

NPDES Permit Annual Report Required Elements

Legal Authority

Montgomery County must document that it has legal authority for all aspects of its permit-required programs.

Source Identification

The County is required to maintain up-to-date mapping of potential pollutant sources, including the existing storm drain system, storm water management facilities, and contributing land uses, as well as natural resource and topographic information. This information must be available in electronic, geographically referenced format (Geographic Information System-GIS).

Discharge Characterization

The Permit requires that "Montgomery County shall contribute to Maryland's understanding of stormwater runoff and its effect on water resources by conducting a monitoring program." The Permit requires integrated biology, chemistry, hydrology, and physical habitat assessment at one set of paired outfall and instream stations. This data are used to identify baseline conditions and also assess changes in water quality as best management practices are implemented in the watershed.

Management Programs

The County continues to implement management programs to control discharges from all areas served by the Montgomery County municipal separate storm sewer system. These include stormwater management facility inspection and maintenance, stormwater management permitting and plan review, sediment and erosion control enforcement, illicit discharge identification and elimination, stormwater pollution prevention plans for County-owned industrial facilities, and an extensive public outreach effort. (The Water Quality Advisory Group was established as a result of County permit requirements to provide outreach and guidance from residents, businesses, and the agricultural and environmental community.)

Watershed Restoration

The County is required to continue its systematic, watershed-based assessments to identify priority subwatersheds and maximize water quality benefits using efforts that are definable and the effects of which are measurable. Best management practices to prevent pollution in runoff must be identified and implemented to provide water quality benefits to the 'maximum extent practicable'. Pollutants must be controlled before they are discharged into local waterways.

Program Funding

The County is required to maintain sufficient funding for all capital, operation, and maintenance expenditures necessary for Permit compliance.

Assessment of Controls

The County must annually submit estimates of expected pollutant load reductions as a result of its proposed management programs.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

TMDLs are regulatory limits on how much of a certain pollutant can be discharged to a body of water so that it can be restored to meeting water quality standards. Through the NPDES MS4 permit, the County is required to track progress on control and management strategies towards achieving the load reductions specified in any approved TMDLs. Learn more about [how TMDLs are developed in the state of Maryland](#).