



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

September 11, 2012

Jason Tardiff
Chairman of Selectmen
16 School Street
Allenstown, NH 03275

Dear Mr. Tardiff:

You are receiving this letter because your municipality has been identified as containing an urbanized area according to the 2010 Decennial Census and is therefore considered a regulated small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) in accordance with 40 CFR §122.32(a)(1). Being a regulated small MS4 makes your municipality subject to the permitting requirements of Phase II stormwater program which was promulgated in 1999. The program, developed under authority of Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act, requires that small MS4s located in urbanized areas obtain permit coverage for stormwater discharges from their system and to develop and implement a stormwater management program. EPA issued the first Phase II stormwater permit in New Hampshire in 2003 and provided coverage to 38 municipalities and a waiver to 7 municipalities. This permit expired on May 1, 2008 and EPA is currently in the process of drafting a new permit for New Hampshire municipalities. The new draft small MS4 permit will cover municipalities that were covered under the 2003 permit as well as new municipalities identified as requiring permit coverage by the 2010 Decennial Census. EPA expects the draft permit to be available shortly and you will be notified when the draft permit is available for review.

Once the New Hampshire small MS4 permit is final, your municipality will be expected to submit a Notice of Intent for coverage under the final permit to EPA. Your municipality will also be expected to develop a stormwater management plan consistent with the provisions of the final New Hampshire small MS4 permit.

A map identifying the urbanized areas within your municipality is enclosed to assist you in the development of your program. Although many municipalities implement their programs town wide, only the portion of the municipality which is in the urbanized area is subject to the stormwater program. The map is based on data contained in the 2010 Census.

Please note that your municipality may be eligible for a waiver from this program based on regulated population size and water quality implications of your discharge. For more information on waivers from requirements of the Phase II program see Stormwater Phase II Fact Sheet:

Who's Covered? Designation and Waivers of Regulated Small MS4s (enclosed). Please contact our office if you feel that you qualify for either waiver option in the enclosed fact sheet.

If you have any questions concerning the map or the stormwater program requirements in general, please contact Newton Tedder at (617) 918-1038 of my office or Jeff Andrews at (603) 271-2984 of NH DES. If you believe you are not the appropriate contact for this program (usually a ranking elected official and jointly administered with a public works director or similar) please forward to the appropriate person and contact Newton Tedder with updated information. For more information on stormwater and the NPDES stormwater program in New England please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/topics/water/stormwater.html> and for additional information on the stormwater Phase II rule please visit: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swfinal.cfm>.

Sincerely,

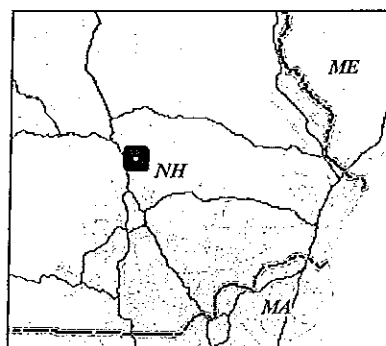
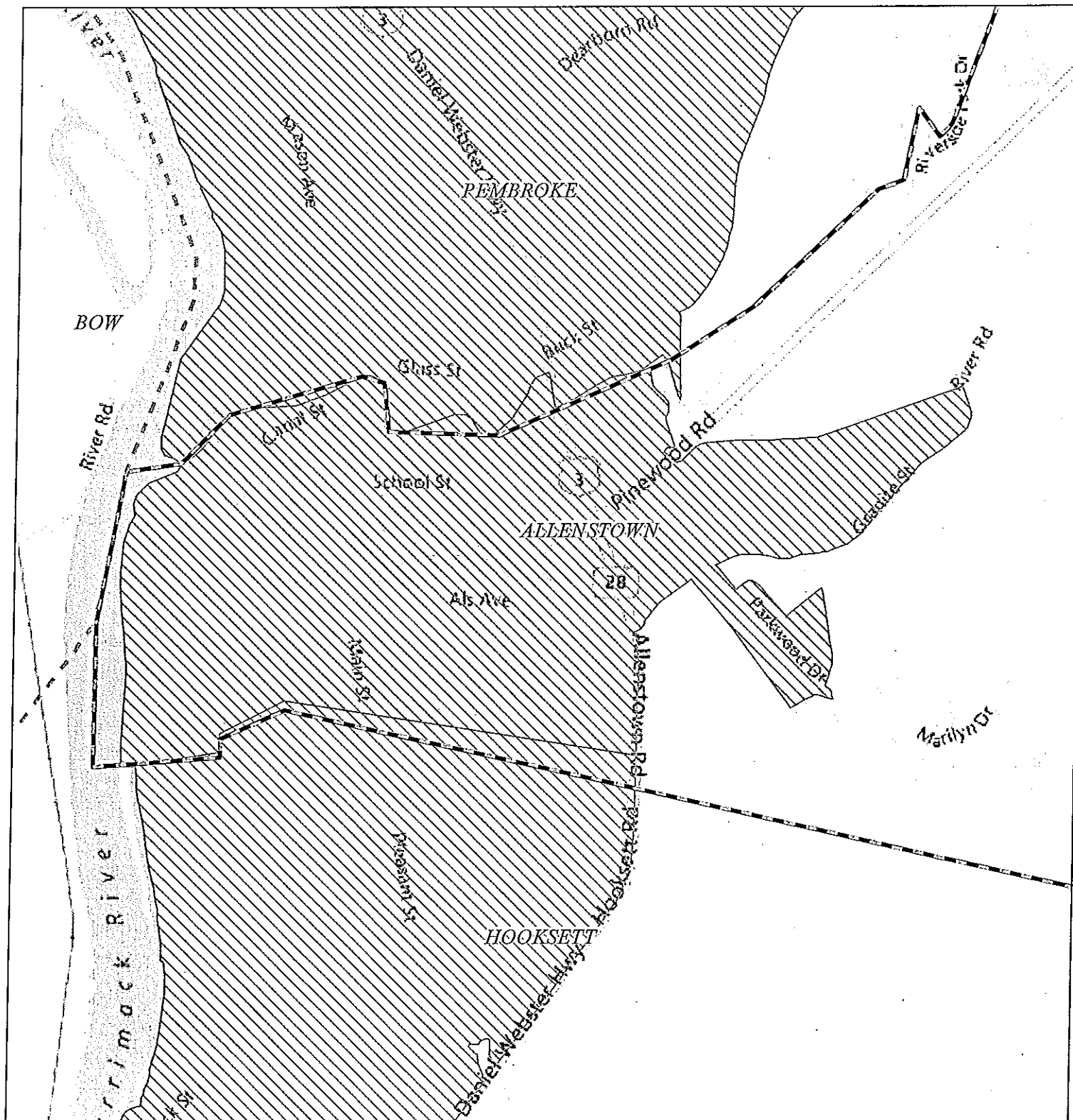
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thelma Murphy".

