

Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision

For proposed Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) General Permit No. TXR040000 for discharges from small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) into surface water in the state.

Issuing Office: Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Prepared by: Stormwater & Pretreatment Team (MC-148)
Wastewater Permitting Section
Water Quality Division, Office of Water
(512) 239-4671

Date: August 16, 2013

Permit Action: Amendment and Reissuance of a General Stormwater Permit for
Phase II (Small) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
(MS4s)

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director’s Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

I.	Summary	3
II.	Executive Director’s Recommendation.....	4
III.	Permit Applicability and Coverage	5
A.	Regulated Small MS4s Subject to Permitting.....	5
B.	Designated Small MS4s Subject to Permitting.....	6
C.	Permit Waivers	6
D.	Ineligible Discharges.....	7
E.	Allowable Non-stormwater Discharges	8
F.	Discharges from Small MS4 Construction Activities.....	9
IV.	Permit Conditions and Effluent Limitations	11
A.	Notice of Intent	11
B.	Public Notice and Public Participation.....	11
C.	Stormwater Management Program (SWMP)	12
D.	Reporting Requirements	34
V.	Changes From Existing General Permit:	35
VI.	Addresses	38
VII.	Legal Basis.....	38
VIII.	Regulatory Background.....	39
IX.	Permit Coverage	39
X.	Technology-Based Requirements	41
XI.	Water Quality-Based Requirements	42
XII.	Monitoring	42
XIII.	Procedures for Final Decision.....	43
XIV.	Administrative Record	43

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director’s Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

I. Summary

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is proposing to amend and renew the TPDES general permit for phase II (small) municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), TXR040000. This general permit was first issued and effective on August 13, 2007, and authorizes discharges from small MS4s into surface water in the state. The general permit specifies which small MS4s must obtain permit coverage, which are eligible for waivers, and which must obtain individual permit coverage. The permit also specifies that where discharges will reach waters of the U.S., a stormwater management program (SWMP) must be developed and implemented, and includes the minimum requirements for the SWMP.

The principal changes to the existing general permit include the following:

1. Permit coverage

- a. Operators of small MS4s that are fully or partly located within an urbanized area, as determined by the 2000 or the 2010 Decennial Census, must obtain authorization for the discharge of stormwater runoff, and are eligible for coverage under the general permit unless otherwise specified. (Permit Part II.A.1).
- b. Operators of small MS4s that were previously authorized under the general permit must reapply for coverage under the reissued general permit. (Permit Part II.A.3).
- c. Regulated small MS4s are categorized into four levels in the permit, with different permit requirements applied to each level for some of the program elements. For the purpose of this section, the level of a small MS4 is based on the population served by the small MS4 within the 2010 UA, except for non-traditional MS4s such as transportation entities (Permit Part II.A.5):
 - (1) Level 1 serves a population of less than 10,000 within a UA;
 - (2) Level 2 serves a population of at least 10,000 but less than 40,000 within a UA. This category also includes all non-traditional small MS4s such as counties, drainage districts, transportation entities, military bases, universities, colleges, correctional institutions, municipal utility districts, and other special districts (regardless of population served in the UA);
 - (3) Level 3 serves a population of at least 40,000 but less than 100,000 within a UA; and
 - (4) Level 4 serves a population of 100,000 or more within a UA.

2. Impaired Water Bodies and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

- a. Revised the section entitled “Impaired Water Bodies and Total Maximum Daily Load Requirements” to address discharges to impaired water bodies listed in accordance with Section 303(d)(1) of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). (Permit Part II.D.4).

3. Stormwater Management Program (SWMP)

- a. Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) - The current permit includes six (6) required MCMs in the SWMP. The permit revises and to some extent,

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

reorganizes, the existing MCMs to include additional controls and details where appropriate. The revised list of MCMs includes (1) Public Education, Outreach, and Involvement; (2) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination; (3) Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control; (4) Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment; (5) Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations; and (6) Industrial Stormwater Sources. Portions of these MCMs are required only for certain levels of small MS4s; for example, MCM (6), related to Industrial Stormwater Sources, is required only for Level 4 permittees, as they are similar in populations to Phase I MS4s, which this MCM is based on. The permit maintains the optional 7th MCM, related to construction activities where the small MS4 is the site operator (Permit Part III.B).

- b. Added a section describing the kind of legal authority a small MS4 is required to have in order to develop and implement the SWMP. The section divides small MS4s up into traditional small MS4s (for example, cities) and non-traditional small MS4s (for example, counties, drainage districts, transportation entities, and municipal utility districts). Non-traditional small MS4, which might lack the enforcement authority and be unable to meet the goals in the permit, must either enter into interlocal agreements or notify the TCEQ as needed to report incidences of noncompliance.
 - c. Added a section requiring small MS4s to ensure resources and funding necessary to meet all requirements of the permit (Permit Part III.A.4).
 - d. Added a section requiring small MS4s to develop enforcement measures to respond to violations (Permit Part III.A.6).
4. MS4-operated construction sites (Optional 7th MCM)
- a. Stormwater Runoff from Concrete Batch Plants
- Updated language describing stormwater runoff from concrete batch plant at construction sites where the MS4 operator is the construction site operator and the MS4 operator elects to utilize the optional 7th MCM related to municipal construction. The language was updated to correspond to the TPDES construction general permit (CGP) TXR150000, March 5, 2008 (Permit Part VI.E).
- b. Effluent Limits
- Added effluent limits for regulated construction sites based on the federal Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELGs) at 40 CFR Part 450, and consist of a series of Best Management Practices (Permit Part VI.J.7). No numeric effluent limits are included at this time.

II. Executive Director's Recommendation

The executive director has made a preliminary decision that this general permit, if reissued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. It is proposed that the general permit be issued to expire five years from date of issuance following the requirements of 30 TAC § 205.5(a).

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

III. Permit Applicability and Coverage

There are two ways in which a small MS4 would be required to obtain permit coverage. First, the federal NPDES Phase II stormwater rules at 40 CFR § 122.32(a)(1) require authorization for the discharge of stormwater from small MS4s located fully or partially within an urbanized area (UA) as defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census (Census). These small MS4s are often referred to as *regulated* small MS4s. In addition, TCEQ can *designate* a small MS4 as requiring coverage (see federal Phase II rules at 40 CFR §§ 122.32(a)(2) and 123.35(b)). There are two groups that fall into this category. First, the rules require that TCEQ develop and apply designation criteria to small MS4s located outside of a UA which serve a jurisdiction with 10,000 or more people, and that have an average density of 1,000 or more people/square mile (see 40 CFR § 123.35(a)(2)). This assessment was required to be conducted before December 9, 2002, and the TCEQ assessed those small MS4s meeting this criteria by the required deadline (none were designated at that time). Secondly, the rules require TCEQ to designate any small MS4 as a regulated small MS4 where the small MS4 substantially contributes pollutants to a physically interconnected regulated MS4. Small MS4s meeting either of these criteria would be referred to as *designated* small MS4s. The rules also allow the TCEQ to designate additional small MS4s at any time. The portion of the small MS4 required to meet the conditions of the proposed general permit is that portion located within a UA, as well as any portion that is individually designated by the TCEQ. Maps detailing UAs is available at: <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/2010urbanruralclass.html>

The UA maps were updated by the U.S. Census Bureau during 2012 based on the results of the 2010 U.S. Census. Newly identified UAs on the updated maps will also be regulated under the general permit.

In the preamble to the Phase II rules (See Federal Register (FR) 64, Number 235, page 68749), the EPA discusses instances where a municipal separate storm sewer may not be considered a system. The TCEQ agrees that certain complexes may have storm drainage structures that operate independently of each other (such as roof top drains flowing to the city street) rather than as a system. The TCEQ believes that most elementary and secondary schools do not operate a system, and that each school building would normally drain to a city's MS4 rather than to a system of drains operated by a school district. Similarly, a public office building complex may include roof and parking lot drains that flow to another entity's system. Universities, federal facilities, and many other public complexes do have a constructed drainage system, which would be defined as a small MS4, even if the drains eventually reached another MS4. In this general permit, the definition for small MS4 excludes storm drains associated with municipal (publicly owned) office and education complexes, where the complexes serve a nonresidential population, and where the buildings are not part of a larger MS4.

A. Regulated Small MS4s Subject to Permitting

The proposed general permit would authorize the discharge of stormwater runoff and certain non-stormwater discharges from the following small MS4s:

1. Small MS4s located wholly or partially within an urbanized area (UA) as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau in the 2000 or 2010 Census, and
2. Small MS4s individually designated by the TCEQ as described in Section III.B of this fact sheet.

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

B. Designated Small MS4s Subject to Permitting

Certain small MS4s may be designated by the TCEQ as requiring permit coverage based on federal requirements at 40 CFR § 122.32(a)(2). The TCEQ has developed the following criteria, one or more of which may be considered in designating a small MS4:

1. Controls for discharges are determined to be necessary for source water protection of public drinking water resources based on the results of source water assessments by the TCEQ.
2. Controls for discharges are necessary to protect sea grass areas of Texas bays as delineated by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.
3. Controls for discharges are necessary to protect receiving waters designated as having an exceptional aquatic life use.
4. Controls are required for pollutants of concern expected to be present in discharges to a receiving water listed on the CWA § 303(d) list based on an approved total maximum daily loading plan.
5. Discharges from an adjacent small MS4 are determined by TCEQ to be significantly contributing pollutants to the regulated MS4. The TCEQ would make this determination after receiving a written request by a regulated adjacent MS4 operator.
6. Additional factors relative to the environmental sensitivity of receiving watersheds.

Specific thresholds are not established for each of the designation criteria. Instead, designation must occur following a case-by-case consideration and is based on a finding that controls are necessary to protect water quality. If designated, the MS4 operator will be notified by the executive director and allowed to apply for authorization under either the proposed general permit or an individual TPDES stormwater permit. The application for either permit must be submitted within 180 days of the notice.

In 2002, the TCEQ applied these designation criteria to the small MS4s located outside of a UA which served a jurisdiction with 10,000 or more people, and which had an average density of 1,000 or more people per square mile. At that time, the TCEQ did not designate any small MS4 or portion of a small MS4 that was not located within a UA. The TCEQ may evaluate small MS4s again that meet these criteria, as well as other small MS4s. Small MS4s that are not located within a UA may be designated by TCEQ at any time in the future, and will be required to develop and submit an NOI and SWMP within 180 days of being notified in writing by TCEQ of that designation. TCEQ may also designate small MS4s as a result of a petition received based on 40 CFR §123.35(c). According to the regulations, a determination would need to be made within 180 days of receiving such a written petition.

C. Permit Waivers

Two possible waivers from permitting requirements are provided in the federal rules at 40 CFR §122.32, and are continued in the proposed permit.

1. Waiver Option No. 1 - A small MS4 may qualify for a waiver if it serves a total population of less than 1,000 within a UA or UAs, and:

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

- a. The small MS4 is not contributing substantially to the pollutant loadings of a physically interconnected MS4 that is regulated by the TPDES or NPDES stormwater program (40 CFR § 122.32(d)); and
- b. If the small MS4 discharges any pollutant(s) that have been identified as a cause of impairment of any water body to which the small MS4 discharges, stormwater controls are not needed based on wasteload allocations that are part of an EPA approved or established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) that addresses the pollutant(s) of concern;

In order to meet this waiver, the small MS4 operator must submit a letter requesting the waiver including the certifying statement that the above-described criteria for Waiver Option No. 1 are met. This waiver request must be submitted on a form approved by the TCEQ.

2. Waiver Option No. 2 – A small MS4 may qualify for a waiver if it serves a total population of less than 10,000 within a UA or UAs and meets all of the following criteria:
 - a. The TCEQ has evaluated all waters of the U.S., including small streams, tributaries, lakes, and ponds, that receive a discharge from the small MS4;
 - b. For all such waters, the TCEQ has determined that stormwater controls are not needed based on wasteload allocations that are part of an EPA approved or established TMDL that addresses the pollutant(s) of concern or, if a TMDL has not been developed or approved, an equivalent analysis that determines sources and allocations for the pollutant(s) of concern; and
 - c. The TCEQ has determined that future discharges from the small MS4 do not have the potential to exceed Texas surface water quality standards, including impairment of designated uses, or other significant water quality impacts, including habitat and biological impacts.

