274.htm) or calling (800) 451-6027, ext. 2-4464.

### **More Information:**

- For more information about storm water quality please visit IDEM's Storm Water Permitting Web page at [www.idem.IN.gov/4896.htm](http://www.idem.IN.gov/4896.htm).
- For more information about Rule 5 (Construction/Land Disturbance Storm Water Permitting), visit [www.idem.IN.gov/4902.htm](http://www.idem.IN.gov/4902.htm).
- For Rule 5-related questions or concerns, please call IDEM's Storm Water Program at (317) 233-1864.
- For more information about reporting a storm water complaint or a violation, visit IDEM's website at [www.idem.IN.gov/4904.htm](http://www.idem.IN.gov/4904.htm).