

**Alabama Department of Environmental Management**  
**adem.alabama.gov**

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July 7, 2021

**Certified Mail # 9489 0090 0027 6298 9320 36**

Honorable William S. Stimpson  
Mayor, City of Mobile  
P.O. Box 1827  
Mobile, Alabama 36633-1827

RE: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Individual Phase I Permit  
NPDES Number ALS000007  
City of Mobile MS4  
Mobile County (097)

Dear Mayor Stimpson:

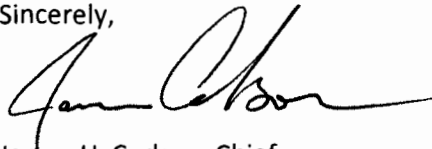
The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made a final determination to issue NPDES Permit No. ALS000007 to the City of Mobile for discharges from its MS4. The NPDES Permit Number ALS000007 will be effective July 7, 2021 and expire on July 6, 2026.

The Department notified the public of its tentative determination to issue NPDES Permit No. ALS000007 on May 26, 2021. Interest persons were provided the opportunity to submit comments on the Department's tentative decision through June 25, 2021. The Department did not receive comments during the public comment period for the above NPDES permit.

The City of Mobile is responsible for compliance with all provisions of the permit including, but not limited to, the performance of any monitoring, the submittal of any reports, and the preparation and implementation of any plans required by the permit.

If you have questions concerning this permit, please contact Cammie Ashmore either by email at [cammie.ashmore@adem.alabama.gov](mailto:cammie.ashmore@adem.alabama.gov) or by phone at 334-271-7795.

Sincerely,



James H. Carlson, Chief  
Stormwater Management Branch  
Water Division

JHC/cga  
File: FPER/8571  
Enclosures: Permit

cc: Mike Mitchell, Environmental Protection Agency (via email)  
Rosemary A. Ginn, City of Mobile (via email)





# NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

PERMITTEE: CITY OF MOBILE

AREA OF COVERAGE: CORPORATE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF MOBILE

PERMIT NUMBER: ALS000007

RECEIVING WATERS: WATERBODIES WITHIN THE CORPORATE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF MOBILE

*In accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. §§1251-1378 (the "FWPCA"), the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, Code of Alabama 1975, §§ 22-22-1 to 22-22-14 (the "AWPCA"), the Alabama Environmental Management Act, as amended, Code of Alabama 1975, §§22-22A-1 to 22-22A-15, and rules and regulations adopted thereunder, and subject further to the terms and conditions set forth in this permit, the Permittee is hereby authorized to discharge into the above-named receiving waters.*

ISSUANCE DATE: JULY 7, 2021

EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 7, 2021

EXPIRATION DATE: JULY 6, 2026

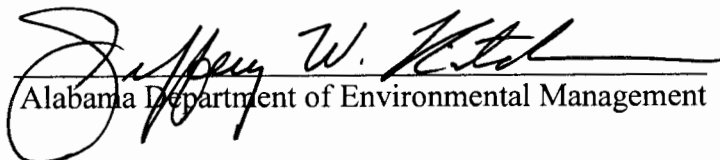
  
Alabama Department of Environmental Management

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## **PART I Applicability**

### **A. Permit Area**

This permit applies to the corporate boundaries of the City of Mobile that are regulated by the Permittee and discharge to the Permittee's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

### **B. Authorized Discharges**

1. This permit authorizes all existing or new storm water point source discharges to waters of the State of Alabama from those portions of the (MS4s) owned or operated by the Permittee. Discharge of pollutants shall be reduced to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP), shall not cause, nor contribute to, violations of Alabama Water Quality Standards, and shall be in compliance with Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) where applicable.
2. The permit authorizes the following non-storm water discharges provided that they do not cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards and provided that they have been determined not to be substantial contributor of pollutants by the Permittee or the Department:
  - a. Water line flushing
  - b. Landscape irrigation (not consisting of treated, or untreated wastewater unless authorized by the Department)
  - c. Diverted stream flows
  - d. Uncontaminated ground water infiltration
  - e. Uncontaminated pumped groundwater
  - f. Discharges from potable water sources
  - g. Foundation and footing drains
  - h. Air conditioning drains
  - i. Irrigation water (not consisting of treated, or untreated, wastewater unless authorized by the Department)
  - j. Rising ground water
  - k. Springs
  - l. Water from crawl space pumps
  - m. Lawn watering runoff
  - n. Individual residential car washing, to include charitable carwashes
  - o. Residual street wash water
  - p. Discharge or flows from firefighting activities (including fire hydrant flushing)
  - q. Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
  - r. Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges

### **C. Prohibited Discharges**

The following discharges are not authorized by this permit:

1. Discharges that are mixed with sources of non-storm water, unless such non-storm water discharges are in compliance with a separate NPDES permit or where those dischargers have been determined not to represent significant sources of pollution, as identified by, and in compliance with, Part I.B.2;
2. Discharges of materials resulting from a spill, except emergency discharges required to prevent imminent threat to human health or to prevent severe property damage, provided reasonable and prudent measures have been taken to minimize the impact of the discharges; and

3. The discharge of sanitary wastewater through cross connections or other illicit discharges through the MS4 is prohibited.

## **PART II Storm Water Management Program (SWMP)**

### ***A. Storm Water Management Program (SWMP)***

1. The Permittee is required to develop, revise, implement, maintain and enforce a storm water management program (SWMP) which shall include controls necessary to reduce the discharge of pollutants from its MS4 consistent with Section 402(p)(3)(B) of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR Part 122.26. These requirements shall be met by the development and implementation of a storm water management program plan (SWMPP) which addresses the best management practices (BMPs), control techniques and systems, design and engineering methods, public participation and education, monitoring, and other appropriate provisions designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the MEP.
2. The Permittee shall provide and maintain adequate finance, staff, equipment, and support capabilities necessary to implement the SWMPP and comply with the requirements of this permit.
3. The SWMPP must address the minimum program elements referenced in Part II.B. to include the following:
  - a. A map of the Permittee's MS4 jurisdictional boundaries;
  - b. The BMPs that will be implemented for each program element.
  - c. Low impact development (LID)/green infrastructure (GI) shall be considered where feasible. Information on LID/GI is available on the following websites: <http://www.adem.alabama.gov/programs/water/waterforms/LIDHandbook.pdf> and <http://epa.gov/nps/urban-runoff-low-impact-development> ;
  - d. The measureable goals for each of the program elements outlined in Part II.B.;
  - e. The proposed schedule – including interim milestones, as appropriate, and the frequency of actions needed to fully implement each program element; and,
  - f. The person and/or persons responsible for implementing or coordinating the BMPs for each separate program element.
4. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, the Permittee shall be in compliance with the conditions of this permit by the effective date.

### ***B. Storm Water Program Elements and Requirements***

1. **Storm Water Collection System Operations**
  - a. **Structural Controls**
    - i. For Permittee owned/maintained structural controls, the structural control shall be operated in a manner to reduce the discharge of pollutants, to the MEP.
    - ii. For Permittee owned/maintained structural controls, the Permittee shall include in the SWMPP and implement the following:
      - 1) A map of the structural controls and should be updated as needed;
      - 2) Inspection of existing and newly constructed structural controls on a semi-annual basis, at a minimum;

- 3) Implementation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) or inspection checklists for structural control inspections and maintenance procedures;
  - 4) Stabilization and re-vegetation of eroded areas as needed; and
  - 5) Semi-annual inspections for floatables, litter, sediment and debris, in structural controls, with removal as needed.
- iii. The Permittee shall maintain an internal record keeping system to track the inventory of structural controls, inspections, and maintenance of the control structures.
  - iv. The Permittee shall report each year in the annual report the following information:
    1. The number of inspections performed on structural controls, to include follow-up inspections. The inspection documentation (i.e., checklist) shall be made available upon request;
    2. A description of the maintenance activities performed on structural controls, as well as the frequency;
    3. The estimated amount of floatable, litter, sediment and debris that is removed;
    4. Copies of any contractual agreements for maintenance activities if not performed by the Permittee. The contractual agreement should specify maintenance activities performed and schedule; and
    5. Updated structural controls map.
- b. Catch Basins
- i. For Permittee owned/maintained catch basins, the catch basins shall be operated in a manner to reduce the discharge of pollutants, to the MEP;
  - ii. For Permittee owned/maintained catch basins, the Permittee shall include in the SWMPP and implement the following activities:
    1. A map of the catch basins and should be updated as needed;
    2. Inspection of a minimum of five (5) percent of existing and newly constructed catch basins annually;
    3. Implementation of SOPs or inspection checklists for catch basin inspections and maintenance procedures;
    4. Tracking the estimated amount of debris/litter removal; and
    5. Training and educating field crews on proper storm water related maintenance activities (i.e., do not flush material into catch basin).
  - iii. The Permittee shall maintain an internal record keeping system to track the inventory of catch basins, inspections and maintenance of the catch basins.
  - iv. The Permittee shall report each year in the annual report the following information:
    1. The number of inspections performed on catch basins, to include follow-up inspections. The inspection documentation (i.e., checklist) shall be made available upon request;
    2. A description of the maintenance activities performed on catch basins, as well as the frequency;
    3. The estimated amount of debris/litter removed;

