

## **US EPA Handbook: TMDLs to Stormwater Permits (Draft release to public: October 2008)**

Stormwater runoff is a significant contributor to water quality impairments across the country, particularly runoff from developing and urbanized areas. Currently there are thousands of 303(d) listed waters for stormwater-source pollutants such as pathogens, nutrients, sediments and metals. To effectively address these impairments it is important to strengthen connections between two key federal programs under the Clean Water Act – the TMDL program and the NPDES stormwater permitting program. Key challenges include how to develop detailed wasteload allocations for permitted stormwater sources based on limited data, and how to implement them into stormwater permit requirements based on the current best management practices. To address these challenges, EPA is developing a TMDL-SW handbook for State TMDL and NPDES permit writers. The Handbook will assume that the reader has a working knowledge of both the TMDL and the NPDES stormwater program and will provide background information on the basic regulatory and programmatic aspects of these programs. The Handbook will present a variety of approaches for developing and implementing stormwater-source allocations as follows:

- **Organizing discussions based on TMDL and permitting activities and processes.** The framework of the Handbook will follow the major activities in TMDL and NPDES permit development without implying that these activities occur in a “programmatic linear” fashion (i.e., TMDL activities always happens first, followed by permitting activities). The Handbook will discuss opportunities for integrating stormwater considerations in both required and optional TMDL and permitting activities, and will identify opportunities for improving collaboration and programmatic and technical connections.
- **Illustrating concepts using real-world case study examples.** To avoid theoretical discussions, the Handbook will focus on the range of existing approaches for addressing stormwater-source pollutant impairments in TMDLs and NPDES permits by presenting real-world case studies. Where real-world examples do not exist to illustrate a concept, the Handbook will provide a hypothetical example to assist readers.
- **Referencing existing resources for additional technical detail.** Recognizing that a variety of technical and programmatic guidances and resources exist, the Handbook will focus on presenting an overview of a concept, illustrating the concept through real-world case study examples to demonstrate the range of approaches, and providing the reader with a comprehensive list of relevant technical resources.
- **Recommending characteristics or elements of progressive, collaborative TMDLs and NPDES permits that promote implementation.** The Handbook will provide readers with examples of model or exemplary TMDL and stormwater permit components (e.g., WLAs, TMDL implementation plans, permit language on stormwater management programs and pollution prevention plans, monitoring plans).

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