

ACRPC News

December 2002



New Stormwater Rules to Take Effect Early 2003

Stormwater is the water that runs off impervious areas such as paved streets, highways, parking lots and building rooftops during rainfall and snow events. Stormwater also runs off surfaces like lawns, playing fields, graveled roads and parking lots.

As it flows over surfaces, stormwater picks up a variety of polluting materials, such as animal waste, trash, fertilizers, pesticides, heavy metals, oil, phosphorus, nitrogen and soil particles. This water then drains directly into adjacent water bodies or wetlands, or infiltrates down into the groundwater.

Most storm water discharges are considered point sources of pollution. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) issues stormwater permits for parking lots, new construction and other large impervious surfaces likely to generate stormwater.

Starting in March of 2003, ANR will be issuing new types of stormwater permits. The change to ANR's stormwater permit-

ting that will affect local governments most directly is the new Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP).

The MSGP is a five-year permit that covers new and existing discharges of stormwater associated with certain types of industrial activity within the state.

A MSGP will be required by private and municipal entities identified on the MSGP SIC code list that have a stormwater discharge to either a municipal separate storm sewer system or to a receiving water.

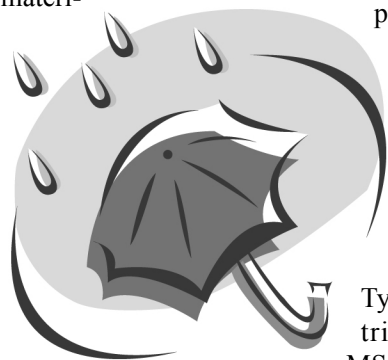
Typical municipal industries that will require a MSGP include wastewater treatment facilities and municipal public works garages. Typical private industrial activities that will require a MSGP include auto salvage facilities, paper mills, food-processing factories, manufacturing plants, and landfills. Facilities that repair and maintain vehicles and equipment, fuel vehicles, or clean equipment will also require a permit.

A "no exposure" certification will be available for those facilities that keep all of their materials and activities from being exposed to rain, snow, snowmelt or runoff.

The MSGP will require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan that evaluates the potential threat of your operations on stormwater quality and develops management procedures to minimize polluting stormwater runoff. Water quality monitoring of impacts on stormwater and periodic reports on the implementation of the procedures will also be required.

The MSGP is currently in draft form and the deadline for compliance will be established when the final language is released. The draft is available online, www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwaterMSGP. For more information, contact Margaret Torizzo, Environmental Analyst, ANR Water Quality Division, (802) 241-4320.

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns and DEC will be sponsoring free workshops around the state on the MSGP throughout December. One will be held the afternoon of December 13 in Rutland. Contact Jessica Hill at VLCT, (800) 649-7915, for more information.



December

Calendar

January

- 4 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 5 3:00 p.m. Economic Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 11 7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting. Kirk Alumni, Middlebury.
- 16 7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities and Services Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 17 7:30 p.m. Local Gov't Committee Meeting. Weybridge Clerk's Office.
- 18 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.

- 8 7:30 p.m. ACRPC Full Commission Meeting. Location TBA.
- 15 7:00 p.m. Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 20 7:00 p.m. Utilities, Facilities and Services Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 21 3:00 p.m. Economic Committee Meeting. ACRPC Office.
- 29 7:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting. ACRPC Office.

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Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR) will be sponsoring a series of educational workshops on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in December and January.

LWCF grants can be used by towns, schools and park districts to create or improve outdoor recreation opportunities. LWCF has provided over 100 Vermont communities and state agencies with more than \$26 million towards the acquisition, conservation and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

At the workshops, Sherry Smecker, Grants Administrator with FPR will present an overview of the LWCF program and answer questions about the application process. Members of the application review committee will be available to provide information and advice on writing a competitive application.

Applicants who attend one of the workshops earn five bonus points towards their 2003 LWCF application score. For those communities in the early planning stages, this is an opportunity to become familiar with a program designed to help towns create or improve outdoor recreation in their area. Workshops are being offered at the following locations and times:

Tuesday, December 10th, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Hartford Recreation Department

Thursday, December 12th, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the St. Johnsbury Community Resource Room

Tuesday, January 7, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Rutland Recreation Department

Tuesday, January 14, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Springfield Town Offices

Wednesday, January 22, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Burlington Recreation Department

Applications are due no later than 4:30PM Friday, **February 28**, 2003. Please contact Sherry Smecker (802) 241-3690 if you plan to attend a workshop or have any questions about the LWCF grant process.

Road Surface Management Software Available

RSMS (Road Surface Management System) is a computer program from The Vermont Local Roads Program for inventorying paved or gravel roads, conducting a condition assessment for each road, providing repair options with cost estimates and preparing town highway budgets.

Road data is collected and entered into the system to form the basis for objective decisions about overall road surface management and repair strategies.

The program provides a means to visually inventory and evaluate a multitude of possible road surface distress characteristics and place them into seven surface distress categories.

Based on the town's priorities and needs, typical repair strategies are outlined, with associated costs applied to each, based on up-to-date information. The program is flexible, and can be tailored to meet specific town needs.

This program is available through the ACRPC at no cost and can be requested by contacting Garrett Dague at 388-3141. A one-day training session is included with the software installation.



Brownfield Clean-Up

The Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Agency of Natural Resources will be filing an application with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a grant under the new brownfields law.

Vermont will be seeking funds for a recently authorized state revolving loan program for assessments of sites contaminated with petroleum and hazardous substances.

As part of that application we would like to identify any sites that may be potentially interested in participating. For more information contact Adam or Brandy at the ACRPC office, 388-3141.

Recreation Trails Grants

Applications for Recreation Trails Grants are due January 31. These grant funds are for (1) maintenance on existing trails; (2) restoration of areas damaged by use of trails; (3) development of trail-side and trail-head facilities; (4) trail accessibility; (5) construction of new trails; (6) preparation and printing of trail-related maps, studies, and other educational information and materials related to trails; (7) trail protection including fee simple title to property or easement acquisition for recreation trails or recreation trail corridors; and (8) purchase of hand tools for trail work.

These grants will be awarded to municipalities and nonprofits and require a minimum 20% local match. There will also be a mini-grant option that requires no match.

For more information, contact Brandy at ACRPC (bsaxton@sover.net or 388-3141).

q r p VYCC Work Crews

Since 1985 municipalities, public agencies and other community organizations have hired Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) crews for a variety of projects including constructing and improving trails, building bridges, stabilizing streambanks, and restoring historic sites and cemeteries.

While VYCC is best known for doing work constructing and maintaining trails, the crews have skills and experience in a variety of areas such as carpentry, masonry and landscaping.

If you have a project in your community that a VYCC work crew could help you complete, contact them and talk about it. In addition to work crews, they provide assistance with project planning and funding. For more information, contact Paul Schmidt (802) 241-3904 or vyccpaul@aol.com.

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