4. Copies of any contractual agreements for maintenance activities if not performed by the Permittee. The contractual agreement should specify maintenance activities performed and schedule; and
5. Updated catch basin map.

c. Litter Trap(s)

- i. For Permittee owned/maintained litter trap(s), the litter trap(s) shall be operated in a manner to retain the discharge of floatables/debris, to the MEP;
- ii. For Permittee owned/maintained litter trap(s), the Permittee shall include in the SWMPP and implement the following:
  1. A map of the location of the litter trap(s);
  2. Inspection and maintenance of litter trap(s) shall be performed on a weekly basis, at a minimum, and after a significant rainfall, as defined in the SWMPP;
  3. Implementation of SOPs or inspection checklists for litter trap inspection and maintenance procedures; and
  4. Tracking the estimated amount of debris/litter removal.
- iii. The Permittee shall maintain an internal record keeping system to track the inventory of litter trap(s), inspections and maintenance of the litter trap(s).
- iv. The Permittee shall report each year in the annual report the following information:
  1. The number of inspections performed on litter trap(s), to include follow-up inspections. The inspection documentation (i.e., checklist) shall be made available upon request;
  2. A description of the maintenance activities performed on litter trap(s), as well as the frequency;
  3. The estimated amount of floatables/debris removed;
  4. Copies of any contractual agreements for maintenance activities if not performed by the Permittee. The contractual agreement should specify maintenance activities performed and schedule; and
  5. Updated litter trap map.

d. Additional Measures for the Control of Trash (to include Floatables and Debris)

- i. The Permittee shall require the following measures to be implemented in the public right of way for any event or wherever it is anticipated that substantial quantities of trash or litter may be generated:
  1. Arrangement for temporary protection of preventive measures to the catch basins, where feasible; and
  2. Provide proper disposal of trash receptacles, clean up of catch basins, as needed, and grounds of the event area within one business day subsequent to the event.
- ii. The Permittee shall ensure that trash receptacles, or similar trash capturing devices are provided and maintained in areas identified as high trash generated areas;

**2. Public Education and Public Involvement on Storm Water Impacts**



- a. The Permittee must further develop and implement a public education and outreach program to inform the community about the impacts from storm water discharges on water bodies and the steps that the public can take to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff to the MEP. The Permittee shall continuously implement this program in the areas served by the MS4. Each year, the Permittee shall implement a minimum of four BMPs, with two BMPs emphasizing public education and two BMPs emphasizing public involvement.
- b. The Permittee shall include within the SWMPP a list of potential BMPs that the Permittee may implement. Regarding Public Education and Public Involvement, the SWMPP must address the following information, at a minimum:
  - 1) Seek and consider public input in the development and implementation of the SWMPP;
  - 2) Identify targeted pollutant sources the Permittee’s public education program is intended to address;
  - 3) Specifically address the reduction of litter, floatables and debris from entering the MS4, that may include, but is not limited to the following:
    - a. Labeling storm drain inlets and catch basins with “no dumping” message; and
    - b. Posting signs referencing local codes that prohibit littering and illegal dumping at designated public access points to open channels, creeks, and other relevant waterbodies;
    - c. Participate in at least one activity each year that targets the removal of litter, floatables and debris from the MS4 area as described in the SWMPP. Estimate the amount of litter, floatables and debris removed from the MS4 for each activity.
  - 4) Inform and involve individuals and households about the steps they can take to reduce storm water pollution; and
  - 5) Inform individuals and groups on how to become involved in the storm water program (with activities such as local stream and lake restoration activities). The target audiences and subject areas for the education program that are likely to have significant storm water impacts should include the following, at a minimum:
    - a. General Public
      - i. On a quarterly basis, at a minimum, the general public shall be educated on the general impacts litter has on water bodies and ways to reduce the litter;
      - ii. General impacts of storm water flows into surface water from impervious surface;
      - iii. Source control BMPs in areas of pet waste, vehicle maintenance, landscaping and rain water reuse; and
      - iv. Impacts of illicit discharges and how to report them.
    - b. General Public and Businesses to include Home-based and Mobile Businesses
      - i. BMPs for use and storage of automotive chemicals, hazardous cleaning supplies, carwash soaps and other hazardous materials;
      - ii. Impacts of illicit discharges and how to report them.
    - c. Homeowners, Landscapers, and Property Managers
      - i. BMPs for use and storage of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers;
      - ii. Storm water pond maintenance.
    - d. Engineers, Contractors and Developers
      - i. Impacts of increased storm water flows into receiving water bodies;
      - ii. Technical standards for construction site sediment and erosion control;
      - iii. Storm water treatment and flow control BMPs; and

- iv. Run-off reduction techniques and low impact development (LID)/green infrastructure (GI) practices that may include, but not limited to, site design, pervious pavement, alternative parking lot design, retention of forests and mature trees to assist in storm water treatment and flow control BMPS.
- 6) Evaluate the effectiveness of the public education program and the public involvement program;
- c. The Permittee shall report each year in the annual report the following information:
  - 1) A description of the activities used to involve groups and/or individuals in the development and implementation of the SWMPP;
  - 2) A description of the individuals and groups targeted and how many groups and/or individuals participated. If exact participation is not readily quantifiable, an estimation will be sufficient;
  - 3) A description of the BMPs performed along with quantity utilized (i.e., number of printed brochures, copies of newspapers or newspaper articles, workshops, public service announcements, etc.); and
  - 4) Results of the evaluation of the effectiveness of the public education program and the public involvement program as required in Part II.B.2.b.6.
- d. The current SWMPP and latest annual report should be posted on the Permittee's website.

### 3. **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)**

- a. The Permittee shall implement an ongoing program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges and improper disposal into the MS4. The program shall include, at a minimum, the following:
  - 1) The development and annual update of an MS4 map. An initial map shall be provided in the SWMPP with updates provided each year in the annual report. The map shall include, at a minimum:
    - a. The latitude/longitude of all known major outfalls;
    - b. The names of all waters of the State that receive discharges from these major outfalls; and
    - c. Structural BMPs owned, operated, or maintained by the Permittee.
  - 2) To the extent allowable under State law, an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism that effectively prohibits non-storm water discharges to the MS4. A copy of the IDDE ordinance or other regulatory mechanism or a hyperlink to the location of the ordinance or regulatory mechanism on the Permittee's website shall be included in the SWMPP. The ordinance or regulatory mechanism shall:
    - a. Include escalating enforcement procedures and actions;
    - b. Provide for the annual review of the IDDE ordinance and update as necessary, and;
    - c. Require the removal of illicit discharges as the immediate cessation of improper disposal practices upon identification of responsible parties. Where the removal of illicit discharge within ten (10) working days is not possible, the ordinance shall require an expeditious schedule for removal of the discharge. In the interim, the ordinance shall require the operator of the illicit discharge to take all reasonable and prudent measures to minimize the discharge of pollutants to the MS4.

- 3) A dry weather screening program designed to detect and address non-storm water discharges to the MS4. This program must address, at a minimum, dry weather screening of all major outfalls at least once per five years. Priority areas will be dry weather screened on a more frequent schedule as outlined in the SWMPP. When determining priority areas, consider criteria such as, but not limited to, areas with older infrastructure, mixed-use areas, areas with a history of past illicit discharges, areas with on-site sewage disposal systems, or areas upstream of sensitive waterbodies. If any flow, from an unidentified source, is observed during the dry weather screening of a major outfall, then the Permittee shall follow the sampling protocol as outlined in the SWMPP and developed in accordance with EPA's guidance manual, *Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, A Guidance Manual for Program Development and Technical Assessments*, Center for Watershed Protection, October, 2004.
  - 4) Procedures for tracing the source of a suspect illicit discharge as outlined in the SWMPP. At a minimum, these procedures will be followed to investigate portions of the MS4 that, based on the results of the field screening or other appropriate information, indicate a reasonable potential of containing illicit discharges or other sources of non-storm water.
  - 5) Procedures for eliminating an illicit discharge as outlined in the SWMPP;
  - 6) Procedures to notify ADEM of a suspect illicit discharge entering the Permittee's MS4 from an adjacent MS4 as outlined in the SWMPP;
  - 7) A mechanism for the public to report illicit discharges discovered within the Permittee's MS4 and procedures for appropriate investigation of such reports; and
  - 8) A training program for appropriate personnel on identification, reporting, and corrective action of illicit discharges.
  - 9) The Permittee shall post on its website the ordinance or regulatory mechanism as required by Part II.B.3.a.2 of this Permit.
- b. The Permittee shall report each year in the annual report the following information:
- 1) Total number of major outfalls within the MS4, the number and location of outfalls observed during the dry weather screening of the current year to include any follow-up screenings and the number of outfalls observed in priority areas identified by the Permittee;
  - 2) Updated MS4 map(s); if necessary;
  - 3) Post the IDDE ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to the City's website and provide a hyperlink to its location; and
  - 4) The number of illicit discharges investigated, any associated sampling results, and the summary of corrective actions taken to include dates and timeframe of response.

