

## EPA Just Reissued the MA Small MS4 Permit – Now What?

Today, EPA published in the Federal Register the much-debated and highly anticipated revised *General Permit for Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in Massachusetts*. EPA's announcement, including final permit language and supplemental information can be reviewed [here](#). EPA's written response to public comments is posted [here](#).

Here's what you need to know.

**Schedule of Informational Public Meetings:** You can hear about the new requirements directly from EPA permit writers and ask questions during one of these public meetings:

- **Western MA.** Monday May 9, 2016 at 9:30 am at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield.
- **Southeastern MA and Cape Cod.** Wednesday May 18, 2016 at 12:30 pm Lecture Hall A, Science Building; Cape Cod Community College, 2240 Route 132, West Barnstable.
- **Northeastern MA.** Thursday May 19, 2016 at 8:00 am at Haverhill Campus - Northern Essex Community College (100 Elliot Street), Haverhill.
- **Central MA.** Tuesday May 24, 2016 at 8:30 am at the 495/MetroWest Partnership 200 Friberg Parkway, Westborough.
- **Boston Area.** Monday June 6, 2016 at 9:00 am at EPA Region 1, 5 Post Office Square, Boston.



**Changes to Note.** Our stormwater experts are looking at the details now, and we will have more information soon. Some notable changes based on our collective comments to EPA are:

- **New Effective Date.** The permit effective date is **July 1, 2017**, providing even more time than we expected for budget planning and to continue work before Permit Year 1.
- **Longer Timeline for Compliance:** Pay close attention to the updated schedule of program milestones and corresponding program expenditures, **particularly for the IDDE Program.**
- **The requirement to physically label all outfalls has been removed from the permit.** Hooray!
- **No more impervious cover tracking.** That is a win!
- **Maintenance and improvement of existing roadways is exempt from post-construction stormwater management recharge requirements.** Redevelopment activities for only maintenance and improvement of existing roadways (including widening a single lane, adding shoulders, correcting intersections, improving existing drainage, and repaving) are exempt from meeting pretreatment and recharge requirements set by EPA.

**Reminder: Annual Reports still due May 1.** Don't forget to submit your annual report required under the 2003 General Permit to EPA and MassDEP by May 1! Instructions for preparation and submittal of Annual Reports can be found [here](#).

**We can help.** Please don't hesitate to contact us with your questions. Tighe & Bond has been working with communities like yours to implement all aspects of municipal stormwater management since EPA's program began in 2003. We look forward to helping you understand what the new requirements will mean for you and design your program for success.

### Tighe & Bond's Stormwater Team

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