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NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit ANNUAL REPORT

Part I. General Information

Contact Person: Mark Young

Title: Executive Director

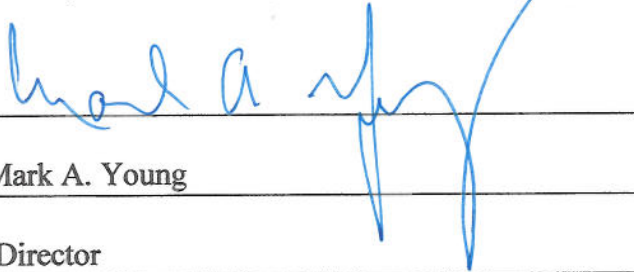
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Certification:

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Signature:



Printed Name: Mark A. Young

Title: Executive Director

Date:

5-23-11

Part II. Self-Assessment

The City of Lowell has successfully increased stormwater control awareness amongst the public by implementing the following programs: Earth Day activities; hazardous waste collections; pet waste disposal policies; and distribution of stormwater educational materials.

In 2003, the City of Lowell completed drainage outfall mapping and began implementing a program to identify and eliminate illicit connections to its drainage system. As a result of the 2003 outfall identification project, dry weather screening of outfalls identified nineteen outfalls that required sampling. All of these outfalls were sampled; initial results targeted three suspect outfalls. Subsequent sampling of the three outfalls indicated no illicit discharges.

In 2010, the City of Lowell initiated a new drainage outfall identification project. As a result of this effort, nearly 300 outfalls were identified in the field, characterized in an inventory report, and captured in the city's Geographical Information System (GIS). This data will be used to enhance understanding of the city's drainage outfalls and improve the city's drainage system mapping. During the 2010 outfall monitoring project, 33 drainage outfalls with dry-weather flow were screened as potential illicit discharges. The outfalls were analyzed for pH, temperature, E-coli, and Fluoride. Visual and olfactory observations were also recorded for these discharges.

Of the dry-weather discharges evaluated, one illicit connection was discovered – a direct sewer discharge into the Concord River. The discharge was traced to an illegal sewer connection; the owner was notified of the illegal connection and required to disconnect the sewer service. Subsequent monitoring has confirmed that this illicit discharge has been re-directed to the public sewer system. The City of Lowell will continue to monitor drainage outfalls and inspect private sewer system connections to ensure that no illicit connections are made to the city's drainage system.

The City of Lowell inspects construction sites for conformance with city policies for erosion control and site stormwater management. Private development projects are reviewed by city departments for adherence to Massachusetts Stormwater Regulations. Stormwater BMPs for private developments are periodically inspected to ensure proper operation and maintenance.

For many years, the City of Lowell has implemented street sweeping and catch basin cleaning programs to reduce the migration of solids in the city's drainage system. The city anticipates the procurement of contracted services to implement its street sweeping and catch basin cleaning in order to enhance the effectiveness of these preventative maintenance programs. Maintenance of equipment and facilities are carefully managed in order to minimize the potential for contaminants to enter the drainage system.

The City of Lowell has completed the required self-assessment and has determined that our municipality is in compliance with all permit conditions.

Part III. Summary of Minimum Control Measures

1. Public Education and Outreach

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year Eight (2010) (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities –
1.1	Hold annual Earth Day Celebration	Neighborhood Services Department	Event Held	Earth Day held on April 22, 2010. The city notified the public in advance by newspaper, local access TV	Hold 2011 Celebration.
1.2	Develop and Distribute Stormwater Brochure	Department of Public Works (DPW)	Develop stormwater brochure in Year 1 and distribute in Year 2	City adopted the EPA Brochure entitled “After the Storm” for stormwater education in the City. Over 2,000 brochures have already been distributed to the public. Copies of the EPA brochure are available to the public at City Hall; DPW; Water Plant; Wastewater Plant; City Clerks Office; City Hall; Public Libraries; Division of Planning & Development; Neighborhood Services Department.	Continue distributing and maintaining copies of the Stormwater Brochure at the public distribution sites as needed.
1.3	Enhance Awareness of Proper Pet Waste Disposal at City Parks	City Clerk, Parks Dept.	Pet Waste Brochure developed in Year 2; and distributed to all licensed dog owners in Years 3-5. Pet waste signs to be installed at City Parks in Years 2-5.	The Stormwater Brochure (discussed above) includes educational information on Pet Care. Flyers discussing the Animal Control Ordinance are available at DPW and posted on signs at the City’s parks. Lowell maintains at least 75 signs and added another 40 signs at City parks posting the Animal Control Ordinance.	Continue to maintain supply of Stormwater Brochures. Coordinate with City Clerks Office to ensure awareness of Animal Control Ordinance.

2. Public Involvement and Participation

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year Eight (2010) (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities –
2.1	Comply with State Public Notification Guidelines	City Clerk; other City Dept.	Comply with State public notification guidelines	City posted all applicable meetings and environmental awareness events according to state guidelines including local access TV channel.	DPW to continuing developing website-based meeting notifications.
2.2	Hold Annual Household Hazardous Waste/Tire Collection Days	DPW	Hold hazardous waste collection day annually	Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day was held on May 22, 2010 & September 11, 2010. The event was advertised in the local newspaper, on local access TV and on the City website. Approximately 700 residents participated. DPW retains the manifests of the household hazardous waste collected.	Hold 2011 Collection Day
2.3	Install Catch Basin Plaques	Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility	50 catch basin plaques installed each year	The City of Lowell far exceeded the measurable goal in 2010, with 212 catch basin plaques installed in the past year. The city has incorporated catch basin characterization into its catch basin cleaning program. Once a catch basin is cleaned, another crew returns to capture location, configuration, and condition. At that time, the catch basin is identified with a plaque that reads “<i>No Dumping. Flows to River</i>”.	The City will consider coordination with local groups to assist in the catch basin identification program. At least 50 catch basins will be identified each year.