#### 4. Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control

- a. The Permittee shall further develop, revise, implement and enforce an ongoing program to reduce, to the MEP, the pollutants in any storm water runoff to the MS4 from qualifying construction sites. The program shall include the following, at a minimum:

- 1) Procedures to require all applicable construction sites to apply for coverage under ADEM NPDES General Permit ALR100000 or other applicable NPDES permits;
- 2) To the extent allowed under State law, an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to require effective erosion and sediment controls on qualifying construction sites, as well as sanctions to ensure compliance;
- 3) Requirements for construction site operators to control waste such as discarded building materials, concrete truck washout, chemicals, litter, and sanitary waste at the construction site that may cause adverse impacts to water quality;
- 4) Procedures for site plan review to ensure the selection of effective erosion and sediment controls are consistent with the Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control, and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas published by the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee (hereinafter the "Alabama Handbook") and are appropriate for site conditions. Site plan review may be prioritized based on criteria outlined in the Permittee's SWMPP and may include, but is not limited to, size and location within priority watersheds. The plan review process will also consider potential water quality impacts;
- 5) A mechanism for the public to report complaints regarding pollution discharges from construction sites;
- 6) Inspection of construction sites to verify use and proper maintenance of appropriate BMPs. Inspections of construction sites shall be performed in accordance with the frequency specified in the table below:

Site	Inspection Frequency
Priority Constructions Sites (Defined in Part V.AA.)	At a minimum, inspections must occur monthly
Other sites determined by the Permittee or Permitting Authority to be a significant threat to water quality*	
All qualifying construction sites not meeting the criteria specified above.	At a minimum, inspections must occur every two months
*In evaluating the threat to water quality, the following factors must be considered, if applicable: soil erosion potential; site slope; project size and type; sensitivity of receiving waterbodies; proximity to receiving waterbodies; non-storm water discharges; past record of non-compliance by the operators of the construction site; and other factors deemed relevant to the MS4.	

- 7) Training for the Permittee's construction site inspection staff in the identification of appropriate construction best management practices (Example: QCI training in accordance with ADEM Admin Code. r. 335-6-12 or the Alabama Construction Site General Permit);
- 8) Utilization of a construction site inspection checklist (paper and/or electronic);
- 9) Implementation of an enforcement response plan (ERP), which sets out the Permittee's potential responses to violations through progressively stricter responses as needed to achieve compliance. The ERP must include a system for tracking formal actions and ADEM referrals. Types of enforcement actions may include, but not limited to the following:
  - a. Verbal Warnings—Verbal warnings are primarily consultative in nature and must specify the nature of the violation and required corrective action;

- b. Written Notices—Written Notices must stipulate the nature of the violation and the required corrective action, with deadlines for taking such action; and
    - c. Escalated Enforcement Measures—Citations, stop work orders, withholding plan approvals/authorizations, monetary penalties, or additional measures to address persistent non-compliance, repeat or escalating violations or incidents of major environmental harm; and
- 10) A program to make available a list of education and training materials and resources to construction site operators in the appropriate application and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls.
- b. The Permittee shall include within the SWMPP the following information:
    - 1) A copy of the ordinance or other regulatory mechanism or a hyperlink for the ordinance or regulatory mechanism location on the Permittee’s website as required by Part II.B.4.a.2.;
    - 2) Procedures for site plan reviews required by Part II.B.4.a.4;
    - 3) A construction site inspection schedule meeting the requirements of Part II.B.4.a.6;
    - 4) Training program, to include frequency, of MS4 site inspection staff as required by Part II.B.4.a.7;
    - 5) A copy of the construction site inspection checklist and/or screenshot of electronic checklist as required by Part II.B.4.a.8;
    - 6) The ERP as required by Part II.B.4.a.9; and
    - 7) Procedures and schedule for making available a list of education and training materials and resources to construction site operators in the appropriate application and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls required by Part II.B.4.a.10.
  - c. The Permittee shall report each year in the annual report the following information:
    - 1) A description of any completed or planned revision to the ordinance or regulatory mechanism required by Part II.B.4.a.2 and include the most recent copy or a hyperlink to the most recent copy;
    - 2) List of all active qualifying construction sites within the MS4 to include the inspections as required by Part II.B.4.a.6; and
    - 3) A summary of the following:
      - a. Number of construction site inspections;
      - b. Number of formal enforcement actions and description of violation;
      - c. Number of construction site runoff complaints received; and
      - d. Number of staff trained.
  - d. The Permittee shall maintain the following information and make it available upon request:
    - 1) Documentation of all inspections conducted of construction sites. The inspection documentation shall include, at a minimum, the following:
      - a. Facility type;
      - b. Inspection date;
      - c. Name and signature of inspector;
      - d. Location of construction project;

- e. Owner/operator information (name, address, phone number, fax, and email);
- f. Description of the condition of storm water BMPs that may include, but not limited to, the quality of: vegetation and soils, inlet and outlet channels and structures, embankments, slopes, and safety benches; spillways, weirs, and other control structures; and sediment and debris accumulation in storage and forebay areas as well as in and around inlet and outlet structures; and
- g. Photographic documentation of all critical storm water BMP components.

2) Documentation of enforcement actions taken at construction sites to include, at a minimum, the following:

- a. Name of owner/operator;
- b. Location of construction project;
- c. Description of violation;
- d. Required schedule for returning to compliance;
- e. Description of enforcement response used, including escalated responses if repeat violations occur; and
- f. Accompanying documentation of enforcement responses (e.g. notices of non-compliance, notices of violations, etc.); and
- g. Any referrals to different Departments or Agencies.

3) Records of public complaints including:

- a. Date, time and description of the complaint;
- b. Location of subject construction sites; and
- c. Identification of any actions taken (e.g., inspections, enforcement, corrections). Identifying information must be sufficient to cross-reference inspection and enforcement records.

4) Educational and Training Documentation for Construction Site Operators

- a. List of education and training materials and resources.

**5. Post-Construction Storm Water Management in New Development and Re-Development**

The Permittee must further develop, revise and implement a program to address the discharge of pollutants in post-construction storm water runoff to the MS4 from qualifying new developments and re-developments. Post-Construction Stormwater Management refers to the activities that take place after construction occurs and includes structural and non-structural controls that may include low-impact development and green infrastructure practices to obtain permanent stormwater management over the life of the property's use. These post construction controls should be considered during the initial site development planning phase.

- a. The Permittee shall develop, update and implement project review and enforcement procedures for qualifying new development and redevelopment projects. Specifically, the Permittee shall:

- 1) Require landowners and developers to, the MEP, implement systems of appropriate structural and/or non-structural BMPs designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants in post-construction runoff, which may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. Minimizing the amount of new impervious surfaces (roads, parking lots, roofs, etc.);
  - b. Preserving and protecting ecologically sensitive areas that provide water quality benefits;
  - c. Providing vegetated buffers along waterways, and reduce discharges to surface waters from impervious surfaces such as parking lots;
  - d. Implementing policies to protect trees, native soils and other vegetation; and
  - e. Minimizing topsoil stripping and compacted soils where feasible.
- 2) Require landowners and developers to develop and maintain best management practices (BMPs) to ensure, to the MEP, that post-construction runoff mimics pre-construction hydrology of the site. A 1.14 inch rainfall over a 24-hour period preceded by a 72-hour antecedent dry period shall be the basis for the design and implementation of post construction BMPs;
  - 3) Encourage landowners and developers to incorporate the use of low impact development (LID)/green infrastructure where feasible. Information on low impact development (LID)/green infrastructure is available on the following website: <http://epa.gov/nps/lid>;
  - 4) To the extent allowed under State law, adopt or amend an ordinance or other regulatory mechanism to ensure the applicability and enforceability of post-construction BMPs at qualifying new development and redevelopment projects;
  - 5) Require the submittal of a post-construction BMP plan, for review, as outlined in the SWMPP. The post-construction BMP plan review process may be integrated with the construction plan review process under Section II.B.4.a.4;
  - 6) Require the submittal of 'as built' certification within 120 days of completion of project;
  - 7) Perform and/or require the performance of annual, at a minimum, post-construction inspections to ensure that design standards are being met. The Permittee shall document its post-construction inspections. Such documentation shall include, at a minimum:
    - a. Facility type
    - b. Inspection date
    - c. Name and signature of inspector
    - d. Site location
    - e. Owner information (name, address, phone number, fax, and email)
    - f. Description of the condition of the storm water BMP that may include, but not limited to, the quality of: vegetation and soils, inlet and outlet channels and structures, embankments, slopes, and safety benches; spillways, weirs, and other control structures; and sediment and debris accumulation in storage and forebay areas as well as in and around inlet and outlet structures;
    - g. Photographic documentation of all critical storm water BMP components;
    - h. Specific maintenance items or violations that need to be corrected by the owner/operator of the storm water control or BMP; and
    - i. Maintenance agreements for long-term BMP operations and maintenance.
  - 8) The Permittee shall maintain or require the developer/ owner/operator to keep records of post-construction inspections, maintenance activities and make them available to the Department upon request and require corrective actions to poorly functioning or inadequately maintained post-construction BMPs;