The receiving waters evaluation for Waiver Option 2 is a TMDL-equivalent evaluation that may be performed by the small MS4 using TCEQ protocol with appropriate guidance from the TCEQ. The evaluation would need to include the pollutants of concern, including at a minimum: biochemical oxygen demand (5-day); sediment (or a parameter that addresses sediment such as total suspended solids, turbidity, or siltation); pathogens; oil and grease; and any other pollutant that has been identified as a cause of impairment of any receiving water body. The small MS4 must coordinate with TCEQ Wastewater Permitting staff and Water Quality Assessment staff prior to initiating such a study.

Because of the comprehensive nature of the required receiving water evaluation, and the necessary finding that future discharges from the small MS4 could not potentially exceed water quality standards, Waiver Option No. 2 will be difficult to obtain. However, this option is allowed by federal rules and is therefore included in the proposed general permit and made available to certain small MS4s. The small MS4 would need to first coordinate with the TCEQ to determine if a waiver is attainable under this option, and must complete a TCEQ waiver form after completing all of the necessary studies.

D. Ineligible Discharges

The following discharges are not eligible for permit coverage under the proposed general permit and must obtain coverage under either an individual or an alternative general TPDES permit:

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

1. Discharges from Phase I (medium and large) MS4s (Phase I MS4s are those that are located in a city or county with a residential population of 100,000 or more based on the 1990 Census);
2. Discharges from small MS4s that would cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards or that would fail to protect and maintain existing designated uses of receiving waters;
3. New sources or new discharges of the pollutant(s) of concern to impaired waters, unless otherwise allowable under TCEQ rules, applicable state law, and any TMDL and TMDL Implementation Plan (I-Plan) that exists for the applicable receiving water;
4. Stormwater discharges that combine with sources of non-stormwater, unless the non-stormwater source is an allowable non-stormwater discharge described in the proposed general permit, or the non-stormwater source is authorized under a separate TPDES permit; and
5. Discharges otherwise prohibited under existing state rules.
6. Discharges that would adversely affect a listed endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat are not authorized by this permit. Federal requirements related to endangered species apply to all TPDES permitted activities, and site-specific controls may be required to ensure that protection of endangered or threatened species is achieved.

E. Allowable Non-stormwater Discharges

The following non-stormwater sources may be discharged from the small MS4 and are not required to be addressed in the small MS4's Illicit Discharge and Detection measure, or other minimum control measures (MCMs), provided that they have not been determined by the MS4 operator or the TCEQ to be substantial sources of pollutants to the small MS4:

1. Water line flushing (excluding discharges of hyperchlorinated water, unless the water is first dechlorinated and discharges are not expected to adversely affect aquatic life);
2. Runoff or return flow from landscape irrigation, lawn irrigation, and other irrigation utilizing potable water, groundwater, or surface water sources;
3. Discharges from potable water sources that do not violate Texas surface water quality standards;
4. Diverted stream flows;
5. Rising ground waters and springs;
6. Uncontaminated ground water infiltration;
7. Uncontaminated pumped ground water;
8. Foundation and footing drains;
9. Air-conditioning condensation;
10. Water from crawl space pumps;
11. Individual residential vehicle washing;
12. Flows from wetlands and riparian habitats;
13. Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges;
14. Street wash water excluding street sweeper waste water;

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

15. Discharges or flows from emergency fire fighting activities (fire fighting activities do not include washing of trucks, run-off water from training activities, test water from fire suppression systems, and similar activities);
16. Other allowable non-stormwater discharges listed in 40 CFR § 122.26 (d)(2)(iv)(B)(1);
17. Non-stormwater discharges that are specifically listed in the TPDES Multi Sector General Permit (MSGP) TXR050000 or the TPDES Construction General Permit (CGP) TXR150000;
18. Discharges that are authorized by a TPDES or National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit or that are not required to be permitted; and
19. Other similar occasional incidental non-stormwater discharges, such as spray park water, unless the TCEQ develops permits or regulations addressing these discharges.

Discharge of the waters listed above may contain pollutants that would need to be addressed by the small MS4. For example, discharges from water line flushing could contain levels of chlorine that could have an impact on aquatic life, in which case the small MS4 may need to require that controls be put on the discharge of chlorinated water line flushing.

F. Discharges from Small MS4 Construction Activities

The proposed general permit provides small MS4 operators an option to discharge stormwater runoff, and certain non-stormwater runoff, from construction sites under the authority of the small MS4 general permit, where the small MS4 is the operator of the construction activity.

In order for the MS4 operator to cover these activities under this general permit, an optional stormwater MCM must be developed and implemented to address these activities. The MCM must describe the general procedures the MS4 operator will develop to implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWP3), with consideration for local weather and soil conditions, and the steps to be taken to meet and maintain the status as operator at small MS4 construction sites. The MS4 operator must also describe in the MCM the area within which construction related discharges will be authorized under this general permit. The permittee may choose to cover activities exclusively within the UA boundary, within corporate limits or extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ), within special districts, or within other similar jurisdictional boundaries of the permittee. However, discharges from construction activities outside of the regulated area, such as outside of the UA or outside of the area(s) designated by TCEQ, are only eligible for authorization under this general permit for those areas where the MS4 operator meets the requirements of Parts III.B.1. through III.B.6 of the general permit, related to MCMs. The notice of intent (NOI) will require the permittee to provide information or a description on the boundary of coverage.

A separate detailed SWP3 must be developed and implemented for each regulated construction site. Contractors at a construction site where the small MS4 is the sole operator are not required to obtain separate authorization for stormwater discharges, provided the MS4 operator can meet and maintain the status of sole operator for the site, where the contractor does not meet the definition of operator for the site, and where the SWP3 is developed to address the activities of the contractor. If the contractor meets the definition of construction site operator, then the contractor would need to obtain authorization under the TPDES CGP or an individual permit.

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

40 CFR § 122.28(b)(2)(i), as adopted by reference in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 205.7, requires the submittal of an NOI to authorize certain discharges under a general permit. While 40 CFR § 122.28(b)(2)(v) allows some exceptions to this requirement, it does not exclude the permittee from the requirement to submit an NOI for authorization of discharges of stormwater runoff associated with industrial activity. Because federal rules at 40 CFR § 122.26(b)(14)(x) includes large construction sites in its definition of industrial activity, discharges of construction activity of five or more acres (including activities which are part of a larger common plan of development) are required to submit an NOI. Therefore, if an MS4 operator seeks to obtain coverage for these discharges under this proposed general permit, then the MS4 operator must include information on the construction activities on its NOI required under this general permit. The applicant must develop site-specific information on how construction activities will be conducted and SWP3s developed to control pollution. This information must be formalized as an MCM and incorporated as a part of the MS4 operator's stormwater management program (SWMP).

The SWMP that is submitted with the NOI must include this optional MCM in order for the permittee's construction activities to be eligible for authorization under this general permit. The NOI will include a certification statement that the small MS4 must sign, in which the MS4 operator agrees to comply with the conditions and requirements of this general permit for its construction activities. This certification on the NOI will satisfy the previously cited regulatory requirement regarding the NOI. Separate NOIs for each construction activity would not be required, provided that the appropriate information is included in the optional control measure. The MS4 operator must subsequently develop a separate SWP3 for each large and small construction activity, and must post a construction site notice that includes a signed certification that a SWP3 was developed and is implemented according to the conditions and requirements of this general permit. The site notice would be considered a "report" for the purposes of this general permit, and therefore may be signed by a person properly authorized by the MS4 operator under 30 TAC § 305.128, regarding delegation of signatory authority for reports.

If the MS4 operator determines that it does not wish to implement the optional seventh MCM at the time of original application under this general permit, and at a later date does choose to utilize this option, then a notice of change (NOC) will be equivalent to the NOI required under the rules.

If this optional MCM is not developed by the MS4 operator, then discharges of stormwater runoff from large and small construction activities must be authorized under a separate TPDES stormwater permit. Additionally, if the MS4 operator either cannot or chooses not to meet and maintain the status as the sole operator for any specific construction activity, then authorization under a separate TPDES permit must be obtained for the additional operators, during construction activities at that specific site. Finally, if the MS4 operator chooses not to utilize this optional MCM for one or more construction activities, then the MS4 operator must obtain separate authorization for the site(s) under the CGP or individual TPDES permit.

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

IV. Permit Conditions and Effluent Limitations

A. Notice of Intent

The proposed permit would require small MS4s to submit to the TCEQ a notice of intent (NOI) to comply with the conditions of the general permit, along with an attached Stormwater Management Program (SWMP).

B. Public Notice and Public Participation

An applicant under the proposed general permit would be subject to the following procedures:

1. The applicant must submit the NOI and attached SWMP to the executive director. TCEQ staff will review the application for administrative and technical completeness.
2. After the applicant receives written instructions from the TCEQ's Office of Chief Clerk, the applicant must publish notice of the executive director's preliminary determination on the NOI and SWMP.
3. The notice will be provided to the applicant, and will include, at a minimum:
 - a. The legal name of the applicant;
 - b. An indication whether the NOI is for a new small MS4 or is a renewal of an existing authorization;
 - c. The address of the applicant;
 - d. A brief summary of the information included in the NOI, such as the general location of the small MS4 and a description of the classified receiving waters that receive the discharges from the small MS4;
 - e. The location and mailing address where the public may provide comments to the TCEQ;
 - f. The public location where copies of the NOI and SWMP, as well as the executive director's general permit and fact sheet, may be reviewed; and
 - g. If required by the executive director, the date, time, and location of the public meeting.
4. This notice must be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or county where the small MS4 is located. If the small MS4 is located in multiple municipalities or counties, the notice must be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or county containing the largest resident population for the regulated portion of the small MS4. This notice must provide opportunity for the public to submit comments on the NOI and SWMP. In addition, the notice must allow the public to request a public meeting. A public meeting will be held if the TCEQ determines that there is significant public interest.
5. The public comment period begins on the first date the notice is published and ends 30 days later, unless a public meeting is held. If a public meeting is held, the comment period will end at the closing of the public meeting. The public may submit written comments to the TCEQ Office of Chief Clerk during the comment period detailing how the NOI or SWMP for the small MS4 fails to meet the technical requirements or conditions of this general permit.

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

6. If significant public interest exists, the executive director will direct the applicant to publish a notice of the public meeting and to hold the public meeting. The applicant must publish notice of a public meeting at least 30 days before the meeting and hold the public meeting in a county where the small MS4 is located. TCEQ staff will facilitate the meeting.
7. If a public meeting is held, the applicant must describe the contents of the NOI and SWMP. The applicant must also provide maps and other data on the small MS4. The applicant must provide a sign in sheet for attendees to register their names and addresses and furnish the sheet to the executive director. A public meeting held under this general permit is not an evidentiary proceeding.
8. The applicant must file with the Chief Clerk a copy and an affidavit of the publication of notice(s) within 60 days of receiving the written instructions from the Chief Clerk.
9. The executive director, after considering public comment, will either approve, approve with conditions, or deny the NOI based on whether the NOI and SWMP meet the requirements of this general permit.
10. Persons whose names and addresses appear legibly on the sign in sheet from the public meeting and persons who submitted written comments to the TCEQ will be notified by the TCEQ's Office of Chief Clerk of the executive director's decision regarding the authorization.

C. Stormwater Management Program (SWMP)

The proposed SWMP requirements were developed based on:

1. The existing Phase II MS4 general permit TXR040000 issued August 13, 2007;
2. Input from the Stormwater Stakeholder Work Group;
3. Federal Phase II rules of 40 CFR §122.34; and

EPA guidance document of April 2010, entitled MS4 Permit Improvement Guide. The proposed general permit allows small MS4s to share resources in meeting the responsibilities of the SWMP with other regulated MS4s that are either physically interconnected or that are located in the same watershed. This allowance will help to foster a more coordinated approach to resolving local water quality issues and to provide a more efficient use of local MS4 resources. MS4s may combine or share efforts necessary to meet the SWMP requirements of the permit, but each MS4 must be separately authorized (individual NOIs are required). Additionally, individual SWMPs must be developed and maintained by each of the MS4s. Each operator is separately responsible for compliance with the conditions of the general permit and the SWMP, even if efforts are combined or shared between the MS4s.

Small MS4s must develop a SWMP, according to the provisions of this general permit, to the extent allowable under state and local law, to address the portions of the small MS4 that are either located within the UA or that are designated by the TCEQ, with discharges that reach waters of the U.S.. Waters of the U.S. are defined in the general permit. Waters of the U.S. do not include waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA (other than cooling ponds as defined in 40 CFR § 423.11(m) which also meet the criteria of this definition). This exclusion applies only to manmade bodies of water that neither were originally created in waters of the U.S. (such as disposal area in wetlands) nor resulted from the impoundment of waters of the U.S. Waters of the U.S. do not include prior converted cropland.

Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s

The SWMP is a comprehensive document that details the steps that the small MS4 will take to reduce or eliminate pollutants in stormwater discharges to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). The phrase “to the extent allowable under local law,” as used in the paragraph above, means that small MS4s must develop any necessary ordinances, regulations, or other regulatory controls to meet the general permit requirements to the extent that their authority to make such ordinances is not prohibited by state or federal statutes or regulations.

Operators of non-traditional small MS4s, such as counties, drainage districts, and transportation entities, may lack the authority to develop ordinances or to implement enforcement actions. For these MS4 operators, the proposed general permit requires the permittee to enter into inter-local agreements with municipalities in which the small MS4 is located. These inter-local agreements must include procedures for enforcement and inspections to the extent necessary to meet the goals of the general permit. Where the permittee is unable to enter into an inter-local agreement, the permittee may report instances of non-compliance or possible illicit discharges to the TCEQ's Field Operations Division for possible follow-up investigations or enforcements.

The permit requires the small MS4 to ensure that it has adequate resources and funding necessary to meet all requirements of the permit.

The small MS4s must develop a SWMP to include the MCMs described below, which are based on federal rules at 40 CFR §122.34(b) and 40 CFR §122.26(d)(2)(iv). The permit introduces a tiered approach to meeting the MCM requirements such that some categories, or Levels, of MS4 operators are not required to implement all or all parts of the MCMs. The small MS4s are categorized by the following four Levels:

Level 1: Operators of small MS4s that serve a population less than 10,000 within a UA;

Level 2: Operators of small MS4s that serve a population of at least 10,000 but less than 40,000 within a UA. This category also includes all non-traditional small MS4s such as counties, drainage districts, transportation entities, universities, colleges, correctional institutions, municipal utility districts and other special districts regardless of the population served within a UA or UAs;

Level 3: Operators of small MS4s that serve a population of at least 40,000 but less than 100,000 within a UA;

Level 4: Operators of small MS4s that serve a population of 100,000 or more within a UA.

The six MCMs are separately described below and include:

1. Public Education, Outreach, and Involvement

The federal Phase II rules require regulated small MS4 operators to implement a public education program to distribute educational materials to the community or conduct equivalent outreach activities about the impacts of stormwater discharges on water bodies and the steps that the public can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff (see 40 CFR §122.34(b)(1)). The rules also require a public involvement and participation program that, at a minimum, complies with state and local public notice requirements (see 40 CFR § 122.34(b)(2)).

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

The draft general permit requires small MS4s to educate the public about the impact of stormwater discharges on receiving water bodies and what steps they can take to reduce the contamination of stormwater. The small MS4s are encouraged to use existing public materials in their program, such as using examples from the EPA's Nonpoint Source Outreach Toolbox (www.epa.gov/nps/toolbox) or from other agencies and municipalities with similar public education goals.

Stormwater management programs (SWMPs) can be greatly improved by involving the community throughout the entire process of developing and implementing the program. Involving the community will benefit the permittee itself as well as the community. By listening to the public's concern and coming up with solutions together, the permittee will gain the support of the public and the community will become invested in the program. The permittee will likewise gain even more insight into the most effective ways to communicate its messages.

The permit requires the permittee to involve the public (for example, provide opportunities for public comment or public meeting) in the development of the program. Public input and involvement can include many different activities such as meeting with local land planners and provide input on land use code or ordinance updates, stream clean-ups, storm drain marking, and volunteer monitoring.

Permittees are encouraged to work together with other entities that have an impact on stormwater to implement this MCM.

The permit includes the following proposed language under this MCM:

(a) Public Education and Outreach

- (1) All permittees shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive stormwater education and outreach program to educate public employees, businesses, and the general public of hazards associated with the illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste and about the impact that stormwater discharges can have on local waterways, as well as the steps that the public can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater.*

Existing permittees shall assess program elements that were described in the previous permit, modify as necessary, and develop and implement new elements, as necessary, to continue reducing the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP. New elements must be fully implemented by the end of this permit term and newly regulated permittees shall have the program fully implemented by the end of this permit term. The program must, at a minimum:

- a. Define the goals and objectives of the program based on high priority community-wide issues (for example, reduction of nitrogen in discharges from the small MS4, promoting previous techniques used in the small MS4, or improving the quality of discharges to the Edwards Aquifer);*
- b. Identify the target audience(s);*
- c. Develop or utilize appropriate educational materials, such as printed materials, billboard and mass transit advertisements, signage at select locations, radio advertisements, television advertisements, and websites;*
- d. Determine cost effective and practical methods and procedures for distribution of materials;*

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director’s Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

- (2) *Throughout the permit term, all permittees shall make the educational materials available to convey the program’s message to the target audience(s) at least annually.*
- (3) *All permittees shall review and update as necessary, the SWMP and MCM implementation procedures required by Part III.A.2.. Any changes must be reflected in the annual report. Such written procedures must be maintained, either on site or in the SWMP and made available for inspection by the TCEQ.*
- (4) *MS4 operators may partner with other MS4 operators to maximize the program and cost effectiveness of the required outreach.*

(b) *Public Involvement*

All permittees shall involve the public, and at minimum comply with any state and local public notice requirements in the planning and implementation activities related to developing and implementing the SWMP, except that correctional facilities are not required to implement this portion of the MCM.

Existing permittees shall assess program elements that were described in the previous permit, modify as necessary, and develop and implement new elements, as necessary, to continue reducing the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP. New elements must be fully implemented by the end of this permit term and newly regulated permittees shall have the program fully implemented by the end of this permit term. At a minimum, all permittees shall:

- (1) *If feasible, consider using public input (for example, the opportunity for public comment, or public meetings) in the implementation of the program;*
- (2) *If feasible, create opportunities for citizens to participate in the implementation of control measures, such as stream clean-ups, storm drain stenciling, volunteer monitoring, volunteer “Adopt-A-Highway” programs, and educational activities;*
- (3) *Ensure the public can easily find information about the SWMP.*

2. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

The Phase II regulations require regulated small MS4 operators to develop, implement, and enforce a program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges into the MS4 (see 40 CFR §122.34(b)(3)). Through the IDDE MCM the permittee is required to respond to complaints about illicit discharges or spills and to actively seek out illicit discharges and behaviors that could result in illicit discharges such as illegal connection to the small MS4, improper disposal of wastes, or dumping of used motor oil or other chemicals.

The permit requires the permittee to have an up-to-date MS4 map. Level 4 permittees would be required to identify areas with a high risk for illicit discharges, and these areas must be prioritized for more frequent investigations. Priority areas could include: (1) Areas with older infrastructure that are more likely to have illicit discharges; (2) Industrial, commercial, or mixed use areas; (3) Areas with a history of illegal dumping; (4) Areas with a history of illegal discharges; (5) Areas with onsite sewage disposal systems; (6) Areas with older sewer lines or with a history of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) or cross-connections; (7) Areas that discharge to sensitive waterbodies; and (8) Areas within sensitive watersheds.

The CWA § 402(p)(3)(B)(ii), requires MS4 permits to “effectively prohibit non-stormwater discharges into the storm sewers.” The permit implements this requirement, in part by requiring the development of procedures to investigate and

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

eliminate illicit discharges. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) with necessary forms provide guidance to investigators and ensure that consistent investigations occur of every illicit discharge incident.

The public must have a central contact point, such as a stormwater hotline, to report observed illicit incidents. An incident could be anything from an overturned gasoline tanker to sediment leaving a construction site or a sanitary sewer overflow entering the storm drain.

The permit requires the permittee to implement a method for informing or training field staff, who may come into contact or observe illicit discharges, on the identification and proper procedures for reporting illicit discharges. Field staff to be trained may include, but are not limited to, municipal maintenance staff, inspectors, and other staff whose job responsibilities regularly take them out of the office and into areas within the MS4 area. Permittee field staff is out in the community on a day-to-day basis and are in the best position to locate and report spills, illicit discharges, and potentially polluting activities. With proper training and information on reporting illicit discharges easily accessible, these field staff can greatly expand the reach of the IDDE program.

The permit requires MS4s serving a population more than 100,000 (Level 4 MS4s) to develop a dry weather screening program. The program consists of field observations and field screening monitoring. Visually screening outfalls during dry weather and conducting field tests, where flow is occurring, will assist permittees in determining the source of illicit discharge. For example, the presence of surfactants is an indicator that sewage could be present in the discharge and the parameters specific conductivity, ammonia, surfactant, pH and other chemicals may similarly be indicative of industrial sources.

The permit includes the following proposed language under the MCM:

(a) Program Development

- (1) All permittees shall develop, implement and enforce a program to detect, investigate, and eliminate illicit discharges into the small MS4. The program must include a plan to detect and address non-stormwater discharges, including illegal dumping to the MS4 system.*

Existing permittees must assess program elements that were described in the previous permit, modify as necessary, and develop and implement new elements, as necessary, to continue reducing the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP. New elements must be fully implemented by the end of this permit term and newly regulated permittees shall have the program fully implemented by the end of this permit term. See also Part III.A.1(c).

The Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program must include the following:

- a. An up-to-date MS4 map (see Part III.B.2.(c)(1));*
- b. Methods for informing and training MS4 field staff (See Part III.B.2.(c)(2));*
- c. Procedures for tracing the source of an illicit discharge (see Part III.B.2.(c)(5));*
- d. Procedures for removing the source of the illicit discharge (see Part III.B.2.(c)(5));*

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

- e. *For Level 2, 3 and 4 small MS4s, if applicable, procedures to prevent and correct any leaking on-site sewage disposal systems that discharge into the small MS4;*
 - f. *For Level 4 small MS4s, procedures for identifying priority areas within the small MS4 likely to have illicit discharges, and a list of all such areas identified in the small MS4 (See Part III.B.2.(g)(1));*
 - g. *For Level 4 small MS4s, field screening to detect illicit discharges (See Part III.B.2.(g)(2)).*
- (2) *For non-traditional small MS4s, if illicit connections or illicit discharges are observed related to another operator's MS4, the permittee shall notify the other MS4 operator within 48 hours of discovery. If notification to the other MS4 operator is not practicable, then the permittee shall notify the appropriate TCEQ regional office of the possible illicit connection.*
- (3) *If another MS4 operator notifies the permittee of an illegal connection or illicit discharge to the small MS4, then the permittee shall follow the requirements specified in Part III.B.2.(c)(3).*
- (4) *All permittees shall review and update as necessary, the SWMP and MCM implementation procedures required by Part III.A.2.. Any changes must be reflected in the annual report. Such written procedures must be maintained, either on site or in the SWMP and made available for inspection by the TCEQ.*
- (b) *Allowable Non-Stormwater Discharges*
- Non-stormwater flows listed in Part II.C do not need to be considered by the permittee as an illicit discharge requiring elimination unless the permittee or the TCEQ identifies the flow as a significant source of pollutants to the small MS4.*
- (c) *Requirements for all Permittees*
- All permittees shall include the requirements described below in Parts III.B.2(c)(1)-(6)*
- (1) *MS4 mapping*
- All permittees shall maintain an up-to-date MS4 map, which must be located on site and available for review by the TCEQ. The MS4 map must show at a minimum the following information:*
- a. *The location of all small MS4 outfalls that are operated by the permittee and that discharge into waters of the U.S;*
 - b. *The location and name of all surface waters receiving discharges from the small MS4 outfalls;*
 - c. *Priority areas identified under Part III.B.2.(e)(1) if applicable.*
- (2) *Education and Training*
- All permittees shall implement a method for informing or training all the permittee's field staff that may come into contact with or otherwise observe an illicit discharge or illicit connection to the small MS4 as part of their normal job responsibilities. Training program materials and attendance lists must be maintained on site and made available for review by the TCEQ.*
- (3) *Public Reporting of Illicit Discharges and Spills*
- To the extent feasible, all permittees shall publicize and facilitate public reporting of illicit discharges or water quality impacts associated with*

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

discharges into or from the small MS4. The permittee shall provide a central contact point to receive reports; for example by including a phone number for complaints and spill reporting.

