

Division of Water Quality
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control
P.O. Box 029
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0029
Tel: 609-633-7021/FAX: 609-984-2147
www.njstormwater.org

January 23, 2004

Re: Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program
Highway Agency Stormwater General Permit (NJ0141887)
Request for Authorization (RFA) Package

Dear County, State, Interstate or Federal Agency:

As you know, Governor James E. McGreevey is committed to working with New Jersey's public officials to protect our water resources. To that end, on January 5, 2004, Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell adopted two sets of stormwater rules to address nonpoint source pollution, the largest threat to our water resources statewide. Included in this package were significant changes to the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES - N.J.A.C. 7:14A) Rules designed to implement Governor McGreevey's stormwater initiative, as well as Federal stormwater rules known as "Phase II." The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (Department) rules provide the framework for the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program, which affects all municipalities and counties, and many State, interstate, and Federal agencies that operate storm drainage systems referred to as "municipal separate storm sewer systems" (MS4s). The rules include the requirements for counties and such agencies to apply for a permit for stormwater discharges from "highways and other thoroughfares."

Based on information obtained by the Department, your agency operates a "highway or other thoroughfare" in accordance with the adopted NJPDES rules.

The Department has developed a Highway Agency Stormwater General Permit (Highway Permit) to regulate the activities of Highway Agencies. This permit serves as a "master permit" for Highway Agencies, however in order to obtain authorization under this permit, Highway Agencies must request authorization as discussed below.

On January 9, 2003 you were sent information that detailed the proposed changes to the rules, as well as the draft Highway Permit. The information enclosed today provides the final version of the Highway Permit that the Department will issue on February 2, 2004, as well as the materials that you need to apply for authorization (Request for Authorization (RFA) Form). **It is important to note that your RFA Form must be submitted to the Department by March 3, 2004.** There is no application fee, but a permit fee (not yet established) will be billed at a later date through a separate mailing. Once your complete RFA Form is received you will be issued the formal Authorization Page as well as detailed

guidance materials to assist you in complying with the permit. You will also be assigned a Case Manager whom you can contact for assistance.

This package also contains a Highway Matrix that briefly summarizes the “Statewide Basic Requirements” (SBRs) that form the core of the Highway Permit, a program information sheet, and a summary of changes between the draft and final Highway Permits. Please share this package with the appropriate personnel within your Highway Agency. Copies of information in this package, as well as the changes to the NJPDES rules, are also available at www.njstormwater.org. Guidance materials will be available on this website shortly.

In addition to the NJPDES rule changes, the Department has also adopted changes to the Stormwater Management Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:8) that affect your Highway Agency and the Highway Permit. Information on these changes is also available at www.njstormwater.org.

A series of training seminars will be held early this spring to assist Highway Agencies in understanding and complying with the Highway Permit. Information on these seminars will be made available at that time.

If you have questions or comments regarding the Highway Permit, or the changes to the NJPDES rules, please contact the Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control at (609) 633-7021. For questions or comments regarding the Stormwater Management Rules, please contact the Division of Watershed Management at (609) 984-0058.

The Department is committed to keeping your Highway Agency informed about future developments regarding the municipal stormwater program and looks forward to working with you to improve and protect New Jersey’s water quality.

Sincerely,

Barry Chalofsky, P.P., Chief
Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control

Enclosures:

- Highway Permit
- Highway Matrix
- Program Information Sheet
- Highway Agency Request for Authorization (RFA) Form
- Summary of Changes