

## APPENDIX VII

### DEFINITIONS, ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS



## Appendix VII: Definitions, Abbreviations and Acronyms Definitions

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)** - Schedules of activities, practices (and prohibitions of practices), structures, vegetation, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

**Common Plan of Development** - A "larger common plan of development or sale" is a contiguous area where multiple separate and distinct construction activities may be taking place at different times on different schedules under one plan. For example, if a developer buys a 20-acre lot and builds roads, installs pipes, and runs electricity with the intention of constructing homes or other structures sometime in the future, this would be considered a larger common plan of development or sale. If the land is parceled off or sold, and construction occurs on plots that are less than one acre by separate, independent builders, this activity still would be subject to stormwater permitting requirements if the smaller plots were included on the original site plan.

**Control Measure** - Refers to any BMP or other method (including effluent limitations) used to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States. Discharge - When used without qualification, means the "discharge of a pollutant."

**Discharge of a Pollutant** - Any addition of any "pollutant" or combination of pollutants to "waters of the United States" from any "point source". This includes additions of pollutants into waters of the United States from surface runoff which is collected or channeled by man; or discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances, leading into privately owned treatment works.

**Discharge-related Activities** - Activities which cause, contribute to, or result in stormwater and allowable non-stormwater point source discharges, and measures such as the siting, construction and operation of BMPs to control, reduce, or prevent pollution in the discharges.

**Disturbance** - Action to alter the existing vegetation and/or underlying soil of a site, such as clearing, grading, site preparation (e.g., excavating, cutting, and filling), soil compaction, and movement and stockpiling of top soils.

**Existing Discharger** - An operator applying for coverage under this permit for discharges covered previously under an NPDES general or individual permit.

**Facility or Activity** - Any NPDES "point source" or any other facility or activity (including land or appurtenances thereto) that is subject to regulation under the NPDES program.

**Illicit Discharge** - Any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater except discharges pursuant to a NPDES permit (other than the NPDES permit for discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer) and discharges resulting from firefighting activities.



**Impaired Water** - A water is impaired if it does not meet one or more of its designated use(s). In this context, “impaired” refers to categories 4 and 5 of the five-part categorization approach used for classifying the water quality standards attainment status for water segments under the TMDL program. Impaired waters compilations are also sometimes referred to as “303(d) lists.” Category 5 waters are impaired because at least one designated use is not being supported or is threatened and a TMDL is needed. Category 4 waters indicate that at least one designated use is not being supported but a TMDL is not needed (4a indicates that a TMDL has been approved or established by EPA; 4b indicates other required control measures are expected in result in the attainment of water quality standards in a reasonable period of time; and 4c indicates that the non-attainment of the water quality standard is the result of pollution (e.g. habitat) and is not caused by a pollutant). See USEPA’s 2006 Integrated Report Guidance, July 29, 2005 for more detail on the five part categorization of waters [under EPA National TMDL Guidance <http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/policy.html>].

**Impervious Surface** - Any surface that prevents or significantly impedes the infiltration of water into the underlying soil. This can include but is not limited to: roads, driveways, parking areas and other areas created using non porous material; buildings, rooftops, structures, artificial turf and compacted gravel or soil.

**Industrial Activity** - The ten categories of industrial activities included in the definition of “stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity,” as defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(i)-(ix) and (xi).

**Industrial Stormwater** - Stormwater runoff associated with the definition of “stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity.”

**Interconnection** - The point (excluding sheet flow over impervious surfaces) where the permittee’s MS4 discharges to another MS4 or other storm sewer system, through which the discharge is eventually conveyed to a water of the United States. Interconnections shall be treated similarly to outfalls throughout the permit. In Lexington, locations where stream channels discharge to adjacent communities have also been mapped as Interconnections.

**Junction Manhole** - For the purposes of this plan, a junction manhole is a manhole or structure with two or more inlets accepting flow from two or more MS4 alignments. Manholes with inlets solely from private storm drains, individual catch basins, or both are not considered junction manholes for these purposes.

**Key Junction Manhole** - For the purposes of this plan, key junction manholes are those junction manholes that can represent one or more junction manholes without compromising adequate implementation of the illicit discharge program. Adequate implementation of the illicit discharge program would not be compromised if the exclusion of a particular junction manhole as a key junction manhole would not affect the permittee’s ability to determine the possible presence of an upstream illicit discharge. A permittee may exclude a junction manhole located upstream from another located in the immediate vicinity or that is serving a drainage alignment with no potential for illicit connections.