- (4) *All permittees shall develop and maintain on site procedures for responding to illicit discharges and spills.*
- (5) *Source Investigation and Elimination*
 - a. *Minimum Investigation Requirements – Upon becoming aware of an illicit discharge, all permittees shall conduct an investigation to identify and locate the source of such illicit discharge as soon as practicable.*
 - (i) *All permittees shall prioritize the investigation of discharges based on their relative risk of pollution. For example, sanitary sewage may be considered a high priority discharge.*
 - (ii) *All permittees shall report to the TCEQ immediately upon becoming aware of the occurrence of any illicit flows believed to be an immediate threat to human health or the environment.*
 - (iii) *All permittees shall track all investigations and document, at a minimum, the date(s) the illicit discharge was observed; the results of the investigation; any follow-up of the investigation; and the date the investigation was closed.*
 - b. *Identification and Investigation of the Source of the Illicit Discharge –All permittees shall investigate and document the source of illicit discharges where the permittees have jurisdiction to complete such an investigation. If the source of illicit discharge extends outside the permittee's boundary, all permittees shall notify the adjacent permitted MS4 operator or TCEQ's Field Operation Support Division according to Part III.A.3.b.*
 - c. *Corrective Action to Eliminate Illicit Discharge*
 - (i) *If and when the source of the illicit discharge has been determined, all permittees shall immediately notify the responsible party of the problem, and shall require the responsible party to perform all necessary corrective actions to eliminate the illicit discharge.*
- (6) *Inspections –The permittee shall conduct inspections, as determined appropriate, in response to complaints, and shall conduct follow-up inspections as needed to ensure that corrective measures have been implemented by the responsible party.*
- (d) *Additional Requirements for Level 3 and 4 small MS4s*

In addition to the requirements described in Parts III.B.2(c)(1)-(6) above, permittees who operate level 3 and 4 small MS4s shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Source Investigation and Elimination

Permittees who operate level 3 and 4 small MS4 shall upon being notified that the discharge has been eliminated, conduct a follow-up investigation or field screening, consistent with Part III.B.2.(g)(2), to verify that the discharge has been eliminated. The permittee shall document its follow-up investigation. The permittee may seek recovery and remediation costs from responsible parties consistent with Part III.A.3., and require compensation related costs. Resulting enforcement actions must follow the procedures for enforcement action in Part III.A.3. If the suspected source of the illicit discharge is authorized under an NPDES/TPDES permit or the discharge is listed as an

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

authorized non-stormwater discharge, as described in Part III.C, no further action is required.

(e) Additional Requirements for Level 4 small MS4s

In addition to the requirements described in Parts III.B.2(c)-(d) above, permittees who operate level 4 small MS4s shall meet the following requirements:

(2) Identification of Priority Areas

Permittees who operate level 4 small MS4s shall identify priority areas and shall document the basis for the selection of each priority area and shall create a list of all priority areas identified. This priority area list must be available for review by the TCEQ.

(3) Dry Weather Field Screening

By the end of the permit term, permittee who operate level 4 small MS4s shall develop and implement a written dry weather field screening program to assist in detecting and eliminating illicit discharges to the small MS4. Dry weather field screening must consist of (1) field observations; and (2) as needed, field screening.

If dry weather field screening is necessary, at a minimum, the permittee shall:

- a. Conduct dry weather field screening in priority areas as identified by the permittee in Part III.B.2(g)(1). By the end of the permit term, all of those priority areas, although not necessarily all individual outfalls must be screened.*
- b. Field observation requirements – The permittee shall develop written procedures for observing flows from outfalls when there has been at least 72 hours of dry weather. The written procedures should include the basis used to determine which outfalls would be observed. The permittee shall record visual observations such as odor, color, clarity, floatables, deposits or stains.*
- c. Field screening requirements – The permittee shall develop written procedures to determine which dry weather flows will be screened, based on results of field observations or complaint from the public or the permittee's trained field staff. At a minimum, when visual observations indicate a potential problem such as discolored flows, foam, surface sheen, and other similar indicators of contamination, the permittee shall conduct a field screening analysis for selected indicator pollutants as determined by the permittee. Screening methodology may be modified based on experience gained during the actual field screening activities. The permittee shall document the method used.*

3. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

The Phase II regulations require regulated small MS4s to develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to the MS4 from construction activities that result in a land disturbance of one acre or greater (see 40 CFR § 122.34(b)(4)). The permit requires the permittee to ensure that construction site operators use appropriate erosion and sediment controls to reduce or eliminate impacts on receiving water bodies.

The permittee is required to implement procedures to conduct inspections of large and small construction projects, and Level 3 and 4 MS4s are further required to

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

maintain an inventory of construction sites in their area. This will help the permittee to effectively know where the construction activities are occurring. A construction site inventory could track information such as project size, disturbed area, distance to any water body or flow channel, when the erosion and sediment control or stormwater plan was approved by the permittee, and whether the project is covered by the TCEQ's CGP. Such information will help the permittee to track and target its inspection.

The permit requires the permittee to develop and implement site plan review procedures, which describes which plans will be reviewed as well as when an operator may begin construction. The permittee is required to develop SOPs to perform the site plan reviews to ensure that the review process is consistent. The site plan review also provides the permittees with a way to track construction sites.

The permit requires the permittee to implement procedures for performing inspections of construction sites. Inspection frequencies are determined by the permittee and based on the evaluation of factors that are a threat to water quality such as soil erosion potential, site slope, proximity to receiving waters and water quality status of the receiving water. The sites must be inspected during the active construction phase, to ensure that stormwater controls are maintained.

For inspections to be successful the permittee is required to develop inspection and enforcement procedures. The permit language includes minimum requirements that construction site inspections must include. Also, the permittee must ensure MS4 staff is trained to perform the inspections.

The permit includes the following proposed language under the MCM:

(a) Requirements and Control Measures

- (1) All permittees shall develop, implement and enforce a program requiring operators of small and large construction activities, as defined in Part I of this general permit, to select, install, implement, and maintain stormwater control measures that prevent illicit discharges to the MEP. The program must include the development and implementation of an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism, as well as sanctions to ensure compliance to the extent allowable under state, federal, and local law, to require erosion and sediment control.*

Existing permittees shall assess program elements that were described in the previous permit, modify as necessary, and develop and implement new elements, as necessary, to continue reducing the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP. New elements must be fully implemented by the end of this permit term and newly regulated permittees shall have the the program fully implemented by the end of this permit term.

If TCEQ waives requirements for stormwater discharges associated with small construction from a specific site(s), the permittee is not required to enforce the program to reduce pollutant discharges from such site(s).

(b) Requirements for all Permittees

All permittees shall include the requirements described below in Parts III.B.3(b)(1)-(7)

- (1) All permittees shall review and update as necessary, the SWMP and MCM implementation procedures required by Part III.A.2.. Any changes must be*

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

included in the annual report. Such written procedures must be maintained on site or in the SWMP and made available for inspection by the TCEQ.

- (2) *All permittees shall require that construction site operators implement appropriate erosion and sediment control BMPs. The permittee's construction program must ensure the following minimum requirements are effectively implemented for all small and large construction activities discharging to its small MS4.*
- a. *Erosion and Sediment Controls - Design, install and maintain effective erosion controls and sediment controls to minimize the discharge of pollutants.*
 - b. *Soil Stabilization - Stabilization of disturbed areas must, at a minimum, be initiated immediately whenever any clearing, grading, excavating or other earth disturbing activities have permanently ceased on any portion of the site, or temporarily ceased on any portion of the site and will not resume for a period exceeding 14 calendar days. Stabilization must be completed within a period of time determined by the permittee. In arid, semiarid, and drought-stricken areas, as determined by the permittee, where initiating vegetative stabilization measures immediately is infeasible, alternative stabilization measures must be employed as specified by the permittee.*
 - c. *BMPs – Design, install, implement, and maintain effective BMPs to minimize the discharge of pollutants to the small MS4. At a minimum, such BMPs must be designed, installed, implemented and maintained to:*
 - (i) *Minimize the discharge of pollutants from equipment and vehicle washing, wheel wash water, and other wash waters;*
 - (ii) *Minimize the exposure of building materials, building products, construction wastes, trash, landscape materials, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, detergents, sanitary waste and other materials present on the site to precipitation and to stormwater; and*
 - (iii) *Minimize the discharge of pollutants from spills and leaks.*
 - d. *As an alternative to (a) through (c) above, all permittees shall ensure that all small and large construction activities discharging to the small MS4 have developed and implemented a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWP3) in accordance with the TPDES CGP TXR150000. In arid, semiarid, and drought-stricken areas, as determined by the permittee, where initiating vegetative stabilization measures immediately is infeasible, alternative stabilization measures must be employed as specified by the permittee. As an alternative, vegetative stabilization measures may be implemented as soon as practicable.*
- (3) *Prohibited Discharges - The following discharges are prohibited:*
- a. *Wastewater from washout of concrete and wastewater from water well drilling operations, unless managed by an appropriate control;*
 - b. *Wastewater from washout and cleanout of stucco, paint, from release oils, and other construction materials;*
 - c. *Fuels, oils, or other pollutants used in vehicle and equipment operation and maintenance; and,*
 - d. *Soaps or solvents used in vehicle and equipment washing;*

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

- e. *Discharges from dewatering activities, including discharges from dewatering of trenches and excavations, unless managed by appropriate BMPs.*

(4) Construction Plan Review Procedures

To the extent allowable by state, federal, and local law, all permittees shall maintain and implement site plan review procedures, that describe which plans will be reviewed as well as when an operator may begin construction. For those permittees without legal authority to enforce site plan reviews, this requirement is limited to those sites operated by the permittee and its contractors and located within the permittee's regulated area. The site plan procedures must meet the following minimum requirements:

- a. *The site plan review procedures must incorporate consideration of potential water quality impacts.*
- b. *The permittee may not approve any plans unless the plans contain appropriate site specific construction site control measures that, at a minimum, meet the requirements described in Part III.B.3.(a) or in the TPDES CGP, TXR150000.*

The permittee may require and accept a plan, such as a SWP3, that has been developed pursuant to the CGP, TXR150000.

(5) Construction Site Inspections and Enforcement

To the extent allowable by state, federal, and local law, all permittees shall implement procedures for inspecting large and small construction projects. Permittees without legal authority to inspect construction sites shall at a minimum conduct inspections of sites operated by the permittee or its contractors and that are located in the permittee's regulated area.

- a. *Inspections must occur at a frequency determined by the permittee, based on the evaluation of factors that are a threat to water quality, such as: soil erosion potential; site slope; project size and type; sensitivity of receiving waterbodies; proximity to receiving waterbodies; non-stormwater discharges; and past record of non-compliance by the operators of the construction site.*
- b. *Inspections must occur during the active construction phase.*

(i) All permittees shall develop, implement, and revise as necessary, written procedures outlining the inspection and enforcement requirements. These procedures must be maintained on site or in the SWMP and be made available to TCEQ.

(ii) Inspections of construction sites must, at a minimum:

1. *Determine whether the site has appropriate coverage under the TPDES CGP, TXR150000. If no coverage exists, notify the permittee of the need for permit coverage.*
2. *Conduct a site inspection to determine if control measures have been selected, installed, implemented, and maintained according to the small MS4's requirements.*
3. *Assess compliance with the permittee's ordinances and other regulations.*
4. *Provide a written or electronic inspection report.*

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

- c. *Based on site inspection findings, all permittees shall take all necessary follow-up actions (for example, follow-up-inspections or enforcement) to ensure compliance with permit requirements and the SWMP. These follow-up and enforcement actions must be tracked and maintained for review by the TCEQ.*

For non-traditional small MS4s with no enforcement powers, the permittee shall notify the adjacent MS4 operator with enforcement authority or the TCEQ's Field Operations Support Division according to Part III.A.3(b).

(6) *Information submitted by the Public*

All permittees shall develop, implement and maintain procedures for receipt and consideration of information submitted by the public.

(7) *MS4 Staff Training*

All permittees shall ensure that all staff whose primary job duties are related to implementing the construction stormwater program (including permitting, plan review, construction site inspections, and enforcement) are informed or trained to conduct these activities. The training may be conducted by the permittee or by outside trainers.

(c) *Additional Requirements for Level 3 and 4 small MS4s*

In addition to the requirements described in Parts III.B.3(b)(1)-(7) above, permittees who operate level 3 and 4 small MS4s shall meet the following requirements:

(1) *Construction Site Inventory*

Permittees who operate level 3 and 4 small MS4s shall maintain an inventory of all permitted active public and private construction sites, that result in a total land disturbance of one or more acres or that result in a total land disturbance of less than one acre if part of a larger common plan or development or sale. Notification to the small MS4 should be made by submittal of a copy of an NOI or a small construction site notice. The permittee shall make this inventory available to the TCEQ upon request.