- 9) Require and/or perform adequate long-term operation and maintenance of post-construction BMPs, including one or more of the following, as applicable:
  - a. The developer's signed statement accepting responsibility for maintenance until the maintenance responsibility is legally transferred to another party; and/or
  - b. Written conditions in the sales or lease agreement that require the recipient to assume responsibility for maintenance; and/or
  - c. Written conditions in project conditions, covenants and restrictions for residential properties assigning maintenance responsibilities to a home owner's association, or other appropriate group, for maintenance of structural and treatment control management practices; and/or
  - d. Any other legally enforceable agreement that assigns permanent responsibility for maintenance of structural or treatment control management practices.

b. The Permittee shall include within the SWMPP the following information:

- 1) Copies of the ordinance or other regulatory mechanism or a hyperlink for the ordinance or regulatory mechanism location on the Permittee's website as required by Part II.B.5.a.4.
- 2) Procedures to develop, implement and enforce systems of appropriate structural and/or non-structural BMPs;
- 3) Procedures to develop, implement and enforce performance standards;
- 4) Procedures to encourage the use of LID/green infrastructure and to make available LID/green infrastructure standards that may include the *Low Impact Development Handbook for the State of Alabama*;
- 5) Procedures to ensure compliance with the ordinance or regulatory mechanism, including the sanctions and enforcement mechanisms the Permittee will use to ensure compliance;
- 6) Procedures for post-construction inspections, to include tracking and enforcement;
- 7) Procedures to ensure adequate long-term operation and maintenance of BMPs; and
- 8) Development of an inventory of post-construction structural controls. This inventory shall be updated annually, as needed.

c. The Permittee shall report each year in the annual report the following information:

- 1) A list of the post-construction structural controls installed and inspected during the permit year;
- 2) Updated inventory of post-construction structural controls including those owned by the Permittee;
- 3) Number of inspections performed on post-construction structural controls; and
- 4) A summary of enforcement actions.

## 6. Spill Prevention and Response

- a. The Permittee shall further develop, revise and implement a program to prevent, contain and respond to spills that may discharge into the MS4. The Permittee must, at a minimum:



- 1) Use GIS or acceptable mapping scheme to identify spill locations, locations for inspections, and chronic problem areas;
  - 2) Track spills, response and cleanup activities for reportable spills that may discharge to the MS4;
  - 3) During the permit term, review any existing City Hazardous Materials Operation Guidance and supplement wherever needed to address discharges in the MS4;
  - 4) Investigate, respond, and conduct response actions or coordinate w/other agencies that may provide response actions as outlined in the SWMPP;
  - 5) Implement a spill prevention/spill response plan;
  - 6) Provide training, annually at a minimum, of appropriate personnel in spill prevention and response procedures and techniques to mitigate pollutant discharges from spills to the MS4; and
  - 7) Establish procedures to ensure that spills are able to be promptly reported to appropriate authority.
- b. The Permittee shall include within the SWMPP the following information:
- 1) Incident reports shall include the response actions taken by other agencies regarding spills as required by Part II.B.6.a.4 of this Permit;
  - 2) The spill prevention/spill response plan as required by Part II.B.6.a.5. of this Permit; and
  - 3) Procedures to provide training, annually at a minimum, of appropriate personnel in spill prevention and response.
- c. The Permittee shall report each year in the annual report the following information:
- 1) Summary of spills occurring during the reporting year, to include the following, at a minimum:
    - a. Location;
    - b. Spill Substance (i.e., fuel, oil, etc.);
    - c. Incident dates and time to resolution, including any enforcement actions taken and their result; and
    - d. Photographs (spill and after clean-up, if allowed).
  - 2) Documentation of employee training as required by Part II.B.6.b.3. shall be kept on file and available when requested by the Department.
    - a. Description of the training curriculum or materials used; and
    - b. Records of attendance.

## **7. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations**

- a. The Permittee shall further develop, revise, implement and maintain a program that will prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants in storm water run-off from municipal operations to the MEP. The program elements shall include, at a minimum, the following:
- 1) An inventory of all municipal facilities, including municipal facilities that have the potential to discharge pollutants via storm water runoff;
  - 2) Develop and implement a short term and long term strategy and program for the prevention and removal of trash from entering into the waterways and tributaries from the MS4 within the permitted area in such a manner as to

estimate the removal of trash per year, which shall be included in the annual report. This program should be outlined within the Permittee's SWMPP and must be updated as necessary. This program should consider the following, at a minimum:

- a. Direct removal of trash from waterbodies, public areas, and right of ways, if applicable;
  - b. Arrangement for temporary protection of preventative measures to catch basins, where feasible;
  - c. Provide proper trash receptacles, especially within high traffic areas and during special events to include timely trash removal;
  - d. Prevention through disposal alternatives; and
  - e. Prevention through waste reduction practices, additional enforcement, and/or initiatives; and
  - f. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the program. The evaluation should include discussion of the BMPs implemented for the prevention and removal of trash and whether the BMPs are determined to be effective. If determined that the BMPs are ineffective or infeasible, then the BMP must be modified.
- 3) A Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) detailing good housekeeping practices to be employed at appropriate municipal facilities and during municipal operations that may include, but not limited to, the following:
- a. Equipment washing;
  - b. Street sweeping;
  - c. Maintenance of municipal roads owned, operated, or under the responsibility of the Permittee;
  - d. Storage and disposal of chemicals and waste materials;
  - e. Vegetation control, cutting, removal, and disposal of the cuttings;
  - f. Vehicle fleets/equipment maintenance and repair;
  - g. External Building maintenance; and
  - h. Materials storage facilities and storage yards.
- 4) A program for inspecting municipal facilities, to include municipal maintenance shops and equipment yards, for good housekeeping practices, including BMPs. The program shall include checklists and procedures for correcting noted deficiencies;
- 5) A training program for municipal facility staff in good housekeeping practices as outlined in the SOP developed pursuant to Part II.B.7.a.3); and
- 6) The Permittee shall assess the water quality impacts for those flood management projects owned, operated, or the responsibility of the Permittee. The feasibility of retro-fitting existing structural control devised to provide additional pollutant removal from the storm water shall be evaluated.
- b. The Permittee shall include within the SWMPP the following information:
- 1) The inventory of municipal facilities required by Part II.B.7.a.1);
  - 2) List of SOPs developed for good housekeeping practices required by Part II.B.7.a.3);
  - 3) An inspection plan and schedule, including checklists and any other materials needed to comply with Part II.B.7.a.4); and
  - 4) A description of the training program and training schedule required by Part II.B.7.a.5).
- c. The Permittee shall report each year in the annual report the following information:

- 1) Any updates to the municipal facility inventory;
  - 2) An estimated amount of floatable material collected from the MS4 as required by Part II.B.7.a.2);
  - 3) Any updates to the inspection plan;
  - 4) Any updates to the SOP of good housekeeping practices; and
  - 5) Summary of inspection reports of municipal facilities.
  - 6) Results of the evaluation of effectiveness
- d. The Permittee shall maintain the following information and make it available upon request:
- 1) Records of inspections and corrective actions, if any; and
  - 2) Training records including the dates of each training activities and names of personnel in attendance.

