

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, 2004

Re: Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program
Tier A Municipal Stormwater General Permit (NJ0141852)
Request for Authorization (RFA) Package

Dear Mayor and Governing Body:

On January 5, 2004, Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell adopted significant changes to the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES - N.J.A.C. 7:14A) Rules to implement Governor McGreevey's stormwater initiative, as well as to implement Federal stormwater rules known as "Phase II." The Department's rules provide the framework for the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program and contain the requirements for certain entities, including municipalities, to apply for and obtain a permit for stormwater discharges from their municipal separate storm sewers (MS4s). These rules affect all municipalities and counties, most public colleges and universities, as well as many State and Federal agencies. The rules assign municipalities into either Tier A or Tier B based primarily upon population factors.

Your municipality is one of 467 municipalities assigned to Tier A.

The Department has developed the Tier A Municipal Stormwater General Permit (Tier A Permit) that regulates the activities of the municipalities in Tier A. This permit serves as a "master permit" for these municipalities, however in order to obtain authorization under this permit, municipalities must request authorization as discussed below.

On January 6, 2003 you were sent information that detailed the proposed changes to the rules, as well as the draft Tier A Permit. The information enclosed today provides the final version of the Tier A 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 NJ Department of Environmental Protection (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.

Governor McGreevey has made \$6 million in grant money available to Tier A and Tier B Municipalities to use for certain activities required by the permits. The application form

for this grant is contained in this package and needs to be returned to the Department by March 3, 2004.

This package also contains a Tier A Matrix that briefly summarizes the “Statewide Basic Requirements” (SBRs) that form the core of the Tier A Permit, a program information sheet, and a summary of changes between the draft and final Tier A Permits. Please share this package with the appropriate personnel within your municipality. 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 municipality and the Tier A 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 Tier A Municipalities in understanding and complying with the Tier A Permit. Information on these seminars will be made available at that time.

If you have questions or comments regarding the Tier A 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 will keep your municipality informed about future developments regarding the Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program and looks forward to working with your municipality to improve and protect water quality.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures:

- Tier A Permit
- Tier A Matrix
- Program Information Sheet
- Tier A Request for Authorization (RFA) Form
- Tier A Grant Application*
- Summary of Changes