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

The Phase II stormwater regulation requires regulated small MS4s to develop, implement, and enforce a program to address stormwater discharges from new development and redevelopment sites that disturb one acre or more, and requires that the program ensure controls are in place that would prevent or minimize water quality impacts (see 40 CFR §122.34(b)(5)).

Developed land changes the hydrology of sites, leading to higher stormwater discharge volume and higher pollutant loads. Frequently, the volume, duration, and velocity of stormwater discharges can cause degradation to aquatic systems.

The permit requires that MS4 operators have owners and developers install and maintain stormwater control measures appropriate for the community. In addition, permittees are required to maintain all long term post-construction stormwater controls measures. In many cases, controls will be located on private property, and it will be necessary to establish some provisions to assure the responsibility and accountability for the operation and maintenance of these controls.

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

Structural controls may include practices such as rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, permeable pavement, and vegetated swales; many of which are considered to be low impact development practices, or green infrastructure BMPs.

The permittees are required to inspect post-construction controls to ensure that control measures are operating correctly and are being maintained. Without maintenance stormwater controls will not be able properly to protect water quality.

For the purpose of the permit "Redevelopment" does not include routine maintenance activities and linear utility installation. Examples of linear utility installation are construction activities that maintain the original line, grade, and hydraulic capacity of the surrounding areas, such as the installation of underground gas lines, fiber-optic cable, cable TV, electric, telephone, sewer mains and water mains. Routine maintenance activities are construction activities that are performed to maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of a facility, including but not limited to: (1) Re-grading of gravel roads or parking lots; (2) stream bank restoration projects (does not include the placement of spoil material);(3) Cleaning and shaping of existing roadside ditches and culverts that maintains the approximate original line and grade, and hydraulic capacity of the ditch; (4) Placement of aggregate shoulder backing that makes the transition between the road shoulder and the ditch or embankment; (5) Full depth milling and filling of exiting asphalt pavements, replacement of concrete pavements slabs, and similar work that does not expose soil or disturb the bottom six inches of subbase material; (6) Long-term use of equipment storage areas at or near highway maintenance facilities; (7) Removal of sediment from the edge of the highway to restore a previously existing sheet-flow drainage connection from the highway surface to the highway ditch or embankment; and (8) Replacement of curbs, gutters, sidewalk and guide rail posts.

The permit includes the following proposed language under this MCM:

(a) Post-Construction Stormwater Management Program

- (1) All permittees shall develop, implement and enforce a program, to the extent allowable under state, federal, and local law, to control stormwater discharges from new development and redeveloped sites that discharge into the small MS4 that disturb one acre or more, including projects that disturb less than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale. The program must be established for private and public development sites. The program may utilize an offsite mitigation and payment in lieu components to address this requirement.*

Existing permittees shall assess program elements that were described in the previous permit, modify as necessary, to continue reducing the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP. New elements must be fully implemented by the end of this permit term and newly regulated permittees shall have the program fully implemented by the end of the permit term.

- (2) All permittees shall use, to the extent allowable under state, federal, and local law and local development standards, an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to address post-construction runoff from new development and redevelopment projects. The permittees shall establish, implement, and enforce a requirement, that owners or operators of new development and redeveloped sites design, install, implement, and maintain a combination of structural and non-structural BMPs appropriate for the community and that protects water quality. If the construction of permanent structures is not feasible due to space limitations, health and safety concerns, cost*

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

effectiveness, or highway construction codes, the permittee may propose an alternative approach to TCEQ. Newly regulated permittees shall have the program element fully implemented by the end of the permit term.

(b) Requirements for all Permittees

All permittees shall include the requirements described below in Parts III.B.4.(b)(1)-(3)

(1) All permittees shall review and update as necessary, the SWMP and MCM implementation procedures required by Part III.A.2.. Any changes must be included in the annual report. Such written procedures must be maintained either on site or in the SWMP and made available for inspection by TCEQ.

(2) All permittees shall document and maintain records of enforcement actions and make them available for review by the TCEQ.

(3) Long-Term Maintenance of Post-Construction Stormwater Control Measures

All permittees shall, to the extent allowable under state, federal, and local law, ensure the long-term operation and maintenance of structural stormwater control measures installed through one or both of the following approaches:

a. Maintenance performed by the permittee. See Part III.B.5

b. Maintenance performed by the owner or operator of a new development or redeveloped site under a maintenance plan. The maintenance plan must be filed in the real property records of the county in which the property is located. The permittee shall require the owner or operator of any new development or redeveloped site to develop and implement a maintenance plan addressing maintenance requirements for any structural control measures installed on site. The permittee shall require operation and maintenance performed is documented and retained on site, such as at the offices of the owner or operator, and made available for review by the small MS4

(c) Additional Requirements for Level 4 small MS4s

In addition to the requirements described in Parts III.B.5(b)(1)-(3) above, permittees who operate level 4 small MS4s shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Inspections - Permittees who operate level 4 small MS4s shall develop and implement an inspection program to ensure that all post construction stormwater control measures are operating correctly and are being maintained as required consistent with its applicable maintenance plan. For small MS4s with limited enforcement authority, this requirement applies to the structural controls owned and operated by the small MS4 or its contractors that perform these activities within the small MS4's regulated area.

a. Inspection Reports - The permittee shall document its inspection findings in an inspection report and make them available for review by the TCEQ.

5. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

The stormwater Phase II regulations require operators of regulated MS4s to develop and implement an operation and maintenance program that includes a training component and has the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal operations (see 40 CFR §122.34(b)(6)).

Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s

The permit requires the MS4 operator to maintain an inventory of municipal facilities and of stormwater controls. Municipally-owned facilities serve as hubs of activity for a variety of municipal staff from many different departments. Some municipalities will have one property at which all activities take place (for example, the municipal maintenance yard), whereas others will have several specialized facilities. An inventory of facilities will help staff responsible for stormwater compliance build a better awareness of their locations within the small MS4 service area and their potential to contribute stormwater pollutants. The facility inventory will also serve as a basis for setting up periodic facility assessments and developing, where necessary, facility stormwater pollution plans.

The permit requires Level 3 and Level 4 permittee to perform, once per permit term, an assessment of its facilities to identify which of the facilities are most likely to contribute stormwater pollutants and which are in need in stormwater controls. Those facilities with a high potential to generate stormwater pollutants must be described as *high priority* facilities and this category of facilities are required to have facility specific stormwater management standard operating procedures (SOPs) developed. Developing and maintaining site-specific SOPs for each facility will help ensure that employees responsible for facility operation are aware of the stormwater controls required for the site.

The permit requires Level 3 and Level 4 permittees to develop an inspection program to perform inspections of, at a minimum, high priority municipal facilities and to document the results of the inspections. Regular inspections will allow inspectors to observe different types of operations that occur at different times of the year (e.g. landscape maintenance crews are less active in the winter) and ensure that corrective action can be taken where necessary to improve stormwater controls.

The permit includes requirements for MS4 operation and maintenance activities, such as maintaining the storm sewer system, maintaining roads and managing chemical applications. Level 3 and Level 4 small MS4s are required to develop an O&M program to reduce the collection of pollutants in catch basins and other surface drainage structures. Catch basins collect and trap stormwater pollutants such as sediments, metals, hydrocarbons, bacteria, pesticides, trash, and other pollutants. Because they collect solids they need to be cleaned out on a regular basis to prevent those pollutants being discharged to water bodies. The materials removed from catch basins need to be treated and disposed off in a way such it does not reenter the small MS4.

Operation and maintenance of roads may, for Level 3 and Level 4 small MS4s, include a street sweeping program. Street sweeping removes both fine and large particles from streets and has thereby a positive effect on water quality. Some small MS4s have roads without a curb and gutter, and they are therefore not suitable for street sweeping. In these cases source controls or inlet protection measures, to minimize pollutant discharges to storm drains and creeks, can be used in place of sweeping.

The permit includes requirements for Level 4 small MS4s for managing public spaces, such as by addressing the application of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. The permit language encourages non-chemical solutions, such as using native plants to minimize fertilization and replace pesticide use with manual insect and weed removal thereby reducing chemical exposure to stormwater.

The Phase II regulation found at 40 CFR §122.34(b)(6) specifically requires that the permittee develop a "training component" that trains employees "to prevent and reduce stormwater pollution from activities such as park and open space

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

maintenance, fleet and building maintenance, new construction and land disturbances, and stormwater system maintenance. The permit requires the permittee to develop a training program and to train all appropriate employees involved in implementing pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices.

The permit includes language for situations where permittees use third-party contractors to conduct municipal maintenance activities. Contractors must be held to the same standards as the permittee.

The permit language proposed under this MCM is included below:

(a) Program development

- (1) All permittees shall develop and implement an operation and maintenance program, including an employee training component that has the ultimate goal of preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal activities and municipally owned areas including but not limited to park and open space maintenance; street, road, or highway maintenance; fleet and building maintenance; stormwater system maintenance; new construction and land disturbances; municipal parking lots; vehicle and equipment maintenance and storage yards; waste transfer stations; and salt/sand storage locations.*

Existing permittees shall assess program elements that were described in the previous permit, modify as necessary, and develop and implement new elements, as necessary, to continue reducing the discharges of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP. New elements must be fully implemented by the end of this permit term and newly regulated permittees shall have the program fully implemented by the end of this permit term. See also Part III.A.1.(c))

(b) Requirements for all Permittees

All permittees shall include the requirements described below in Parts III.B.5.(1)-(6) in the program:

(1) Permittee-owned Facilities and Control Inventory

All permittees shall develop and maintain an inventory of facilities and stormwater controls that it owns and operates within the regulated area of the small MS4. If feasible, the inventory may include all applicable permit numbers, registration numbers, and authorizations for each facility or controls. The inventory must be available for review by TCEQ and must include, but is not limited, to the following, as applicable:

- a. Composting facilities;*
- b. Equipment storage and maintenance facilities;*
- c. Fuel storage facilities;*
- d. Hazardous waste disposal facilities;*
- e. Hazardous waste handling and transfer facilities;*
- f. Incinerators;*
- g. Landfills;*
- h. Materials storage yards;*
- i. Pesticide storage facilities;*

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

- j. Buildings, including schools, libraries, police stations, fire stations, and office buildings;*
- k. Parking lots;*
- l. Golf courses;*
- m. Swimming pools;*
- n. Public works yards;*
- o. Recycling facilities;*
- p. Salt storage facilities;*
- q. Solid waste handling and transfer facilities ;*
- r. Street repair and maintenance sites;*
- s. Vehicle storage and maintenance yards;*
- t. Structural stormwater controls.*

(2) Training and Education

All permittees shall inform or train appropriate employees involved in implementing pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices. All permittees shall maintain a training attendance list for inspection by TCEQ when requested.

(3) Disposal of Waste Material - Waste materials removed from the small MS4 must be disposed of in accordance with 30 TAC Chapters 330 or 335, as applicable.

(4) Contractor Requirements and Oversight

- a. Any contractors hired by the permittee to perform maintenance activities on permittee-owned facilities must be contractually required to comply with all of the stormwater control measures, good housekeeping practices, and facility-specific stormwater management operating procedures described in Parts III B.5.(2)-(6).*
- b. All permittees shall provide oversight of contractor activities to ensure that contractors are using appropriate control measures and SOPs. Oversight procedures must be developed before the end of the permit term and maintained on site and made available for inspection by TCEQ.*

(5) Municipal Operation and Maintenance Activities

a. Assessment of permittee-owned operations

All permittees shall evaluate operation and maintenance (O&M) activities for their potential to discharge pollutants in stormwater, including but not limited to:

- (i) Road and parking lot maintenance may include such areas as pothole repair, pavement marking, sealing, and re-paving;*
- (ii) Bridge maintenance may include such areas as re-chipping, grinding, and saw cutting;*
- (iii) Cold weather operations, including plowing, sanding, and application of deicing and anti-icing compounds and maintenance of snow disposal areas;*

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

- (iv) *Right-of-way maintenance, including mowing, herbicide and pesticide application, and planting vegetation;*
- b. *All permittees shall identify pollutants of concern that could be discharged from the above O&M activities (for example, metals; chlorides; hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, and xylenes; sediment; and trash).*
- c. *All permittees shall develop and implement a set of pollution prevention measures that will reduce the discharge of pollutants in stormwater from the above activities. These pollution prevention measures may include the following examples:*
 - (i) *Replacing materials and chemicals with more environmentally benign materials or methods ;*
 - (ii) *Changing operations to minimize the exposure or mobilization of pollutants to prevent them from entering surface waters;*
 - (iii) *Placing barriers around or conducting runoff away from deicing chemical storage areas to prevent discharge into surface waters.*
- d. *Inspection of pollution prevention measures - All pollution prevention measures implemented at permittee-owned facilities must be visually inspected at a frequency determined by the permittee to ensure they are working properly. A log of inspections must be maintained and made available for review by the TCEQ upon request.*

(6) Structural Control Maintenance

If BMPs include structural controls, maintenance of the controls must be performed at a frequency determined by the permittee and consistent with maintaining the effectiveness of the BMP.