4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year Eight (2010) (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities –
4.1	Continue to Apply Standard 8 of MA Stormwater Policy	Conservation Commission	Standard 8 of MSP applied	The City of Lowell's Conservation Commission requires proper stabilization of all sites during construction including, but not limited to, the installation of erosion control measures. Twenty-one (21) projects were reviewed that incorporated stormwater management procedures.	Continue enforcement of Standard 8 for proposed development projects in the City.
4.2	Continue to Inspect/Maintain Control Measures at Construction Sites	City Engineer	Continue Existing Program	City Engineer's Office inspects all sites daily while construction activity is going on. Any activities that needed to be addressed were brought to the attention of the site developer immediately, corrective action was taken and the site was re-inspected. No violations were reported.	Continue City's Site Inspection Policies.
4.3	Continue to Enforce procedures for collection/filing of public comments	City Engineer/ City Clerk	Continue Existing Program	City Clerk keeps public comments on file. When complaints are received, City Engineer's Office responds immediately. No violations were reported.	The City will continue to implement and maintain the E-Gov software and track public complaints.
4.4	Develop and present an Ordinance for Erosion Control Measures and Construction Material Management for Construction Sites more than 1-acre.	City Engineer	Draft Ordinance language and present to City Council for approval	City continued the process of revising Rules and Regulations governing site developments and erosion control. Currently, the City Engineer and Planning Board have enforced erosion control measures for all projects that have come under their review for the last ten years.	Planning Board to complete revisions to Rules and Regulations that adopt formal guidelines for erosion control for developments of one acre or more. Approval of the Rules and Regulations is dependent on City Council vote.

5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year Eight (2010) (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities –
5.1	Continue application of Planning Board Rules and Regulations for Subdivisions	City Engineering	Continue enforcement of existing regulations	City has enforced Rules and Regulations for all projects that have come under its review. Fifty-nine (59) projects were reviewed last year.	Continue enforcement of existing Rules and Regulations. Revise accordingly – see BMP 4.4.
5.2	Apply Standards 2, 3, 4, 7 and 9 of MA Stormwater Policy to the entire City	City Engineering	Develop/Incorporate modifications to existing regulations as needed	City Engineer's Office and Planning Board have enforced erosion control measures for all projects that have come under their review for the last ten years. Planning Board is in the process of revising its Rules and Regulations. City expects to incorporate formal reference to the MA Stormwater Policy Standards.	City to complete revisions to Rules and Regulations. Approval of the Rules and Regulations is dependent on City Council vote.
5.3	Develop/Implement Ordinance/Regulation to ensure long-term maintenance of private structural BMPs.	City Engineering	Draft Bylaw developed and presented to City Council	City enforces stormwater management in all projects that come under its review. Each development that incorporates a private BMP must submit an Operations and Management Plan for the BMP.	City to complete revisions to Rules and Regulations. Approval of the Rules and Regulations is dependent on City Council vote.

6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping in Municipal Operations

BMP ID #	BMP Description	Responsible Dept./Person Name	Measurable Goal(s)	Progress on Goal(s) – Permit Year Eight (2010) (Reliance on non-municipal partners indicated, if any)	Planned Activities –
6.1	Continue Street Sweeping Program	DPW	Percentage of streets swept annually with emphasis on sensitive receptors	City maintained its current street sweeping and residuals disposal program to reduce the migration of solids in the city's drainage system. All (100%) of city streets were swept in 2010.	The City of Lowell anticipates the procurement of contracted services to implement its street sweeping program in order to enhance the effectiveness of this preventative maintenance program.
6.2	Continue Catch Basin Cleaning Program	Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility	Percentage of catch basins cleaned annual; with emphasis on sensitive receptors	City maintained its current catch basin cleaning and residuals disposal program to reduce the migration of solids in the city's drainage system. Approximately 200 catch basins were cleaned in 2010.	The City of Lowell anticipates the procurement of contracted services to implement its catch basin cleaning program in order to enhance the effectiveness of this preventative maintenance program.
6.3	Continue Salting and Snow Removal Practices	DPW	Continue existing programs for salt storage/use and management, especially in sensitive areas	City continued its existing salt storage/snow removal practices. Three additional salt/sand storage yards were deployed in 2010. Records of salt use are kept by DPW. City continued to consider salt reduction methods and used deicing alternatives whenever practical.	Continue existing program.
6.4	Continue Vehicle Washing Practices	DPW	Continue existing program in DPW yard	City vehicles were washed in approved areas.	Continue existing program. Modify practices as necessary to minimize stormwater impacts.
6.5	Continue Vehicle Maintenance	DPW	Continue existing program in DPW yard	City vehicle maintenance was performed in approved areas. Vehicle material waste was disposed of off-site by approved waste handlers.	Continue existing program. Modify practices as necessary to minimize stormwater impacts.
6.6	Park and Landscape Maintenance	Parks Department	Minimize herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers in sensitive areas; maintain records	The City only applies fertilizers to areas with irrigations systems. Records of fertilizer/herbicide/pesticide use are maintained by the Parks Department. The City has reduced its use of fertilizers to improve stormwater quality.	Continue existing program. City to continue to examine existing fertilizer practices and make revisions as necessary to minimize impact to stormwater runoff and receiving streams.
6.7	Employee Education Program	DPW	Four hours of training on stormwater topics per permit term	City reviewed potential training materials.	City to initiate training of employees on stormwater impacts during this period.