

June 16, 2017

Updates in Three Local Municipal Separate Stormsewer System (MS4) Programs Begin July 1

Beginning July 1, three Beaufort area Municipal Separate Stormsewer System (MS4) programs will begin implementation of the Construction Site Runoff Control and Post-Construction Stormwater Management Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) required in their permits. The three MS4s include: Unincorporated Beaufort County, The Town of Bluffton, and the Town of Hilton Head Island.

These MCMs require that each MS4 develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff from land-disturbing activities. Each program must include provisions for the review of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for construction activities occurring within their jurisdiction.

Further, July 1 also marks the start date when SWPPPs and applications for construction activities must be submitted to the MS4s and receive approval from the appropriate local jurisdiction prior to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's (DHEC) issuance of coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit.

Requests for NPDES Construction permit coverage and Coastal Zone Consistency (CZC) Certification can be submitted to DHEC concurrently with application to the MS4 should this be necessary to expedite permitting times.

To provide an exact cutoff and avoid passing projects to the MS4s in the middle of review, DHEC has made the decision to handle the technical review of all administratively complete application packages received on or before June 30, 2017. Projects not meeting this deadline will require modification to reflect the appropriate MS4 jurisdiction on the Notice of Intent (NOI) application, and updated fees before the review process can commence.

The DHEC review process will commence upon receipt of the NOI by DHEC. Once the application information is received and the CZC has been issued for the project, DHEC has committed to 7 business days from the receipt of a complete NOI to send a letter authorizing coverage, denying coverage, requesting additional information, or advising the applicant that DHEC has decided to also perform a full review of the SWPPP.

Beaufort County MS4 Stormwater Department's review and issuance of a local stormwater permit begins with application for the permit to the [Community Development Department](#), formerly Planning and Zoning. This is typically done as part of a Development Permit application and the Staff Review Team (SRT) process. Application, fee schedule, and submittal requirements are posted on the County website [here](#) and published in the [Manual for Stormwater Best Management and Design Practices \(BMP Manual\)](#).

Please direct permit application and plan review questions to the Stormwater Department Manager Eric Larson at 843-255-2805.

Additional Information:

[EPA in South Carolina](#)

[SC DHEC Stormwater \(NPDES\) Permits](#)

[Beaufort County Stormwater Management Department](#)

[Town of Bluffton Stormwater and Watershed Management Division](#)

[Town of Hilton Head Island Public Projects and Facilities Department](#)