(c) Additional Requirements for Level 3 and 4 small MS4s:

In addition to the requirements described in Parts.B.5.(b)(1)-(6) above, permittees who operate level 3 or 4 small MS4s shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Storm Sewer System Operation and Maintenance

- a. *Permittees who operate level 3 or 4 small MS4s shall develop and implement an O&M program to reduce to the maximum extent practicable the collection of pollutants in catch basins and other surface drainage structures.*
- b. *Permittees who operate level 3 or 4 small MS4s shall develop a list of potential problem areas. The permittees shall identify and prioritize problem areas for increased inspection (for example, areas with recurrent illegal dumping).*

(2) Operation and Maintenance Program to Reduce Discharges of Pollutants from Roads

Permittees who operate level 3 or 4 small MS4s shall implement an O&M program that includes, if feasible and practicable, a street sweeping and cleaning program, or an equivalent BMP such as an inlet protection program, which must include an implementation schedule and a waste disposal procedure. The basis for the decision must be included in the SWMP. If a street sweeping and cleaning program is implemented, the permittee shall evaluate the following permittee-owned and operated areas for the program: streets, road segments, and public parking lots including, but not limited to, high

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

traffic zones, commercial and industrial districts, sport and event venues, and plazas, as well as areas that consistently accumulate high volumes of trash, debris, and other stormwater pollutants.

- a. *Implementation schedules – If a sweeping program is implemented, the permittee shall sweep the areas in the program (for example, the streets, roads, and public parking lots) in accordance with a frequency and schedule determined in the permittee's O&M program.*
- b. *For areas where street sweeping is technically infeasible (for example, streets without curbs), the permittee shall focus implementation of other trash and litter control procedures, or provide inlet protection measures to minimize pollutant discharges to storm drains and creeks.*
- c. *Sweeper Waste Material Disposal – If utilizing street sweepers, the permittee shall develop a procedure to dewater and dispose of street sweeper waste material and shall ensure that water and material will not reenter the small MS4.*

(3) Mapping of Facilities

Permittees who operate level 3 or 4 small MS4s shall, on a map of the area regulated under this general permit, identify where the permittee-owned and operated facilities and stormwater controls are located.

(4) Facility Assessment

Permittees who operate level 3 or 4 small MS4s shall perform the following facility assessment in the regulated portion of the small MS4 operated by the permittee:

- a. *Assessment of Facilities' Pollutant Discharge Potential - The permittee shall review the facilities identified in Part III.B.5.(b) once per permit term for their potential to discharge pollutants into stormwater.*
- b. *Identification of high priority facilities - Based on the Part III.B.5.(c)(2)a. assessment, the permittee shall identify as high priority those facilities that have a high potential to generate stormwater pollutants and shall document this in a list of these facilities. Among the factors that must be considered in giving a facility a high priority ranking are the amount of urban pollutants stored at the site, the identification of improperly stored materials, activities that must not be performed outside (for example, changing automotive fluids, vehicle washing), proximity to waterbodies, proximity to sensitive aquifer recharge features, poor housekeeping practices, and discharge of pollutant(s) of concern to impaired water(s). High priority facilities must include, at a minimum, the permittee's maintenance yards, hazardous waste facilities, fuel storage locations, and any other facilities at which chemicals or other materials have a high potential to be discharged in stormwater.*
- c. *Documentation of Assessment Results - The permittee shall document the results of the assessments and maintain copies of all site evaluation checklists used to conduct the assessments. The documentation must include the results of the permittee's initial assessment, and any identified deficiencies and corrective actions taken.*

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

(5) Development of Facility Specific SOPs

Permittees who operate level 3 or 4 small MS4s shall develop facility specific stormwater management SOPs. The permittee may utilize existing plans or documents that may contain the following required information:

- a. For each high priority facility identified in Part III.B.5.(c)(4)b., the permittee shall develop a SOP that identifies BMPs to be installed, implemented, and maintained to minimize the discharge of pollutants in stormwater from each facility.*
- b. A hard or electronic copy of the facility-specific stormwater management SOP (or equivalent existing plan or document) must be maintained and be available for review by the TCEQ. The SOP must be kept on site when possible and must be updated as necessary.*

(6) Stormwater Controls for High Priority Facilities

Permittees who operate level 3 or 4 small MS4s shall implement the following stormwater controls at all high priority facilities identified in Part III.B.5.(c)(4)b.. A description of BMPs developed to comply with this requirement must be included in each facility specific SOP:

- a. General good housekeeping – Material with a potential to contribute to stormwater pollution should be sheltered from exposure to stormwater when feasible.*
- b. De-icing and anti-icing material storage - The permittee shall ensure, to the MEP, that stormwater runoff from storage piles of salt and other de-icing and anti-icing materials is not discharged; or shall ensure that any discharges from the piles are authorized under a separate discharge permit.*
- c. Fueling operations and vehicle maintenance - The permittee shall develop SOPs (or equivalent existing plans or documents) which address spill prevention and spill control at permittee-owned and operated vehicle fueling, vehicle maintenance, and bulk fuel delivery facilities.*
- d. Equipment and vehicle washing - The permittee shall develop SOPs that address equipment and vehicle washing activities at permittee-owned and operated facilities. The discharge of equipment and vehicle wash water to the small MS4 or directly to receiving waters from permittee-owned facilities is not authorized under this general permit. To ensure that wastewater is not discharged under this general permit, the permittee's SOP may include installing a vehicle wash reclaim system, capturing and hauling the wastewater for proper disposal, connecting to sanitary sewer (where applicable and approved by local authorities), ceasing the washing activity, or applying for and obtaining a separate TPDES permit.*

(7) Inspections

Permittees who operate level 3 or 4 small Ms4s shall develop and implement an inspection program, which at a minimum must include periodic inspections of high priority permittee-owned facilities. The results of the inspections and observations must be documented and available for review by the TCEQ.

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

(d) Additional Requirements for Level 4 small MS4s:

In addition to all the requirements described in Parts III.B.5(b) and III.B.5(c) above, permittees who operate level 4 small MS4s shall meet the following requirements:

(1) Pesticide, Herbicide, and Fertilizer Application and Management

- a. Landscape maintenance - The permittee shall evaluate the materials used and activities performed on public spaces owned and operated by the permittee such as parks, schools, golf courses, easements, public rights of way, and other open spaces for pollution prevention opportunities. Maintenance activities for the turf landscaped portions of these areas may include mowing, fertilization, pesticide application, and irrigation. Typical pollutants include sediment, nutrients, hydrocarbons, pesticides, herbicides, and organic debris.*
- b. The permittee shall implement the following practices to minimize landscaping-related pollutant generation with regard to public spaces owned and operated by the permittee:*
 - (i) Educational activities, permits, certifications, and other measures for the permittee's applicators and distributors.*
 - (ii) Pest management measures that encourage non-chemical solutions where feasible. Examples may include:*
 - (a) Use of native plants or xeriscaping;*
 - (b) Keeping clippings and leaves out the small MS4 and the street by encouraging mulching, composting, or landfilling;*
 - (c) Limiting application of pesticides and fertilizers if precipitation is forecasted within 24 hours, or as specified in label instructions;*
 - (d) Reducing mowing of grass to allow for greater pollutant removal, but not jeopardizing motorist safety.*
- c. The permittee shall develop schedules for chemical application in public spaces owned and operated by the permittee that minimize the discharge of pollutants from the application due to irrigation and expected precipitation.*
- d. The permittee shall ensure collection and proper disposal of the permittee's unused pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.*

5. Industrial Stormwater Sources

The Phase I stormwater regulation, found at 40 CFR §§122.26(d)(2)(i)(B, C,E, and F), 122.26(d)(2)(iv), and 122.26(d)(2)(iv)(A), requires permittees to develop and implement an inspection and oversight program to monitor and control pollutants in stormwater discharges from industrial facilities.

The permit includes a new Industrial Stormwater Sources MCM for small MS4s that serve a population of 100,000 or more within a UA. EPA's MS4 Improvement Guide recommends this MCM be included in Phase II permits, and TCEQ believes that it is appropriate to include it for those Phase II MS4s that have similar populations as the Phase I MS4s. Phase I "medium" MS4s are defined as *MS4s located in an incorporated place with a population of 100,000 or more but less than 250,000 as determined by the 1990 Decennial Census by the Bureau of the Census.* (40 CFR § 122.26(b)(7)(i)).

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

The permit requires the permittee to identify and control pollutants in stormwater discharges to the small MS4 from industrial or commercial sites that contributes a substantial pollutant loading to the small MS4. The permit language under this MCM is similar to language in some Phase I MS4 individual permits.

The permit language proposed under this MCM is included below:

- (a) *Permittees operating a level 4 small MS4 shall include the requirements described below in Part III. B.6.(1) – this requirement is only applicable to level 4 MS4s*
- (1) *Permittees who operate level 4 small MS4s shall identify and control pollutants in stormwater discharges to the small MS4 from permittee's landfills; other treatment, storage, or disposal facilities for municipal waste (for example, transfer stations and incinerators); hazardous waste treatment, storage, disposal and recovery facilities and facilities that are subject to Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Title III, Section 313; and any other industrial or commercial discharge the permittee determines are contributing a substantial pollutant loading to the small MS4. The program must include priorities and procedures for inspections and for implementing control measures for such discharges.*

6. Authorization for Construction Activities Where the MS4 is the Site Operator

The MS4 operator may develop an optional seventh MCM for discharges from construction activities, and may obtain authorization under the general permit for discharges from construction activities where the MS4 is the operator. In order to qualify for this provision, MS4 operators must maintain control over the plans and specifications of the construction activity, or must maintain the status of the operator with day-to-day operational control over the construction site, to the extent necessary to meet the requirements of the SWP3 for that site. Implementation of this minimum measure allows the small MS4 to obtain this necessary authorization under the terms of this five-year term permit and replaces the requirement to seek separate permit coverage for each construction activity that it conducts. Where the small MS4 is able to demonstrate itself to be the sole operator for these activities, by meeting both criteria listed in the definition of "construction site operator," contractors would not have to seek separate authorization. This provision is allowed for construction activities located in the regulated area, such as within a UA or within an area designated by TCEQ, small MS4s are required to summarize in the annual report pertinent information related to the construction activities performed in the previous year. Small MS4s electing this provision must notify the TCEQ upon submittal of the NOI form, along with an attached SWMP that includes this measure. Utilization of the optional seventh MCM does not preclude a small MS4 from obtaining coverage under the TPDES Construction General Permit, TXR150000, or under an individual TPDES permit.

7. SWMP Implementation.

The SWMP may be implemented on a scheduled stepwise basis throughout the term of the general permit. If full development and implementation of the SWMP is not practicable, then the program must be developed with targeted milestones establishing a schedule that represents the maximum extent practicable (MEP) standard. Implementation must be initiated upon receipt of written approval from the TCEQ of the NOI and SWMP. The general permit contains provisions that allow revisions to the SWMP throughout the term of the permit, without immediate notification to the TCEQ, so that SWMPs can be adjusted based on experiences and findings to become more effective and efficient. Schedules for SWMP

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

implementation, the status of the implementation schedules, and modifications to the SWMP must be summarized in the annual report. These permit provisions allow small MS4s to develop and implement SWMPs according to available funding, manpower, and ability and allow for revisions where more efficient or effective BMPs are identified. Complete implementation of the SWMP is required within five years from the date of issuance of the general permit.

MS4 operators who were permitted under the existing Phase II MS4 general permit must implement the SWMP that was approved during the application process during the first permit term; however, they will have five years to implement new portions of the SWMP. MS4 operators that were not regulated under the existing permits based on the 2000 UA maps will have a total of five years from the date this general permit is reissued to fully implement their SWMP.