## 8. Application of Pesticide, Herbicide, and Fertilizers (PHFs)

- a. For the *Application of Pesticide, Herbicide, and Fertilizers (PHFs)*, the Permittee shall implement controls to reduce, to the MEP, the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 related to the storage and application of PHFs applied by employees or contractors, to public rights of way, parks, and other public property. The Permittee shall implement programs to encourage the reduction of the discharge of pollutants related to application and distribution of PHFs. For those controls implemented, the Permittee will obtain coverage and maintain compliance with ADEM NPDES Pesticide General Permit ALG870000, if applicable, or other applicable NPDES permits. In addition, the Permittee shall address priorities within the SWMPP to include the following, at a minimum:
- 1) Identify all areas known to receive high applications of PHFs, develop a program to detect improper usage, and prioritize problem areas;
  - 2) Require evidence of proper certification and licensing for all applicators contracted to apply pesticides or herbicides on municipal property; require that applicators contracted to apply fertilizer are qualified in utilizing proper nutrient management practices;
  - 3) An inventory of on-hand PHFs with information about the formulations of various products, including how to recognize the chemical constituents from the label, their respective uses, directions and precautions for applicators that explain if products should be diluted, mixed or only used alone, and, proper storage of products;
  - 4) Equipment use and maintenance;
  - 5) Training in safe use, storage and disposal of PHFs;
  - 6) Annual inspection and monitoring procedures of facilities where PHFs are stored; and
  - 7) Record keeping.
- b. The Permittee shall report each year in the annual report the following information:
- 1) The areas within the MS4 jurisdiction that received high application of PHFs;
  - 2) A list of personnel certified and trained on proper PHF application;
  - 3) An inventory list of on-hand PHFs; and
  - 4) Inspections of the facilities where PHFs are stored.

## 9. Oils, Toxics, and Household Hazardous Waste Control

- a. The Permittee shall prohibit to the MEP the discharge or disposal of used motor vehicle fluids and household hazardous wastes into the MS4. Specific activities to be completed under this item are:
  - 1) Make available material educating public about used oil facility locations, hotline numbers, and alternatives to toxic materials;
  - 2) Within 365 days of the effective date of this permit, annual, at a minimum, inspections of municipal maintenance shops and equipment yards;
  - 3) Advertise the location of used oil collection facilities; and
  - 4) Provide employee training, at a minimum of annually, on spill prevention at all municipal facilities where oils or toxic materials are used.
  
- b. The Permittee shall include within the SWMPP the following information:
  - 1) Procedures to further develop, implement, and enforce a program for oils, toxics, and household hazardous waste control to include educational information and employee training.
  
- c. The Permittee shall report each year in the annual report the following information:
  - 1) Oils, Toxics, and Household Hazardous Waste Control training materials
    - a. Inspection reports of municipal maintenance shops and equipment yards; and
    - b. Employee Training Workshops
      - i. Dated attendance sheets; and
      - ii. Training presentations.

**10. Industrial Storm Water Runoff**

- a. The Permittee shall implement a program to inspect, monitor and control pollutants in storm water runoff to the MS4 from municipal waste landfills, hazardous waste treatment, storage, disposal and recovery facilities, and industrial facilities and high risk commercial facilities. Facilities to be addressed under this program include: facilities that have reported under the requirements of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) Title III, Section 313; and any other industrial or commercial discharge that the Permittee determines is contributing substantial pollutants loading to the MS4 (“high risk facilities”). The program must provide for, at a minimum:
  - 1) Annual, at a minimum, inspections of municipal waste landfills, hazardous waste treatment, storage, disposal (TSD) and recovery facilities;
  - 2) Annual, at a minimum, inspections of EPCRA Title III. Section 313 Facilities that do not have an NPDES permit issued by the Department as outlined in the SWMPP; and
  - 3) Data collected by the industrial facility to satisfy the monitoring requirements of an NPDES, State, land application or local pretreatment discharge permit may be used to satisfy Part II.B.10.a. of this Permit. The Permittee may require the industrial facility to conduct self-monitoring to satisfy this requirement.
  
- b. The Permittee shall include in the SWMPP a list of municipal waste landfills, hazardous waste treatment, storage, disposal and recovery facilities, high risk commercial facilities, and industrial facilities, both NPDES permitted and Emergency

Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) Title III, Section 313 facilities, within the MS4.

- c. The Permittee shall include in the annual report a list of the industrial facilities and high-risk commercial facilities inspected and any corrective actions taken, if applicable.

**C. *Legal Authority***

To the extent allowed under State law, the Permittee must annually review and revise, as necessary, its relevant ordinances or other regulatory mechanisms, or adopt any new ordinances that provide it with adequate legal authority to control pollutant discharges into and from its MS4, and to implement and enforce its SWMPP. To be considered adequate, this legal authority must, at a minimum, authorize the Permittee to:

1. Prohibit non-storm water discharges unless such storm water discharges are in compliance with a separate NPDES permit, or determined by the Department not to be a significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the State;
2. Prohibit and eliminate illicit connections to the MS4. Illicit connections include pipes, drains, open channels, or other conveyances that have the potential to allow an illicit discharge to enter the MS4;
3. Control the discharge of spills, and prohibit dumping or improper disposal of materials other than storm water into the MS4;
4. Require operators of construction sites and industrial and commercial facilities to minimize the discharge of pollutants to the MS4 to the maximum extent practicable through the installation, implementation, and maintenance of appropriate controls, including installation, implementation and long-term maintenance of post construction controls;
5. Request information to determine compliance with ordinances or other regulatory mechanism;
6. Enter private property for the purpose of inspection and monitoring at reasonable times any facilities, equipment, practices, or operations for active or potential polluted storm water discharges to the MS4;
7. Promptly require that dischargers cease and desist discharging and/or clean-up and abate a discharge;
8. Levy citations or administrative fines against responsible parties to include but not limited to non-compliant construction sites;
9. Require recovery and remediation costs from responsible parties; and
10. Provide the authority to enter into interagency agreements with other entities for the purpose of controlling the contribution of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable from one MS4 to another MS4.

**D. *SWMPP Plan Review and Modification***

1. The Permittee shall submit to the Department within nine months of the effective date of this permit a revised SWMPP. The Permittee shall implement plans to seek and consider public input in the development, revision and implementation of this SWMPP, as required by Part II.B.2.b.1). Thereafter, the Permittee shall perform an annual, at a minimum, review of the current SWMPP and must modify the SWMPP, as necessary, to maintain compliance with the permit. Any modifications to the SWMPP shall be submitted to the Department at the time a modification is made. Modifications made to the SWMPP may include, but are not limited to, the replacement of ineffective or infeasible BMPs or the addition of components, controls and requirements.

2. The Permittee shall implement the SWMPP on all new areas added to their municipal separate storm sewer system (or for which they become responsible for implementation of storm water quality controls) as soon as practicable. Implementation of the program in any new area shall consider the plans of the SWMPP of the previous MS4 ownership, if any.

***E. Impaired Waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)***

1. The Permittee must determine whether the discharge from any part of the MS4 contributes directly or indirectly to a waterbody that is included on the latest §303(d) list or designated by the Department as impaired;
2. If the Permittee's MS4 discharges to a waterbody included on the latest §303(d) list or designated by the Department as impaired, it must demonstrate the discharges, as controlled by the Permittee, do not cause or contribute to the impairment. The SWMPP must detail the BMPs that are being utilized to control discharges of pollutants associated with the impairment. If existing BMPs are not sufficient to achieve this demonstration, the Permittee must, within six (6) months following the publication of the latest final §303(d) list, Department designation, or the effective date of this permit, submit a revised SWMPP detailing new or modified BMPs. The SWMPP must be revised as directed by the Department and the new or modified BMPs must be implemented within one year from the publication of the latest final §303(d) list or Department designation.
3. Permittee discharging from MS4s into waters with EPA-Approved TMDLs and/or EPA-Established TMDLs
  - a. The Permittee must determine whether its MS4 discharges to a waterbody for which a total maximum daily load (TMDL) has been established or approved by EPA. If an MS4 discharges into a waterbody with an EPA approved or established TMDL, the SWMPP must include BMPs targeted to meet the assumptions and requirements of the TMDL. If additional BMPs will be necessary to meet the requirements of the TMDL, the SWMPP must include a schedule for installation and/or implementation of such BMPs. A monitoring component to assess the effectiveness of the BMPs in achieving the TMDL requirements must also be included in the SWMPP. Monitoring can entail a number of activities including, but not limited to: outfall monitoring, in-stream monitoring, and/or modeling. Monitoring data, along with an analysis of this data, shall be included in the Annual Report.
  - b. If, during this permit cycle, a TMDL is approved by EPA or a TMDL is established by EPA for any waterbody into which an MS4 discharges, the Permittee must review the applicable TMDL to see if it includes requirements for control of storm water discharges from the MS4.
    - 1) If it is found that the Permittee must implement specific allocations of the TMDL, it must assess whether the assumptions and requirements of the TMDL are being met through implementation of existing BMPs or if additional BMPs are necessary. The SWMPP must include BMPs targeted to meet the assumptions and requirements of the TMDL.
    - 2) If existing BMPs are not sufficient to meet the assumptions and requirements of the TMDL, the Permittee must, within six (6) months following the approval or establishment of the TMDL by EPA, submit a revised SWMPP detailing new or modified BMPs to be utilized along with a schedule of installation and/or

implementation of such BMPs. Any new or modified BMPs must be implemented within one year, unless an alternate date is approved by the Department, from the establishment or approval of the TMDL by EPA. A monitoring component to assess the effectiveness of the BMPs in achieving TMDL requirements must also be included in the SWMPP. Monitoring can entail a number of activities including, but not limited to: outfall monitoring, in-stream monitoring, and/or modeling. Monitoring data, along with an analysis of this data, shall be included in the Annual Report.

