

Regional News

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), Division of Water Pollution Control has identified 30 municipalities – in addition to the 48 automatically designated in the Federal Register (Vol. 63, No. 235, December 8, 1999, page 28832) – subject to the Phase II Stormwater Regulations.

In mid-2001, the TDEC will be mailing these 78 municipalities a Phase II package, which will summarize the requirements of the Stormwater Regulations and reinforce the existing deadlines.

The TDEC is leaning heavily toward requiring an Individual Permit versus a General Permit. The individual permit process may require a detailed mapping of the permittee's storm sewer system.

LAWGIBB Develops Phase II Baseline Assessment Tool

LAWGIBB stormwater specialists have developed a tool to aid municipalities impacted by the EPA's Phase II Rule in beginning the compliance process.

Our work with municipalities throughout the U.S. led to the development of a comprehensive checklist of standard questions that should be answered during the baseline assessment process. It addresses program areas required by the Phase II Rule including technical issues, public involvement, and financing mechanisms.

The information gathered by completing the checklist clarifies the status of existing conditions and identifies areas where further information is required.

Contact the LAWGIBB stormwater expert in your region for more information. (See page 2.)

NPDES Compliance Efforts Impacted by GASB.34: *Environmental Expenditure Reporting to be Required*

In an effort to promote accountability to the public for expenditures on infrastructure, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has completely revised guidelines for how state and local governments report their finances to the public, including spending on environmental programs. Approved by GASB on June 10, 1999, Statement No. 34 requires governments for the first time to report information about their public infrastructure investments. The rule impacts government services as well as environmental programs such as water and sewage services, landfill cleanup and closure, and environmental liability compliance costs.

According to GASB Chairman Tom Allen, "This is the most significant change to occur in the history of governmental financial reporting." Government accounting regulators approved the new accounting standard to force state and local governments to disclose environmental liability and cleanup costs in financial reports as the costs occur. Currently, these costs only have to be reported when they are paid out, which allows fiscal problems to be masked from taxpayers.

The new standard will take effect in three phases depending on the size of state and local budgets:

- Phase I affects states and cities with budgets of \$100 million or more in annual revenue in fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2001.
- Phase 2 affects states and cities with at least \$10 million but less than \$100 million in revenues after June 15, 2002.
- Phase 3 affects municipalities with less than \$10 million in revenue after June 15, 2003.

LAWGIBB Services Can Integrate GASB.34 with Phase II Rule

The enactment of GASB.34 represents the second new federal mandate impacting municipalities' infrastructure management. To accomplish compliance with both measures in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, LAWGIBB professionals can help you integrate the new GASB.34 requirements with those of the Phase II Rule. In the process of developing the required Stormwater Management Plan, one of the six minimum measures requires the municipality to demonstrate knowledge of their storm sewer systems. The process of obtaining this information will typically require performing a storm system inventory, which would simultaneously meet the storm sewer system component of GASB.34 Infrastructure Asset Inventory (IAI) requirement. The database developed from the storm sewer system inventory may subsequently be adapted for the remaining infrastructure asset inventories required by GASB.34.

LAWGIBB provides both the engineering and environmental expertise and state-of-the-art information management tools necessary to perform the in-depth inventory analysis, cost estimating, and substantiating documentation required to comply with GASB.34 as well as the Phase II Rule. Our experts can assist governments in establishing their own asset management tools including geographic information systems, which provide a systematic approach to management of the public infrastructure and can be used to identify the best use of limited resources in maintaining and preserving these assets.

Comprehensive information on GASB.34 is available at the following website:
www.rutgers.edu/Accounting/raw/gasb/repmode/gasb34main.html ■

EPA "Toolbox" Now Available

The much-anticipated Phase II "Toolbox" is now available on EPA's website. As promised, it was posted in October. At this time, it consists of a series of links to previously existing information. What's new: a single web page that serves as a clearinghouse to access the volumes of information available on the subject, including links to state web sites. To access the Toolbox, go to www.epa.gov/owm/sw/toolbox/. ■

Current LAWGIBB Projects

City of Dothan, Alabama

LAWGIBB is currently completing a baseline assessment relative to meeting Phase II requirements for the City of Dothan, Alabama (pop. ~ 53,000). A baseline assessment was conducted for all City departments that included an analysis of existing programs and policies within the City that can be incorporated into a stormwater program. The project team reviewed existing and proposed City ordinances, interviewed department officials, and performed a review of the City's existing GIS system. While establishing a GIS system is not a requirement of the Phase II Rule, it is a useful tool that can drastically reduce the difficulties associated with long-term infrastructure management and one that all impacted municipalities should consider.

The project team is in the process of compiling the data obtained from the review of City programs and policies. A report will be prepared detailing LAWGIBB's findings and recommendations for existing program modifications or revisions necessary to meet the minimum requirements set forth by the Phase II Rule. The findings and recommendations of the report may be used to assist the City in the development of a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) to comply with Phase II requirements. ■

Lake Allatoona, Georgia

The Lake Allatoona Preservation Authority (LAPA) recently enlisted the support of LAWGIBB to implement a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) at Lake Allatoona. SWAPs are state-funded initiatives to identify and assess potential pollution sources while finding solutions to manage their impacts on drinking water intakes. LAWGIBB will assist LAPA with source water assessments, susceptibility analyses, GIS support, and public relations.



The success of the Lake Allatoona SWAP hinges on extensive community involvement. The LAWGIBB team will be responsible for increasing public awareness and involvement through speaker's forums, utility bill inserts, public forums, and displays and exhibits. ■

About LAWGIBB Group (Law Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.)

We are a full-service engineering and environmental consulting firm with 105 offices in 36 countries, including 58 locations in the U.S. and its territories alone.

Our comprehensive services are grouped into six major areas:

Water Resources

Engineered Construction

Industrial

Environmental Consulting

Facilities Engineering

Transportation

Stormwater Management Services

- Development of an individually tailored Stormwater Management Plan
- Development and implementation of comprehensive Illicit Discharge and Elimination Program
- Comprehensive library / database of public education and outreach materials and Pollution Prevention / Good House-keeping program materials
- Post construction run-off control strategies for diverse development types
- Collection of existing stormwater system attributes for use in stormwater modeling, if required
- Development of corrective action / implementation program
- Completion and application for the NPDES permit for the municipality, including updates and renewals
- Creation of funding / financial mechanism
- Provision of long-term program management and maintenance through a GIS system administrator

For more information contact:

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