Federal rules at 40 CFR § 123.35(g) require permitting authorities to issue a menu of BMPs to assist small MS4s in complying with the Phase 2 regulations. During the development of the existing general permit, the TCEQ had adopted the EPA menu of BMPs by including that menu as a resource to small MS4s through a link on the TCEQ stormwater web page at:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm>

The TCEQ may develop additional guidance during the term of this permit and will make any guidance available on the TCEQ's web page at:

http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/sw_permits.html

D. Reporting Requirements

1. The proposed general permit requires small MS4s to provide documentation on the development, implementation, and evaluation of the SWMP. The documentation must be included as a part of the SWMP and may be required to be submitted in the annual report. The preparation and review of the annual report by the small MS4 may ensure progressive improvement of stormwater controls and reduce pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. At a minimum, the documentation must include:
 - a. A list of any public or private entities assisting with the development or implementation of the SWMP;
 - b. If applicable, a list of MS4 operators contributing to the development and implementation of the SWMP, including a clear description of the contribution;
 - c. A list of all BMPs and measurable goals for each of the MCM;
 - d. A schedule for the implementation of all SWMP requirements;
 - e. A description of how each measurable goal will be evaluated; and
 - f. A rationale statement that addresses the overall program, including how the BMPs and measurable goals were selected.
2. Additionally, the small MS4 must evaluate the following items and must include the information in an annual report:

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director’s Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

- a. Program compliance;
- b. The appropriateness of the chosen BMPs;
- c. Progress toward achieving identified measurable goals.

V. Changes From Existing General Permit:

The major changes to the permit include the following:

1. Added definitions of:
 - Arid Areas;
 - Catch basins;
 - Construction Activity,
 - Control Measure;
 - Edwards Aquifer;
 - Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone;
 - General Permit;
 - High Priority Facilities;
 - Hyperchlorinated Water;
 - Illegal Dumping;
 - Impaired Water;
 - Indicator Pollutant;
 - Major Outfall;
 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4);
 - Non-traditional Small MS4;
 - Semiarid Areas; and
 - Traditional Small MS4
2. Removed definition of:
 - Daily Maximum
3. Removed the Section entitled “Commonly Used Acronyms.”
4. Added that operators of small MS4s, fully or partly located within a UA, as determined by the 2000 or 2010 Decennial Census, are regulated. (Part II.A.1 in the permit). This change is in addition to the current requirement that operators of small MS4s fully or partially located within a UA as defined under the 2000 Census, which is being continued from the existing permit based on the Phase II regulations.
5. Added that operators of previously permitted small MS4s must reapply or obtain a waiver if applicable. (Part II.A.3 in the permit).
6. Categorized regulated small MS4s into 4 levels (Part II.A.5 in the permit):
 - a. Level 1: Operators of small MS4s that serve a population less than 10,000 within a UA;
 - b. Level 2: Operators of small MS4s that serve a population of at least 10,000 but less than 40,000 within a UA. This category also includes all non-traditional small MS4s such as counties, drainage districts, transportation entities, universities, colleges, correctional institutions, municipal utility districts and other districts regardless of population served within the UA,

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

unless the non-traditional small MS4 can demonstrate that it meets the criteria for a waiver from permit coverage based on the population served.

- c. Level 3: Operators of small MS4s that serve a population of at least 40,000 but less than 100,000 within a UA;
 - d. Level 4: Operators of small MS4s that serve a population of 100,000 or more within a UA.
7. Added a statement that discharges authorized by a TPDES or NPDES permit or that are not required to be permitted may be included in the list of Allowable of Non-Stormwater Discharges (Part II.C in the permit).
 8. Expanded the language in the section Impaired Water Bodies and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Requirements. Small MS4s discharging to a water quality impaired waterbody with an approved TMDL, where the impairment is caused or contributed to by stormwater, shall include in the SWMP controls targeting the pollutant(s) of concern along with controls required in the TMDL or Implementation Plan (IP) plan. For each targeted control the SWMP must include a measurable goal and an implementation schedule describing BMPs to be implemented. A benchmark must be determined based on a Waste Load Allocation (WLA) for the small MS4. Benchmarks are designed to assist in determining if the BMPs established are effective in addressing the pollutant(s) of concern in stormwater discharge(s) from the MS4 to the maximum extent practically (MEP). The BMPs would need to be evaluated and modified as necessary within an adaptive management framework during the permit term. Adaptive management requires the permittee to assess and modify, as necessary, any or all existing BMPs to optimize reduction in stormwater pollutants through an iterative process. These benchmarks are not numeric effluent limitations or permit conditions but intended to be guidelines. The exceedance of a benchmark is not a permit violation and does not of itself indicate a violation of instream water quality standards. If the pollutant of concern is bacteria the SWMP must include focused BMPs targeting those sources. The SWMP and annual report must include information on implementing any focused controls and must include monitoring or assessment of progress in achieving benchmarks. If the permittee reduces applicable pollutant discharges for the pollutants listed in the TMDL to the MEP, this reduction is deemed to be adequate progress toward achieving assigned TMDL WLAs during this five year permit period. Small MS4s discharging directly to water quality impaired water bodies without an approved TMDL shall determine if the discharge contains the pollutant(s) of concern, and if so the small MS4 shall implement focused BMPs along with corresponding measurable goals that will eliminate the discharge of the pollutant(s) of concern. (Part II.D.4 of the permit).
 9. Added the NOI also must include an electronic mail address of the MS4 operator. (Part II.D.4 of the permit).
 10. Clarified that the public notice must be published at least once in a newspaper of *general* circulation in the municipality or county where the small MS4 is located (Part II.D.12 in the permit).
 11. Added a section to describe modifications to the SWMP. TCEQ can require the permittee to update its SWMP in which case the modifications have to be done within 90 days. If the permittee determines modifications are needed, such changes must be made as soon as practicably, but not later than 60 days (Permit Part II.E.3).

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

12. Added that non-substantive changes such as minor clarifications to the SWMP, correctional or typographical errors or other similar administrative comments does not require submittal of a NOC.
13. Added a section to require permittees to develop or update their SWMP, as applicable and submit it to SWMP to the TCEQ as part of the application process. Permittees who were not previously regulated and existing permittees must submit their SWMP within 180 days following the issue date of the permit (Permit Part III.A.1).
14. Added a section entitled *Developing a Stormwater Management Program* (Part III.A in the permit). The section describes that, at a minimum, a SWMP must include ordinances or other regulatory mechanisms necessary to enforce the SWMP, including what the legal ordinance must address to implement the SWMP. The permit provides guidance to non-traditional small MS4s (for example counties, drainage districts, municipal utility districts, and transportation entities) that do not have the authority to develop ordinances, on how they can meet the goals of the permit. The section describes that operators are required to ensure that it has adequate resources and funding to implement the program, and have a plan for how to respond to violations.
15. Added a section describing the six MCMs, all of which have been expanded from the original general permit, based on the EPA MS4 Improvement Guide, with consideration from the stormwater stakeholder workgroup: (1) Public Education, Outreach and Involvement; (2) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination; (3) Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control; (4) Post Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment; (5) Pollution Prevention and Good House Keeping for Municipal Operations; and (6) Industrial Stormwater Sources (Part IV.C of this fact sheet and Part III.B in the permit).
16. Removed the requirement to consider specific groups (residents, visitors, public service employees, business, commercial and industrial facilities, and construction site personnel) in the Public Education, Outreach and Involvement MCM (Part III.B.(1) in the permit). This is consistent with the Phase II regulations at 40 CFR § 122.34(b)(1) and should allow MS4 operators to streamline this MCM.
17. Made several minor changes to the Standard Permit Conditions in Part V of the general permit.
18. Added that the permittee must submit annual reports at the end of each reporting year, and provided the flexibility for each MS4 to have a different reporting year. In the permit, the permittee may choose its reporting year based on the permit year, the permittee's fiscal year, or the calendar year. This information will need to be provided to the TCEQ during the NOI submittal.
19. Added language under the optional 7th MCM, related to small MS4 Construction Activities, to correspond to requirements in the Construction General Permit (CGP) TXR150000 effective on March 5, 2008 (Part VI in the permit).
20. Added that that the permittee must make the NOI and the SWMP available to the public at reasonable times during business hours (Part IV.A.(c) in the permit).
21. Added the limitation that discharges that would adversely affect a listed endangered or threatened aquatic or aquatic-dependent species or its critical habitat are not authorized by the general permit, and site-specific controls may be

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

required to ensure that protection of endangered or threatened species is achieved. This change is consistent with other water quality general permits.

22. Pursuant to the October 23, 2013 Commissioner's Order on the Livestock Manure Composting General Permit, WQG200000, the draft permit was similarly revised to clarify that an applicant who owns or operates a facility classified as an "unsatisfactory performer" is entitled to a hearing before the commission prior to denial or suspension of authorization.

VI. Addresses

Questions concerning this proposed draft general permit should be sent to:

TCEQ, Stormwater & Pretreatment Team Leader
Wastewater Permitting Section (MC-148)
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087
(512) 239-4671
swgp@tceq.texas.gov

Comments regarding the proposed draft general permit during the public comment period must be submitted either by mail to the following address, by facsimile (fax) followed by mail, or electronically as described below (please refer to the public notice for official instructions):

By Mail:
TCEQ, Chief Clerk's Office (MC-105)
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

By fax: (512) 239-3311*

*Fax must be followed by hard copy in mail to CCO at address above within three days of fax date.

Electronically: www10.tceq.state.tx.us/epic/ecmnts/

Questions Regarding Public Comments Should Be Directed to CCO: (512) 239-3300

Supplementary information on this Fact Sheet is organized as follows:

VII. Legal Basis

Section (§) 26.121 of the Texas Water Code (TWC) makes it unlawful to discharge pollutants into or adjacent to water in the state except as authorized by a rule, permit, or order issued by the commission. TWC, § 26.027 authorizes the commission to issue permits and amendments to permits for the discharge of waste or pollutants into or adjacent to water in the state. TWC, § 26.040 provides the commission with authority to amend rules adopted under TWC § 26.040 prior to amendment of the statute by House Bill (HB) 1542 in 1997, and to authorize waste discharges by general permit. On September 14, 1998, the TCEQ received authority from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to administer the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES). The TCEQ and the EPA have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which authorizes the administration of the National Pollutant

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program to the TCEQ as it applies to the State of Texas.

CWA, §§ 301, 304, and 401 (33 United States Code (USC), §§ 1331, 1314, and 1341) include provisions which state that NPDES permits must include effluent limitations requiring authorized discharges to: (1) meet standards reflecting levels of technological capability; (2) comply with EPA-approved state water quality standards; and (3) comply with other state requirements adopted under authority retained by states under CWA, § 510, 33 USC, §1370.

VIII. Regulatory Background

The 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, later referred to as the Clean Water Act (CWA), prohibit the discharge of any pollutant to navigable waters of the U.S. from a point source unless the discharge is authorized by an NPDES permit. Efforts to improve water quality under the NPDES program traditionally have focused on reducing pollutants in industrial process wastewater and municipal sewage treatment plant discharges. Over time, it has become evident that more diffuse sources of water pollution, such as stormwater runoff from small MS4s, are also significant contributors to water quality problems. EPA developed permit requirements for small MS4s that are intended to improve water quality by reducing the quantity of pollutants that stormwater discharges into storm sewer systems during storm events.

In 1990, EPA promulgated rules establishing Phase I of the NPDES stormwater program. Phase I addresses discharges from medium and large MS4s, which are those MS4s with a population of 100,000 people or more, based on the 1990 Census. Phase I MS4s were required by the EPA to obtain individual NPDES permits. No additional Phase I MS4s will be created by later Census results. The federal Phase II stormwater regulations extended permitting requirements to certain small MS4s, and required that a more general stormwater management program (SWMP) be developed than was required for medium and large MS4s under Phase I. The Phase II regulations were published on December 8, 1999 in the Federal Register, requiring affected small MS4s to obtain permit coverage by March 10, 2003. The Phase II regulations are identified in federal rules at 40 CFR §§ 122.30 through 122.37, which were adopted by the TCEQ at 30 TAC § 281.25(b). This proposed TPDES general permit would offer the necessary authorization for these small MS4 discharges.

IX. Permit Coverage

1. The proposed general permit would apply to discharges of stormwater runoff associated with small MS4s. The guidelines for small MS4s were published in the Federal Register on December 8, 1999 (64 FR 68722).
2. Applicants seeking authorization to discharge stormwater runoff from small MS4s under the conditions and requirements of the proposed general permit must submit a completed Notice of Intent (NOI) on a form approved by the executive director, as well as a description of the SWMP. The NOI form will include at a minimum, the legal name and address of the owner and operator, the facility name and address, specific description of its location (including the street address, if applicable, and county), the type of facility and discharge, the name of the receiving water, information on impaired waters, the boundary of the area where construction activities are covered under the general permit (if the optional MCM is developed), and other information requested by the TCEQ. The NOI must be signed according to TCEQ rules at 30 TAC § 305.44, which establishes

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

requirements regarding who may sign an application for a permit applicant, and requires that a legal certification be made regarding the permit application. The specific language in this rule can be found at:

[http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac\\$ext.viewtac](http://info.sos.state.tx.us/pls/pub/readtac$ext.viewtac), by searching Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 305, Subchapter C (related to Application for Permit).