**F. Responsibilities of Permittee**

If the Permittee is relying on another entity to satisfy one or more requirements of this permit, then the Permittee must note that fact in the SWMPP. The Permittee remains responsible for compliance with the permit and reliance on another entity will not be a defense or justification for non-compliance if the entity fails to implement the permit requirements.

**PART III Monitoring and Reporting**

The Permittee shall implement a monitoring program to provide data necessary to assess the effectiveness and adequacy of BMPs implemented under the SWMPP. The quality of the streams receiving MS4 discharges shall continue to be monitored to assess the water quality of the streams and to identify potential water quality impairments. This shall be accomplished by the following:

**A. Monitoring Locations**

- Proposed monitoring locations and descriptions of their respective characteristics shall be described in the SWPPP with actual locations described in the annual report;

<b>Waterbody</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Rabbit Creek	Semi-annually
Eslava Creek (East)	Semi-annually
Eightmile Creek	Semi-annually

- Grab sampling may utilize a variety of grab sample collection methods (i.e., manual, automatic sampling equipment). Sampling methods will be described in the SWMPP.
- In addition to the monitoring requirements in Part III.A.1., if a waterbody (not listed in Part III.A.1) within the MS4 jurisdiction is listed on the latest final §303(d) list, or otherwise designated impaired by the Department, or for which a TMDL is approved or established by EPA, during this permit cycle, then the Permittee must revise its monitoring program to include monitoring that addresses the impairment or TMDL. Any revisions to the monitoring program shall be documented in the SWMPP and Annual Report. In addition, the permit may be modified by the Department to establish the additional or revised monitoring locations.

**B. Monitoring Parameters and Frequency**

- Grab samples shall be collected at least semi-annually at each instream monitoring station and analyzed for the following parameters:

<b>Waterbody</b>	<b>Parameters</b>
Rabbit Creek	Temperature, pH/ORP, Turbidity (NTU), Conductivity, Dissolved Oxygen (DO) (mg/l), Cadmium (mg/l), Copper (mg/l), Lead (mg/l), Zinc (mg/l), Ammonia Nitrogen (NH <sub>3</sub> -N) (mg/l), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) (mg/l),
Eslava Creek (East)	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) (mg/l), E. Coli, Fecal Coliform, Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub> (mg/L), Nitrate plus Nitrite Nitrogen (NO <sub>3</sub> +NO <sub>2</sub> -N)(mg/L), Oil and Grease (mg/L), Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)(mg/L), Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)(mg/L), Total
Eightmile Creek	Nitrogen (TN)(mg/L), Total Phosphorus (TP)(mg/L), Total Suspended Solids (TSS)(mg/L)

2. The Permittee must include in the instream monitoring program any additional parameters attributed with the latest final §303(d) list or otherwise designated by the Department as impaired or are included in an EPA-approved or EPA-established TMDL.

**C. *Sample Type, Collection and Analysis***

1. Grab sampling may utilize a variety of grab sample collection methods (i.e., manual, automatic sampling equipment. Sampling methods will be described in the SWMPP.
2. Analysis and collection of grab samples shall be done in accordance with the methods specified at 40 CFR Part 136. Where an approved 40 CFR Part 136 does not exist, then a Department approved alternative method may be used;
3. If the Permittee is unable to collect water quality data at an instream monitoring station due to equipment malfunction, maintenance, and/or damage, the Permittee must include a description of why water quality data could not be collected, including available documentation in the annual report; and
4. If the Permittee is unable to collect grab samples due to adverse conditions, the Permittee shall include a description of why samples could not be collected, including available documentation of the event. An adverse climatic condition which may prohibit the collection of samples includes weather conditions that create dangerous conditions for personnel (such as local flooding, high winds, hurricane, tornadoes, electrical storms, etc.) or otherwise make the collection of a sample impracticable (drought, extended frozen conditions, etc.).

**PART IV Annual Reporting Requirements**

1. The Permittee shall submit to the Department an annual report no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. If the Permittee is submitting a hardcopy of the annual report, an electronic copy of the annual report shall also be submitted. The annual report shall cover the previous fiscal year beginning October 1 through September 30.
2. On or after December 21, 2020, all annual reports shall be submitted to the Department electronically in a prescribed manner acceptable to the Department.
3. The Permittee shall sign and certify the annual report in accordance with Part V.M.
4. The annual report shall include the following information, at a minimum, and in addition to those requirements referenced in Part II.B and Part III:



- a. A list of contacts and responsible parties (e.g.: agency, name, phone number, address, & email address) who had input to and are responsible for the preparation of the annual report.
- b. An overall evaluation of the storm water management program developments and progress for the following:
  - 1) Major findings such as water quality improvements or degradation;
  - 2) Major accomplishments;
  - 3) Overall program strengths/weaknesses;
  - 4) Future direction of the program;
  - 5) The Permittee(s) will make an overall determination of the effectiveness of the SWMPP taking into account water quality/watershed improvements; and
  - 6) Required actions that were not performed, and reasons why the actions were not accomplished.
- c. The annual report will include a narrative report of all program elements referenced in Part II.B of this permit. The activities concerning a program element shall be discussed as follows:
  - 1) Program element activities completed and in progress;
  - 2) General discussion of element. Explanation for all element activities that have not been fully implemented or completed. Results of activities shall be summarized and discussed (e.g.: maintenance caused by inspection, pollutants detected by monitoring, investigations as a result of dry and wet weather screening, number and nature of enforcement item, education activities/participation);
  - 3) Status of program element with compliance, implementation, and augmentation schedules in Part II of the permit;
  - 4) Assessment of controls; and
  - 5) Discussion of proposed element revisions.
- d. The annual report shall contain a monitoring section which discusses the progress and results of the monitoring programs required under Part III of the permit and shall include, at a minimum, the following information.
  - 1) Status of implementation of the monitoring program;
  - 2) Map(s) showing the monitoring station locations, latitude/longitude, and narrative site descriptions, including watershed size;
  - 3) Raw data, results, methods of evaluating the data, graphical summaries of the data, and an explanation/discussion of the data for each component of the monitoring program;
  - 4) An analysis of the results of each monitoring program component;
  - 5) A comparison of the reporting year's data to the previous five years of data to establish a trend analysis to determine the relative health of the receiving waterbody;
  - 6) All monitoring reports and supporting data shall be submitted in hardcopy and/or electronically in a format deemed acceptable to the Department concurrently with the submission of the Annual Report; Failure to provide this data in a format appropriate to the Department for review shall be a violation of this permit; and
  - 7) The interpretation of the monitoring data, required to be collected by Part III.B.1-2 of the Permit, for determinacy of meeting water quality standards.

- e. Provide the status of the implementation and proposed changes to the SWMPP to include assessment of controls and specific improvements or degradation to water quality;
- f. Provide a summary of inspections and enforcement actions for regulatory program. Enforcement actions should include a corrective actions summary;
- g. Implementation status of the public education programs; and
- h. Status of expenditures and budget for the past fiscal year and the next fiscal year for the Permittee's program. The analysis shall indicate budgets and funding sources.

**PART V Standard and General Permit Conditions**

***A. Certification and Signature of Reports***

All reports required by the permit and other information requested by the Director shall be signed and certified in accordance with Part V.M. of this permit.

***B. Submittals***

All documents required to be submitted to the Department by this permit, shall be addressed to:

Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
 Stormwater Management Branch, Water Division  
 Post Office Box 301463  
 Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

Certified and Registered Mail shall be addressed to:

Alabama Department of Environmental Management  
 Stormwater Management Branch, Water Division  
 1400 Coliseum Blvd  
 Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2059

***C. Retention of Records***

The Permittee shall retain the storm water quality management program developed in accordance with Part II of this permit until at least five years after coverage under this permit terminates. The Permittee shall retain all records of all monitoring information, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records required by this permit, and records of all other data required by or used to demonstrate compliance with this permit, until at least five years after creation of said record. This period may be explicitly modified by alternative provisions of this permit or extended by request of the Director at any time.

***D. Duty to Comply***

The Permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Clean Water Act and is grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or for denial of a permit renewal application.

***E. Civil and Criminal Liability***

- 1. Tampering

Any person, who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained or performed under this permit shall, upon conviction, be subject to penalties as provided by AWPCA.

