



Stormwater Rulemaking Summary

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has initiated a rulemaking to strengthen national stormwater regulations and to establish a comprehensive program to reduce stormwater discharges from new development and redevelopment.

Background on Stormwater

Developed sites, such as subdivisions and commercial shopping centers, can significantly alter the hydrology of a site and can have a negative impact on receiving waterbodies.

Generally, as sites are developed, there is an increase in impervious areas where water cannot infiltrate into the ground, leading to increases in stormwater runoff volume. This additional stormwater volume, as well as the introduction of pollutants such as fertilizers, sediments and deposition of vehicle emissions contributes to increased stormwater impacts. Many of these developed areas are outside of currently regulated areas and are contributing to waterbody impairment.

EPA requests input on ways to strengthen the stormwater program, including the promotion of practices that retain stormwater on-site through infiltration, evapotranspiration, or stormwater reuse to reduce these impacts nationwide. EPA is considering how to strengthen the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit regulations, including expanding the MS4 regulated area to include

rapidly developing areas and establishing specific post construction requirements for stormwater discharges from new development and redevelopment, both inside and outside the MS4 boundary, that may be contributing to waterbody impairments.

Proposed Regulatory Considerations

1. Expand the area subject to federal stormwater regulations.
2. Establish specific requirements to control stormwater discharges from new development and redevelopment.
3. Develop a single set of consistent stormwater requirements for all MS4s.
4. Require MS4s to address stormwater discharges in areas of existing development through retrofitting the sewer system or drainage area with improved stormwater control measures.
5. Explore specific stormwater provisions for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

For further information, please write to:

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You can view or download the complete text of the *Federal Register* notice describing the rulemaking considerations on the Internet at:
<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/rulemaking>.