



SC DEPARTMENT of  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES**

# Fact Sheet

Re-Authorization for Discharges under  
NPDES Permit for Discharges from Greenville  
County MS4 - Permit Number SCS230001

## Introduction:

This fact sheet has been prepared by the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES or Department) to set forth the principal facts in re-authorizing stormwater discharges from the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) operated by Greenville County, as well as MS4s operated by the City of Fountain Inn, City of Mauldin, City of Simpsonville and City of Travelers Rest; under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for Stormwater Discharges, SCS230001.

MS4s are conveyances or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains) owned or operated by a state, federal or local government. The entities covered under this permit have jurisdiction over the disposal of stormwater under State and local law. Discharges from the entire geo-politico-jurisdictional boundaries of the cities of Fountain Inn, Mauldin, Simpsonville and Travelers Rest, as well as, unincorporated areas in Greenville County are authorized under this permit. The Permittees own or operate at 3,866 pipe outfalls and 16,607 open ditch outfalls mapped in the County's Cityworks program which are discharging stormwater from these MS4 to Waters of the State of South Carolina.

NPDES Storm Water Permit SCS230001 authorizes discharges composed entirely of stormwater as defined in Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), SC Water Pollution Control Permits Regulation 61-9 and the permit itself.

SCDES has been granted delegated authority by the EPA to implement the NPDES program within the state of South Carolina. This current permit was issued July 1, 2026, effective on August 1, 2026 and expires July 31, 2031.

## Background:

In 1987, the US Congress amended the Federal Clean Water Act to require EPA to implement an NPDES Stormwater Permit Program for municipal discharges. EPA was directed to develop a phased regulatory program for municipal type discharges. The municipal program includes counties as well as towns and cities. Based on these amendments, EPA promulgated the Phase I Stormwater NPDES Regulations in 1990 to address municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4). The Phase I regulations categorized MS4 as follows:

- Large MS4 - entities with a population of 250,000 or more.
- Medium MS4 - entities with a population of 100,000 or more but less than 250,000.

Phase II of the NPDES Stormwater Regulations brought about authority for EPA and delegated states to regulate stormwater discharges from Regulated Small MS4.

Permit Requirements:

The draft permit requires the permittees to continue the development, implementation, and enforcement of a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP). MS4 operators must include in their SWMP measures to effectively prohibit non-storm water discharges to their system; implementation of controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable (MEP), to protect water quality; and implementation of best management practices (BMP), control techniques, or system design and engineering methods to satisfy appropriate requirements of the CWA. The SWMP includes the following eleven elements:

1. Structural Controls and Storm Water Collection System Operation
2. Areas of New Development and Significant Redevelopment
3. Existing Roadways
4. Flood Control Projects
5. Municipal waste treatment, storage; or disposal facilities
6. Pesticide, Herbicide and Fertilizers (PHFs) Application
7. Illicit Discharges and Improper Disposal
8. Industrial Runoff
9. Construction Site Runoff
10. Monitoring Program
11. Public Education

Specific requirements contained in the permit to highlight include:

- Maintenance requirements to reduce floatables discharged from Structural Controls and Storm Water Collection Systems in the MS4.
- In the Areas of New Development and Significant Redevelopment element, there is a requirement to inspect and obtain an engineering certification for final close-out inspections of post-construction BMP.
- Flood Control Projects conducted by the Permittees are to be evaluated and assessed for water quality impacts.
- In the Illicit Discharge Detection and Improper Disposal element there are requirement to reduce the discharge of floatables, as well as, follow-up investigation for Permittees to conducted on suspected illicit discharges and improper disposal leading to corrective action to eliminate them.
- The Industrial Runoff element requires control of pollutants present in runoff from industrial sites as well as construction site inventory of BMP for effectiveness.
- Emphasis has been placed in the public education and outreach elements related on water quality impacts from floatable, debris.

### Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (WQBEL)

In addition to these elements, the permit contains Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (WQBEL) applicable to permitted Storm Water Discharges to Impaired and to Sensitive Waters. These WQBEL are applicable to TMDL watersheds, Impaired Water Quality Monitoring Stations (WQMS), and to Sensitive Waters classified Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW), Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW), Trout Put, Grow And Take (TPGT) and Source Water Protection Areas (SWPA). Summaries of the progress on WQBEL implementation and pollutant reductions are to be included in annual reports.

For TMDL watersheds and impaired WQMS, WQBEL are necessary to achieve water quality standards (WQS) under section 303 of the CWA. WQBEL in the draft permit addresses the reasonable potential for discharges to be permitted by establishing procedures to account for control measures on point and nonpoint sources of the pollutant of concern, POC. Compliance with the WQBEL will result in controls on the POC that are sufficient to attain and maintain applicable WQS. WQBEL developed to protect water quality criteria in TMDL watersheds are consistent with the assumptions and requirements of available wasteload allocations, WLA, for the discharge.