2. **False Statements**

Any person knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other documentation submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or non-compliance, shall, upon conviction, be punished as provided by AWPCA

3. **Relief from Liability**

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the Permittee(s) of civil and criminal liability under AWPCA or FWPCA for non-compliance with any term or condition of this permit.

**F. *Duty to Reapply***

1. If the Permittee intends to continue an activity regulated by this permit beyond the expiration of this permit, the Permittee must apply for and obtain a new permit. The application shall be submitted at least 180 days prior to expiration of this permit.
2. Failure of the Permittee to apply for re-issuance at least 180 days prior to permit expiration will void the automatic continuation of the expiring permit provided by ADEM Administrative Code, Rule 335-6-6.-06, and should the permit not be re-issued for any reason any discharge after expiration of this permit will be an unpermitted discharge.

**G. *Need to Halt or Reduce an Activity Not a Defense***

It shall not be a defense for a Permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

**H. *Duty to Mitigate***

The Permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human or the environment.

**I. *Bypass***

- a. Any bypass is prohibited except as provided in Part V.I.b. and c.
- b. A bypass is not prohibited if:
  - (1) It does not cause any applicable discharge limitations, if specified in this Permit, to be exceeded;
  - (2) The discharge resulting from such bypass enters the same receiving water as the discharge from the permitted outfall, if applicable;
  - (3) It is necessary for essential maintenance of a treatment or control facility or system to assure efficient operation of such facility or system, if applicable; and
  - (4) The Permittee monitors the discharge resulting from such bypass at a frequency, at least daily, sufficient to prove compliance with the discharge limitation, if specified in this Permit.
- c. A bypass is not prohibited and need not meet the discharge limitations, if specified in this Permit, if:

- (1) It is unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
  - (2) There are no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if the Permittee could have installed adequate backup equipment to prevent the bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance; and
  - (3) The Permittee submits a written request for authorization to bypass to the Director at least ten (10) days, if possible, prior to the anticipated bypass or within 24 hours of an unanticipated bypass, the Permittee is granted such authorization, and Permittee complies with any conditions imposed by the Director to minimize any adverse impact to waters resulting from the bypass.
- d. The Permittee has the burden of establishing that each condition of Parts V.I.b. or c. have been met to qualify for an exception to the general prohibition against bypassing contained in Part V.I.a. and an exemption, where applicable, from the discharge limitations, if specified in this Permit.

***J. Upset***

- a. Except as provided in Part V.J.b., a discharge which results from an upset need not meet the applicable discharge limitations, if specified in this Permit, if:
- (1) No later than 24-hours after becoming aware of the occurrence of the upset, the Permittee orally reports the occurrence and circumstances of the upset to the Director; and
  - (2) No later than five (5) days after becoming aware of the occurrence of the upset, the Permittee furnishes the Director with evidence, including properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, design drawings, construction certification, maintenance records, weir flow measurements, dated photographs, rain gauge measurements, or other relevant evidence, demonstrating that:
    - (i) An upset occurred;
    - (ii) The Permittee can identify the specific cause(s) of the upset;
    - (iii) The Permittee's treatment facility was being properly operated at the time of the upset; and
    - (iv) The Permittee promptly took all reasonable steps to minimize any adverse impacts to waters resulting from the upset.
- b. The Permittee has the burden of establishing that the condition of Part V.J.a. have been met to qualify for an exemption from the discharge limitations, if specified in the Permit.

***K. Duty to Provide Information***

The Permittee shall furnish to the Director, within a reasonable time, any information which the Director may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, suspending, or revoking this permit in whole or in part, or to determine compliance with this permit. The Permittee shall also furnish to the Director upon request copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

***L. Other Information***

If the Permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Director, it

shall promptly submit such facts or information with a written explanation for the mistake and/or omission.

**M. *Signatory Requirements***

All reports and forms to be submitted by this permit, AWPCA and the Department's rules and regulations, shall be signed by a "responsible official" of the Permittee, as defined in ADEM Administrative Code, Rule 335-6-6-.09, or a "duly authorized representative" of such official, as defined by ADEM Administrative Code, Rule 335-6-6-.09, and shall bear the following certification:

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

**N. *Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability***

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the Permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the Permittee is or may be subject under Section 311 of FWPCA.

**O. *Property and Other Rights***

This permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to persons or property or invasion of other private rights, or any infringement of Federal, State, or local laws or regulations, nor does it authorize or approve the construction of any physical structures or facilities or the undertaking of any work in any waters of the State of Alabama.

**P. *Severability***

The provision of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of the permit shall not be affected thereby.

**Q. *Compliance with Statutes and Rules***

This permit is issued under ADEM Administrative Code, Chapter 335-6-6. All provisions of this chapter that are applicable to this permit are hereby made a part of this permit.

This permit does not authorize the non-compliance with or violation of any laws of the State of Alabama or the United States of America or any regulations or rules implementing such laws.

**R. *Proper Operations and Maintenance***

The Permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the Permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit and with the requirements of storm water pollution prevention plans. Proper operation and maintenance requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems, installed by a Permittee only when necessary to achieve compliance with conditions of the permit.

**S. *Monitoring Records***

1. Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity.

2. The Permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application of this permit, for a period of at least three (3) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended at the request of the Director at any time.

**T. *Monitoring Methods***

Monitoring must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 CFR Part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in this permit.

**U. *Right of Entry and Inspection***

The Permittee shall allow the Director or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:

1. Enter upon any of the permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity or point source is located or in which any records must be maintained under conditions of this permit;
2. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records required to be maintained by the terms and conditions of this permit;
3. Inspect, at reasonable times, any point source, any monitoring equipment or practices being maintained to comply with this permit, or any treatment or control or systems being maintained to comply with this permit; and
4. Sample or monitor, at reasonable times, for the purposes of determining permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by AWPCA, any substances or parameters at any location.

**V. *Additional Monitoring by the Permittee***

If the Permittee monitors more frequently than required by this permit, using test procedures approved under 40 CFR Part 136 or as specified in this permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the monitoring report. Such increased monitoring frequency shall also be indicated on the monitoring report.

**W. *Permit Modification and Revocation***

1. This permit may be modified or revoked or reissued, in whole or in part, during its term for cause including but not limited to, the following:
  - a. If cause for termination under Part V.W.3. of this permit exists, the Director may choose to revoke or re-issue this permit instead of terminating the permit;
  - b. If a request to transfer this permit has been received, the Director may decide to revoke and re-issue or to modify the permit; or
  - c. If modification or revocation and re-issuance is requested by the Permittee and cause exists, the Director may grant the request.
2. This permit may be modified during its term for cause, including but not limited to:
  - a. If cause for termination under Part V.W.3., of this permit exists, the Director may choose to modify this permit instead of terminating this permit;

- b. The Director has received new information that was not available at the time of permit issuance and that would have justified the application of different permit conditions at the time of issuance;
  - c. Errors in calculation of discharge limitation or typographical or clerical errors were made;
  - d. To the extent allowed by ADEM Administrative Code, Rule 335-6-6-.17, when the standards or regulations on which the permit was based have been changed by promulgation of amended standards or regulations or judicial decision after the permit was issued;
  - e. To the extent allowed by ADEM Administrative Code, Rule 335-6-6-.17, permit may be modified to change compliance schedules;
  - f. To incorporate an applicable Section 307(a) of FWPCA toxic effluent standard or prohibition;
  - g. When required by the re-opener conditions in this permit;
  - h. Upon failure of the State to notify, as required by Section 402(b)(3) of FWPCA, another State whose water may be affected by a discharge permitted by this permit;
  - i. When required to correct technical mistakes, such as errors in calculation, or mistaken interpretations of law made in determining permit conditions;
  - j. When requested by the Permittee and the Director determines that the modification has cause and will not result in a violation of federal or State law, rules, or regulations;
  - k. To add a new Permittee who is the owner or operator of a portion of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System; or
  - l. To change portions of the Storm Water Quality Management Program that is considered permit conditions.
3. This permit may be terminated during its term for cause, including but not limited to, the following:
- a. Violation of any term or condition of this permit;
  - b. The permittee's misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts in the permit application or during the permit issuance or the permittee's misrepresentation of any relevant facts at any time;
  - c. Materially false or inaccurate statements or information in the permit application or the permit;
  - d. The permittee's discharge threatens human life or welfare or the maintenance or water quality standards; or
  - e. Any other cause allowed by ADEM Administrative Code, Rule 335-6-6.
4. This permit may be suspended during its term for cause, including but not limited to, the reasons for termination listed above.

5. The filing of a request by the Permittee for modification, suspension or revocation of this permit, in whole or in part, does not stay any permit term condition.

**X. *Termination of Coverage for a Single Permittee***

Permit Coverage may be terminated, in accordance with the provision of 30 CFR 122.64 and 124.5, for a single Permittee without terminating coverage for other permittees.

