

## **Chapter 3 - Public Notice**

The Public Notice SBR requires compliance with all applicable State and local public notice requirements. The Department also recommends that Public Complexes (especially colleges and universities) more broadly include users, employees, and/or residents of the Public Complex, where appropriate, in developing, implementing, and reviewing the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SPPP). Such participation and involvement may substantially promote the success of this program.

### **WHAT IS REQUIRED?**

#### **Minimum Standard**

Public Complexes shall comply with applicable State and local public notice requirements when providing for public participation in the development and implementation of the Public Complex's stormwater program.

#### **Measurable Goal**

Public Complexes shall certify annually that all applicable State and local public notice requirements were followed.

#### **Implementation Schedule**

Upon the effective date of permit authorization (EDPA).

### **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?**

This SBR means that the Public Complex must comply with any applicable State and local public notice requirements when a public involvement/participation program is being implemented in regard to the Public Complex's stormwater program. The permit requires the Public Complex to comply with requirements for public notice that are already in effect under law. For some Public Complexes, an example can include the public notice requirements in the Open Public Meetings Act ("Sunshine Law," N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.).

However, the Department recommends that Public Complexes, especially colleges and universities, go beyond the SBR to include users, employees, and/or residents of the Public Complex more broadly in developing, implementing, and reviewing the SPPP.

### **WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

Public participation and involvement can be critical to the success of a Public Complex's stormwater program. Members of the public, especially users, employees, and/or residents of the Public Complex, who participate in the development and decision making process are more likely to take an active role in implementing this program and also serve as ambassadors to the program. In addition, reaching out to such persons and soliciting their involvement gives a Public Complex a broader base of knowledge to draw from and provides a conduit to other programs (e.g., watershed groups and other government programs). Opportunities for users and/or residents of the Public Complex to participate in program development and implementation include serving as representatives on a committee, attending public meetings, working as volunteers to educate other

individuals about the program, assisting in program coordination with other pre-existing programs, or participating in volunteer monitoring efforts.

In order for public participation projects to be successful, the participants must feel as though they have done something worthwhile. There are a variety of ways in which this can be accomplished, including:

- Taking pictures of participants to create a pictorial record of their activities and/or publishing them in the local or campus newspapers;
- Distributing logo items such as T-shirts, hats, badges, plastic water bottles, or other items to participants; or
- Providing each participant with a certificate of appreciation and/or a letter of thanks signed by the President, or other ranking official or officer, of the Public Complex.

When participants are made to feel as though their contributions are worthwhile they will be encouraged to continue to participate and to take a more active role. The more members of the community that support and encourage the Public Complex's stormwater program, the more successful it will be.