### Receiving Waters

The latest streams classified as sensitive waters as well as drinking water intakes are available in the SC Watershed Atlas, and available on the SCDES website. A copy of the most current 303(d) List of Impaired Waters, TMDLs, and water classifications and quality standards can be obtained from:

Water Quality Division  
Bureau of Water  
SC DES  
2600 Bull St.  
Columbia, SC 29201

Or it can be obtained from the following SCDES website:

<https://des.sc.gov/programs/bureau-water/south-carolina-303d-list-impaired-waters-tmdl>

Streams receiving discharges from the permitted area in Greenville County are classified as:

- Class FW; freshwaters suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation; these waters are also suitable as a source of drinking water supply after conventional treatment in accordance with the requirements of the Department, for fishing, and, with the exception of Class ORW, for industrial and agricultural uses. Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) are freshwaters or salt waters which constitute an outstanding recreational or ecological resource, or those freshwaters suitable as a source for drinking water supply purposes with treatment levels specified by the Department.
- Trout Natural (TN), are freshwaters suitable for r supporting reproducing trout populations and a cold water balanced indigenous aquatic community of fauna and flora. Also suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation and as a source for drinking water supply after conventional treatment in

accordance with the requirements of the Department. Suitable for fishing and the survival and propagation of a balanced indigenous aquatic community of fauna and flora. Suitable also for industrial and agricultural uses.

- Trout Put, Grow and Take (TPGT), are freshwaters suitable for supporting growth of stocked trout populations, suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation and as a source for drinking water supply after conventional treatment in accordance with the requirements of the Department and also suitable for fishing and suitable for industrial and agricultural uses.

All these waters are also suitable for the survival and propagation of a balanced indigenous aquatic community of marine fauna and flora (SC Water Classifications & Standards Regulation 61-68 G.4, 6, & 8.b, pp. 30 – 32). The Department has made a preliminary determination that authorization for these storm water discharges under the NPDES Phase I Storm Water Permit, SCS230001, is necessary to important economic or social development and that said authorization will allow maintenance of existing water uses. The Department is seeking comment on this preliminary finding. In accordance with South Carolina Regulation 61-68 Water Classifications and Standards Section D. (2), Antidegradation of the State Water Quality Standards, this notice provides public participation and intergovernmental coordination for this decision.

Specific Updates to Highlight Include:

- Language has been changed to reflect the new agency title.
- Schedule deadlines are updated throughout the permit to reflect the new permit term and continuance of existing program components.
- Language added to reinforce the existing requirements for all Storm Water sites to meet the minimum requirements established within the South Carolina NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities (IGP), South Carolina NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities (CGP), and all pertinent requirements listed within R. 61-9 and R. 72-300 to maintain compliance with the CWA as applicable.
- Clarification provided to specify items required during construction and post-construction in the Storm Water Management Program; Tables in Part II.
- Language added to reinforce the use of inventories for active and inactive construction sites, industrial sites, and all compliance and enforcement tracking; Tables in Part II.
- Inclusion of a set inspection schedule for all Municipally owned, operated, or maintained Municipal Waste Treatment, Storage, and Disposal facility; Table II.B.5.
- Language added to reinforce the existing requirements for identifying Industrial sites which have significant potential to contribute to pollutants of concern to the MS4 and conduct inspections of outfalls as needed; Table II.B.8.
- Language added to clarify items for which the County must review for construction sites requiring permit coverage under the CGP; Table II.B.9.
- Inclusion of a set inspection schedule for active and inactive construction sites within the MS4; Table II.B.9.b.vi.
- Inclusion of specific Public Education program tools for which the County utilizes yearly as described in their Storm Water Management Program; Table II.B.11.
- Inclusion of a thirty (30) day timeline for responsible parties to conduct corrective actions to eliminate illicit discharges. If elimination requires more than thirty (30) days, the permittee will require the party responsible to submit a schedule for elimination. Requirement included in Element 7, Part II of the Permit.

- Requirement to review all monitoring, inspection, and enforcement inventory data annually. Any subsequent changes to the Storm Water Management Plan, procedures, or ordinances shall be recorded in each Annual Report. Requirement referenced in Part II of the Permit.
- Updated physical copy submission to electronic submission and verification via the online permitting portal, ePermitting; Part IV.E.
- Removal of Appendices A and B due to the subject matter referencing documentation or records which may be updated during the permit term. Items are now explicitly stated within the Permit rather than by reference of this documentation.

#### Re-Authorization to Discharge under the Permit

Permittees submitted a timely application to be re-authorized to discharge under this permit.

The Department has conducted a meaningful evaluation of the application package based on guidance found in the Federal Register. A copy of the draft permit was sent to the EPA for review and was returned with no comments on April 30, 2026. The draft will be the fourth permit cycle. The Department's preliminary determination to re-authorize the applicants to discharge under the draft permit is open for public comment.

Once a final decision is reached on the draft permit, the Cities of Fountain Inn, Mauldin, Simpsonville and Greenville County storm water discharges will be re-authorized under the newly effective NPDES Phase I Permit SCS230001.