**Y. *Modification of Storm Water Management Program***

Only those portions of the Storm Water Management Program specifically required as permit conditions shall be subject to modification requirements of 40 CFR 124.5. Replacement of an ineffective or infeasible BMP implementing a required component of the Storm Water Management Program with an alternate BMP expected to achieve the goals of the ineffective or infeasible BMP shall be considered a minor modification to the SWMPP and not modification to the Permit.

**Z. *Changes in Monitoring Outfalls***

This permit is issued on a system-wide basis in accordance with CWA §402(p)(3)(i) and authorizes discharges from all portions of the MS4. Since all outfalls are authorized, changes in monitoring outfalls, other than those with specific numeric effluent limitations, shall be considered minor modifications to the permit and will be made in accordance with the procedures at 40 CFR 122.63.

**AA. *Definitions***

1. "Alabama Handbook" means the July 2018 edition of the Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control, and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas, Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee (ASWCC) published at the time permit is effective.
2. "Arithmetic Mean" means the summation of the individual values of any set values divided by the number of individual values.
3. "AWPCA" means Code of Alabama 1975, Title 22, the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, as amended.
4. "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) means activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices implemented to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State. BMPs also include treatment systems, operating procedures, and practices to control facility runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.
5. "Bypass" means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
6. "Catch Basin" means a receptacle or reservoir that receives surface water runoff or drainage.
7. "Control Measure" as used in this permit, refers to any Best Management Practice or other method used to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State.
8. "CWA" or "The Act" means the Clean Water Act (formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972) Pub.L. 92-500, as amended Pub. L. 95-217, Pub. L. 95-576, Pub. L. 96-483 and Pub. L. 97-117, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et.seq.



9. "Department" means the Alabama Department of Environmental Management or an authorized representative.
10. "Discharge", when used without a qualifier, refers to "discharge of a pollutant" as defined as ADEM Administrative Code 335-6-6-.02(m).
11. "Flood Management Project" means a project that will alter, modify or change the base flood elevation of a 1% annual chance flood event.
12. "Flow-weighted composite sample" means a composite sample consisting of a mixture of aliquots collected at a constant time interval, where the volume of each aliquot is proportional to the flow rate of the discharge at the time of sampling.
13. "Green Infrastructure" refers to systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes to infiltrate, evapotranspire (the return of water to the atmosphere either through evaporation or by plants), or reuse stormwater or runoff on the site where it is generated.
14. "Hydrology" refers to the physical characteristics of storm water discharge, including the magnitude, duration, frequency, and timing of discharge.
15. "Illicit connection" means any man-made conveyance connecting a non-storm water discharge directly to a municipal separate storm sewer system.
16. "Illicit discharge" means any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water except discharges pursuant to a NPDES permit.
17. "Industrial Land Use" means land utilized in connection with manufacturing, processing, or raw materials storage at facilities identified under Alabama State Law.
18. "Infiltration" means water other than wastewater that enters a sewer system, including foundation drains, from the ground through such means as defective pipes, pipe joints, connections, or manholes. Infiltration does not include, and is distinguished from, inflow.
19. "Landfill" means an area of land or an excavation in which wastes are placed for permanent disposal, and which is not a land application unit, surface impoundment, injection well, or waste pile.
20. "Large" municipal separate storm sewer system means all municipal separate storm sewers that are either:
  - a. Located in an incorporated place (city) with a population of 250,000 or more as determined by the latest decennial census; or
  - b. Located in counties (these counties are listed in Appendix H of 40 CFR Part 122, except municipal storm sewers that are located in the incorporated places, townships or towns within such counties; or
  - c. Owned or operated by a municipality other than those described in Part V.AA.20.a. or b. and that are designated by the Director as part of the large or medium municipal separate storm sewer system; or
  - d. The Director may designate as a large municipal separate storm sewer system, municipal separate storm sewers located within the boundaries of a region defined by a storm water management regional authority based on a jurisdictional, watershed, or other appropriate basis that includes one or more of the systems described in Part V.AA.20.a., b. or c.).

21. "Low Impact Development" (LID) is an approach to land development (or re-development) that works with nature to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible. LID employs principles such as preserving and recreating natural landscape features, minimizing effective imperviousness to create functional and appealing site drainage that treat stormwater as a resource rather than a waste product.
22. "Major outfall" is the point(s) where the MS4 discharges to a water of the State from (1) a pipe (or closed conveyance) system with a cross-sectional area equal to or greater than 7.07 square feet (e.g., if a single circular pipe system, an inside diameter of 36 inches or greater), (2) a single conveyance other than a pipe, such as an open channel ditch, which is associated with a drainage area of more than 50 acres, (3) a pipe (or closed conveyance) system draining "industrial land use" with a cross-sectional area equal to or greater than 0.79 square feet (e.g., if a single circular pipe system, an inside diameter of 12 inches or greater), (4) or a single conveyance other than a pipe, such as an open channel ditch, which is associated with an "industrial land use" drainage area of more than 2 acres; For the purpose of this permit, outfalls of the "double barrel" type, whose combined cross-sectional area is greater than 7.07 square feet, equivalent to a single circular pipe outfall with an inside diameter of 36 inches or greater, are also considered major outfalls.
23. "MEP" is an acronym for "Maximum Extent Practicable" and is the technology-based discharge standards and controls necessary for municipal separate storm sewer systems to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges that was established by CWA Section 402(p). These standards and controls may consist of a combination of best management practices, control techniques, system design and engineering methods, and such other provisions for the reduction of pollutants discharged from a MS4 as described in the storm water management system.
24. "Medium" municipal separate storm sewer system means all municipal separate storm sewers that are either:
  - a. Located in an incorporated place (city) with a population of 100,000 or more but less than 250,000 as determined by the latest decennial census; or
  - b. Located in counties (these counties are listed in Appendix I of 40 CFR Part 122, except municipal separate storm sewers that are located in the incorporated places, townships or towns within such counties; or
  - c. Owned or operated by a municipality other than those described in Parts V.AA.24.a. and b. and that are designated by the Director as part of the large or medium municipal separate storm sewer system; or
  - d. The Director may designate as a medium municipal separate storm sewer system, municipal storm sewers located within the boundaries of a region defined by a stormwater management regional authority based on a jurisdictional, watershed, or other appropriate basis that includes one or more of the systems as described in Parts V.AA.24.a., b. or c.
25. "MS4" is an acronym for "Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System" and is used to refer to either a large, medium, or small municipal separate storm sewer system. The term is used to refer to either the system operated by a single entity or a group of systems within an area that are operated by multiple entities.
26. "Municipal Separate Storm System" is defined at 40 CFR Part 122.26(b)(8) and means 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, storm water, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, 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 storm water; (iii) Which is not a combined sewer; and (iv) Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined in ADEM Administrative Code 335-6-6-.02(n).

27. "Permittee" means each individual co-applicant for an NPDES permit who is only responsible for permit conditions relating to the discharge that they own or operate.
28. "Point Source" means 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 storm water runoff.
29. "Priority Construction Site" means any qualifying construction site in an area where the MS4 discharges to a waterbody which is listed on the most recently approved 303(d) list of impaired waters for turbidity, siltation, or sedimentation, any waterbody for which a TMDL has been finalized or approved by EPA for turbidity, siltation or sedimentation, any waterbody assigned the Outstanding Alabama Water use classification in accordance with ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-6-10-.09, and any waterbody assigned a special designation in accordance with 335-6-10-.10.
30. "Qualifying Construction Site" means any construction activity that results in a total land disturbance of one or more acres and activities that disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development or sale that would disturb one or more acres. Qualifying construction sites do not include land disturbance conducted by entities under the jurisdiction and supervision of the Alabama Public Service Commission.
31. "Qualifying New Development and Redevelopment" means any site where construction commenced on or after October 1, 2015 that results from the disturbance of one acre or more of land or the disturbance of less than one acre of land if part of a larger common plan of development or sale that is greater than one acre. Qualifying new development and redevelopment does not include the following:
  - a. Land disturbances conducted by entities under the jurisdiction and supervision of the Alabama Public Service Commission;
  - b. An existing development that has been permitted prior to October 1, 2014; and
  - c. A development that is part of a larger development that has been approved prior to October 1, 2015 and all stormwater management facilities were constructed as part of the larger development.
32. "Storm water" is defined at 40 CFR Part 122.26(b)(13) and means storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.
33. "Structural Controls" means an engineered BMP constructed with rigid walls and/or weirs and piped drainage that utilize active or passive treatment and/or mechanical systems for the purpose of treating storm water runoff.
34. "Structural Flood Control" means structural measures that control the 1% annual chance floodwaters by construction of barriers, storage areas or by modifying / redirecting channels.