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer** - A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man- made channels, or storm drains): (i) Owned or operated by a State, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage,



industrial wastes, stormwater, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the CWA that discharges to waters of the United States; (ii) Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater; 3 (iii) Which is not a combined sewer; and (iv) Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR 122.2.

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** - Means all separate storm sewers that are defined as “large” or “medium” or “small” municipal storm sewer systems pursuant to paragraphs 40 CFR 122.26 (b)(4) and (b)(7), or designated under paragraph 40 126.26(a) (1)(v). For the purposes of this permit “MS4” may also refer to the permittee with jurisdiction over the sewer system.

**New Development** - Any construction activities or land alteration resulting in total earth disturbances greater than 1 acre (or activities that are part of a larger common plan of development disturbing greater than 1 acre) on an area that has not previously been developed to include impervious cover. (see part 2.3.6. of the permit)

**Outfall Catchment** - The land area draining to a single outfall or interconnection. The extent of an outfall’s catchment is determined not only by localized topography and impervious cover but also by the location of drainage structures and the connectivity of MS4 pipes.

**Owner or Operator** - The owner or operator of any “facility or activity” subject to regulation under the NPDES program.

**Point Source** - Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, vessel, or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural stormwater runoff.

**Pollutant** - Dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, filter backwash, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and industrial, municipal and agricultural waste discharged into water.

**Pollutant of Concern** - A pollutant which causes or contributes to a violation of a water quality standard, including a pollutant which is identified as causing an impairment in a State's 303(d) list. Redevelopment - For the purposes of this plan, any construction, land alteration, or improvement of impervious surfaces resulting in total earth disturbances greater than 1-acre (or activities that are part of a larger common plan of development disturbing greater than 1 acre) that does not meet the definition of new development (see above).

**Site** - For the purposes of this plan, the area extent of construction activities, including but not limited to the creation of new impervious cover and improvement of existing impervious cover. Stormwater - Stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

**Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity** - A discharge of pollutants in stormwater runoff from areas where soil disturbing activities (e.g., clearing, grading, or excavating), construction



materials, or equipment storage or maintenance (e.g., fill piles, borrow areas, concrete truck washout, fueling), or other industrial stormwater directly related to the construction process (e.g., concrete or asphalt batch plants) are located. (See 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(x) and 40 CFR 122.26(b)(15). 4

**Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)** - A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources. A TMDL includes waste load allocations (WLAs) for point source discharges, load allocations (LAs) for nonpoint sources and/or natural background and must include a margin of safety (MOS) and account for seasonal variations. (See section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 130.2 and 130.7).

**Urbanized Area** - US Census designated area comprised of a densely settled core of census tracts and/or census blocks that meet minimum population density requirements, along with adjacent territory containing non-residential urban land uses as well as territory with low population density included to link outlying densely settled territory with the densely settled core. For the purposes of this permit, Urbanized Areas as defined by any Census since 2000 remain subject to stormwater regulation even if there is a change in the reach of the Urbanized Area because of a change in more recent Census data.

**Water Quality Limited Water** - for the purposes of this permit, a water quality limited water is any waterbody that does not meet applicable water quality standards, including but not limited to waters listed in categories 5 or 4b on the Massachusetts Integrated Report of waters listed pursuant to Clean Water Act section 303(d) and 305(b).

**Water Quality Standards** - A water quality standard defines the water quality goals of a water body, or portion thereof, by designating the use or uses to be made of the water and by setting criteria necessary to protect the uses. States and EPA adopt WQS to protect public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act (See CWA sections 101(a)2 and 303(c)).

#### **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

BMP – Best Management Practice  
CGP – Construction General Permit  
CWA – Clean Water Act (or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq)  
DCIA – Directly Connected Impervious Area  
EPA – U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
ESA – Endangered Species Act  
USFWS – U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
NOI – Notice of Intent  
NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System  
NRHP – National Register of Historic Places  
PCP – Phosphorus Control Plan (pertaining to Charles River Watershed phosphorus)  
POTW – Publicly Owned Treatment Works  
SHPO – State Historic Preservation Officer

IA – Impervious Area  
IDDE – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination  
LA – Load Allocations  
MOS – Margin of Safety  
MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System  
MSGP – Multi-Sector General Permit  
NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act  
NMFS – U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service  
SPCC – Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure  
SWMP – Stormwater Management Program  
SWPPP – Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan  
TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load  
USGS – United States Geological Survey  
WLA – Wasteload Allocation  
WQS – Water Quality Standard