

Appendix C

ANNUAL NPDES REPORT
2007 MINNEAPOLIS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM & 2006 ACTIVITIES

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Appendix C: Public Comment

History

The Minneapolis stormwater management program endeavors to improve the water quality of Minneapolis lakes, streams, wetlands, rivers, and other surface waters, with the ultimate goal of preservation and enhancement of our natural and historic environment, while concurrently fulfilling regulatory requirements. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a program created in 1990 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect water quality through the regulating of discharges of pollutants to lakes, streams, wetlands and other surface waters. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is the Minnesota authority that is responsible for administering this program. Under this program, specific permits are issued in an effort to regulate municipal and industrial activities. The City of Minneapolis maintains two distinct NPDES permits:

- The ***Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) permit***, which regulates combined storm and wastewater discharges from the sanitary sewer system
- The ***Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit***, which regulates stormwater runoff discharges from the storm drain system.

Requirements for Annual Reporting, Public Comment, and Council Action

The MPCA issued an NPDES MS4 permit to the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) on December 1, 2000. This Permit requires the submittal of a Stormwater Management Program and Annual Report, due on June 1 of each year. This Report is a coordinated effort by various City departments, as well as the MPRB. Information in the report covers the activities that will be implemented for the current and following year, and provides documentation and analysis of the activities conducted in the previous year.

The Permit also requires an opportunity for public input into the development of the priorities and programs necessary for compliance, and also requires the adoption of the Report through a formal Resolution.

A Public Hearing notice was sent to interested parties, environmental groups, related governmental entities, and all Minneapolis neighborhood groups. A Public Hearing notice was also posted in Finance and Commerce.

The public hearing was held on April 17, 2007. No testimony or questions were presented. Written comments were accepted until Friday, April 27, 2007. A summary of the public's input

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and the City's response to the comments along with the formal Resolution are required to be included with the Annual Report submittal. Only one question was submitted, relating to localized flooding in the vicinity of 27th Av NE and California St NE:

Question:

What are the City's plans to keep water from rising up out of the storm sewers and flooding the N E Minneapolis area near 27th Avenue NE and California Street NE? This seems to happen at least once a year during the all to common heavy rain events. The area of Columbia Avenue also floods or fills with standing water.

Response:

There are several stormwater-related projects that are scheduled for construction in the area in Year 2010. Public Works staff are contacting the individual that posed the question to communicate this, and also to request additional information to enter into the City's Flood Complaint database.