MS4 operators can locate information regarding the classified segment(s) receiving the discharges from the MS4 in the "Atlas of Texas Surface Waters" at the following TCEQ web address. This document includes identification numbers, descriptions, and maps:

http://www.tceq.texas.gov/comm_exec/forms_pubs/pubs/gi/gi-316/index.html

MS4 operators can find the latest EPA-approved list of impaired water bodies (the Texas 303(d) List) at the following TCEQ web address:

http://www.tceq.texas.gov/compliance/monitoring/water/quality/data/wqm/305_303.html

3. Submission of an NOI and SWMP is an acknowledgment by the regulated small MS4 that the conditions of this general permit are applicable to the proposed discharges and that the applicant agrees to comply with the conditions of the general permit. Discharge authorization begins when the applicant is notified by TCEQ that the NOI and SWMP have been administratively and technically reviewed, and the applicant has followed the public participation provisions in the general permit. The documents must be submitted by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the address indicated on the NOI form. Following review of the NOI, SWMP, and any public comments received on the application, the executive director will determine that: 1) the submission is complete and confirm coverage by providing a notification and an authorization number, 2) the NOI or SWMP are incomplete and deny coverage until a complete NOI and SWMP are submitted, or 3) approve the NOI and SWMP with revisions and provide a written description of the required revisions along with any compliance schedule(s), or 4) deny coverage and provide a deadline by which the MS4 operator must submit an application for an individual permit. Denial of coverage under the general permit is subject to the requirements of 30 TAC § 205.4(c). After receiving written approval from the TCEQ, the applicant must implement the approved SWMP in accordance with the terms and conditions of the general permit.
4. If the operational control of the small MS4 changes, the present operator must submit an NOT and the new operator must submit an NOI and SWMP to obtain authorization under this general permit. The NOT and NOI must be submitted concurrently no greater than 10 days after the change occurs.
5. A permittee must submit current information to the executive director by submitting a Notice of Change (NOC) no later than 30 days before a change in information previously provided to the executive director within an NOI occurs. An NOC is also required for changes to the SWMP that are made after TCEQ has approved the NOI and SWMP. If changes are proposed before the applicant has received written approval of the NOI and SWMP from the TCEQ, then this information must be submitted in a letter as supplemental application information. An NOC must be signed according to TCEQ rules at 30 TAC § 305.44. The permit includes a list of minor changes that may be made without submitting an NOC, and also includes information regarding time frames for implementing changes requested on an NOC.

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director’s Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

6. A discharger may terminate coverage under the general permit by providing a Notice of Termination (NOT) on a form approved by the executive director. The NOT must be signed according to TCEQ rules at 30 TAC § 305.44. Authorization to discharge terminates at midnight on the day that an NOT is postmarked for delivery to the TCEQ. If TCEQ provides for electronic submission of NOTs during the term of this permit, authorization to discharge terminates 24 hours following confirmation of receipt of the electronic NOT form by the TCEQ.

X. Technology-Based Requirements

The conditions established by the general permit are based on Section 402(p)(3)(B) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) which mandates that a permit for discharges from MS4s must:

1. Effectively prohibit the discharge of non-stormwater to the MS4; and
2. Require controls to reduce pollutants in discharges from the MS4 to the maximum extent practicable (MEP) including best management practices (BMPs), control techniques, and system, design and engineering methods, and such other appropriate provisions.

The conditions of the proposed general permit have been developed to comply with the technology-based standards of the Clean Water Act. The draft general permit includes an SWMP requirement that includes MCMs utilizing a series of BMPs, rather than numeric limitations, to address the minimization of pollutants in stormwater discharges to waters of the U.S.. The Federal Phase II regulations define a small MS4 SWMP as a program comprising of at least six MCMs that collectively are expected to result in significant reductions of pollutants discharged into receiving water bodies. Implementation of the MEP standard will typically require the development and implementation of BMPs and the achievement of measurable goals to satisfy each of the six MCMs. TCEQ believes that the requirements of the draft general permit, if properly implemented, will meet the MEP standard required in the federal rules at 40 CFR § 122.34.

A statement is continued in the permit which indicates that the BMPs included in the SWMP constitute effluent limitations for the purposes of compliance with 30 TAC Chapter 319, Subchapter B.

The proposed general permit provides for development of an optional 7th MCM that would authorize a small MS4 to discharge stormwater runoff from construction activities disturbing one or more acres where it is the operator. This provision allows the small MS4 the option of separate coverage for these construction activities under TPDES general permit TXR040000 rather than the CGP, TXR150000. Discharges for stormwater runoff from construction support activities including concrete batch plant, asphalt batch plants, equipment staging areas, material storage yards, material borrow areas, and excavated material disposal areas may be authorized under the general permit. The following proposed limitations and monitoring frequencies are applicable to stormwater discharges from concrete batch plants authorized as a support activity at regulated construction sites:

Table 1: Benchmark Monitoring for Concrete Batch plants

Benchmark Parameters	Benchmark Value	Sampling Frequency	Sample Type
Oil and Grease	15 mg/L	1/Quarter	Grab
Total Suspended Solids	100 mg/L	1/Quarter	Grab

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director’s Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

Benchmark Parameters	Benchmark Value	Sampling Frequency	Sample Type
pH	6.0-9.0 S.U.	1/Quarter	Grab
Total Iron	1.3 mg/L	1/Quarter	Grab

XI. Water Quality-Based Requirements

The Texas Surface Water Quality Standards (TSWQS) found at 30 TAC Chapter 307 state that “surface waters will not be toxic to man, or to terrestrial or aquatic life.” The methodology outlined in the “Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards” is designed to ensure compliance with 30 TAC Chapter 307. Specifically, the methodology is designed to ensure that no source will be allowed to discharge any waste which: (1) results in instream aquatic toxicity; (2) causes a violation of an applicable narrative or numerical state water quality standard; (3) results in the endangerment of a drinking water supply; or (4) results in aquatic bioaccumulation which threatens human health.

TPDES permits contain technology-based effluent limits reflecting the best controls available. Where these technology-based permit limits do not protect water quality or the designated uses, additional conditions are included in the TPDES permits, which may include discharge limitations. State narrative and numerical water quality standards are used in conjunction with EPA criteria and other toxicity databases to determine the adequacy of technology-based permit limits and the need for additional water-quality-based controls.

TPDES stormwater permits do not typically contain water-quality-based effluent limits (WQBELs). As stated in 30 TAC § 307.8(e), controls on the quality of permitted stormwater discharges are largely based on implementing BMPs and/or technology-based limits in combination with instream monitoring to assess standards attainment and to determine whether additional controls on stormwater are needed. Also, according to EPA rules at 40 CFR § 122.34(a), narrative effluent limitations requiring implementation of BMPs are generally the most appropriate form of effluent limitations when designed to satisfy technology requirements (including reductions of pollutants to the MEP) and to protect water quality for small MS4s. It has been preliminarily determined that where permit requirements are properly implemented no significant degradation is expected and existing uses will be maintained and protected.

XII. Monitoring

If the small MS4 discharges stormwater from a construction project authorized under this general permit that includes a supporting concrete batch plant, compliance monitoring is required. Discharges from the batch plant must be sampled at a minimum frequency of once per quarter (1/quarter).

The MS4 operator may additionally sample discharges from the small MS4 in order to assess the effectiveness of stormwater MCMs, measure the effectiveness of BMPs, to detect illicit discharges to the small MS4, or for other similar reasons.

The permittee may also be required to identify sources of pollutant(s) of concern where the small MS4 discharges directly to a water body that is impaired for a pollutant present in the discharge. Examples of pollutants of concern may be bacteria and sediment.

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

XIII. Procedures for Final Decision

The memorandum of agreement (MOA) between the EPA and TCEQ provides that EPA has no more than 90 days to comment, object, or make recommendations to the draft general permit before it is proposed for consideration by the Commissioners of the TCEQ. According to 30 TAC Chapter 205, when the initial draft general permit is submitted for public comment prior to being proposed to the Commission of the TCEQ, notice must be published, at a minimum, in at least one newspaper of statewide or regional circulation. The commission may also publish notice in additional newspapers of statewide or regional circulation. Mailed notice must also be provided to the following:

1. The county judge of the county or counties in which the discharges under the general permit could be located;
2. If applicable, state and federal agencies for which notice is required in 40 CFR, §124.10(c);
3. Persons on a relevant mailing list kept under 30 TAC § 39.407, relating to Mailing Lists; and
4. Any other person the executive director or chief clerk may elect to include.

After notice of the initial permit is published in the Texas Register and the newspaper, the public will have 30 days to provide public comment on the IDP.

Any person, agency, or association may make a request for a public comment meeting on the proposed general permit to the executive director of the TCEQ before the end of the public comment period. A public comment meeting will be granted when the executive director or commission determines, on the basis of requests, that a significant degree of public interest in the draft general permit exists. A public comment hearing is intended for the taking of public comment, and is not a contested case proceeding under the Administrative Procedure Act. The executive director may call and conduct public meetings in response to public comment.

If the executive director calls a public meeting, the commission will give a minimum of 30 days public notice in the Texas Register of the date, time, and place of the meeting, as required by commission rules. The public notice for the draft general permit and for the public meeting(s) may be combined. The public comment is automatically extended until the conclusion of all public meetings on the draft general permit. The executive director shall prepare a response to all significant public comments on the draft general permit raised during the public comment period. The proposed general permit will then be filed with the commission to consider final authorization of the permit. The executive director's response to public comment will be made available to the public and filed with the chief clerk at least ten days before the commission acts on the proposed general permit.

Once the permit is completed, it is sent to the Office of the Chief Clerk of the TCEQ. The notice is published in the Texas Register, and the permit is placed on the Commission's agenda. For additional information about this general permit, contact the Stormwater & Pretreatment Team at (512) 239-4671.

XIV. Administrative Record

The following section is a list of the fact sheet citations to applicable statutory or regulatory provisions and appropriate supporting references.

**Fact Sheet and Executive Director's Preliminary Decision
TPDES General Permit Number TXR040000 for Small MS4s**

A. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and Federal Register (FR) Citations:

40 CFR Chapter 122

Federal Register dated February 17, 1998 (Volume 63, No. 31, Pages 7858-2906)

Federal Register dated December 8, 1999 (Volume 64, No. 235, Pages 68722-68851)

B. Letters/Memoranda/Records of Communication:

Memorandum from the U.S. EPA (Hanlon) dated April 16, 2004 from, "Implementing the Partial Remand of the Stormwater Phase II Regulations Regarding Notices of Intent & NPDES General Permitting for Phase II MS4s."

Stakeholder comments provided to the TCEQ in September 2011 and October 2011.

Memo from the Water Quality Standards Team of the Water Quality Assessment Section of the TCEQ.

Comment letters received during the initial public notice period.

C. Miscellaneous:

MS4 Permit Improvement Guide, U.S. EPA, Office of Water. Office of Wastewater Management, Water Permits Division, April 2010 (EPA 833-R-10-001)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Fact Sheet No. 2.0, "Stormwater Phase II Final Rule - Small MS4 Stormwater Program Overview," January 2000 (EPA 833-F-00-002).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Fact Sheet No. 2.1, "Stormwater Phase II Final Rule - Who's Covered? Designation and Waivers of Regulated Small MS4s," January 2000 (EPA 833-F-00-003).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Fact Sheet No. 2.2, "Stormwater Phase II Final Rule - Urbanized Area - Definition and Description," December 1999 (EPA 833-F-00-004).

The Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. Chapter 26

Quality Criteria for Water (1986), EPA 440/5 86 001, 5/1/86.

The State of Texas Water Quality Inventory, 13th Edition, Publication No. SFR-50, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, December 1996.

Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, 30 TAC Sections 307.1 307.10 (21 TexReg 9765, 4/30/97).

"Procedures to Implement the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards," Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, January 2003.

TCEQ Rules.

30 TAC Chapters 39, 205, 213, 281, 311, 305, 307, 309, 319, 321, 331