Thelma Murphy, Manager
Stormwater and Construction Permits Section

Enclosures


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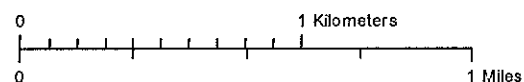
Jeff Andrews, NHDES



NPDES Phase II Stormwater Program
Automatically Designated MS4 Areas

Allenstown NH

 Regulated Area (2010 Urbanized Area)



Town Population: **4278**
Regulated Population: **2274**
(Populations estimated from 2010 Census)



DRAFT

Urbanized Areas: US Census Bureau (2010)
Town Boundaries: NAVTEQ
Base map © 2009 Microsoft Corporation
and its data suppliers

US EPA Region 1 GIS Center Map #8538, 6/28/2012



Stormwater Phase II Final Rule

Who's Covered? Designation and Waivers of Regulated Small MS4s

Stormwater Phase II Final Rule Fact Sheet Series

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Who Is Affected by the Phase II Small MS4 Program?

The Stormwater Phase II Final Rule applies to operators of *regulated small* municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), which are designated based on the criteria discussed in this fact sheet. In this fact sheet, the definition of an MS4 and the distinction between small, medium, and large MS4s is reviewed. Conditions under which a small MS4 may be designated as a *regulated small* MS4, as well as the conditions for a waiver from the Phase II program requirements, are outlined. This fact sheet also attempts to clarify possible implementation issues related to determining one's status as an operator of a regulated small MS4.

What Is a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)?

What constitutes an MS4 is often misinterpreted and misunderstood. The term MS4 does not solely refer to municipally-owned storm sewer systems, but rather is a term of art with a much broader application that can include, in addition to local jurisdictions, State departments of transportation, universities, local sewer districts, hospitals, military bases, and prisons. An MS4 also is not always just a system of underground pipes – it can include roads with drainage systems, gutters, and ditches. The regulatory definition of an MS4 is provided below.

According to 40 CFR 122.26(b)(8), "*municipal separate storm sewer* means a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains):

- (i) Owned or operated by a State, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law)...including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the Clean Water Act that discharges into waters of the United States.
- (ii) Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater;
- (iii) Which is not a combined sewer; and
- (iv) Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR 122.2."

What Is a Small, Medium, or Large MS4?

- ☐ EPA’s NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) stormwater permitting program labels MS4s as either “small,” “medium,” or “large” for the purposes of regulation.
- ☐ A *small MS4* is any MS4 that is not already covered by the Phase I stormwater program. Small MS4s include Federally-owned systems, such as military bases.
- ☐ The Phase I stormwater program covers *medium* and *large* MS4s. Phase I MS4s were automatically designated nationwide as *medium MS4s* if they were located in an incorporated place or county with a population between 100,000 - 249,999 or as *large MS4s* if located in an incorporated place or county with a population of 250,000 or greater. Many MS4s in areas below 100,000 in population, however, have been individually brought into the Phase I program by NPDES permitting authorities. Such already regulated MS4s do not have to develop a Phase II program.

☐ Urbanized Areas

An *urbanized area* (UA) is a densely settled core of census tracts and/or census blocks that have population of at least 50,000, along with adjacent territory containing non-residential urban land uses as well as territory with low population density included to link outlying densely settled territory with the densely settled core. It is a calculation used by the Bureau of the Census to determine the geographic boundaries of the most heavily developed and dense urban areas.

More information about urbanized areas maps is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/urbanmaps>

Additionally, information about urbanized areas is available directly from the U.S. Bureau of the Census at: <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/2010urbanruralclass.html>

Are All Small MS4s Covered by the Phase II Final Rule?

No. The universe of small MS4s is quite large since it includes every MS4 except for the approximately 900 medium and large MS4s already regulated under the Phase I stormwater program. Only a select sub-set of small MS4s, referred to as *regulated small MS4s*, is covered by the Phase II Final Rule, either through automatic nationwide designation or designation on a case-by-case basis by the NPDES permitting authority.

How Is A Small MS4 Designated as a Regulated Small MS4?

A small MS4 can be designated by the permitting authority as a *regulated* small MS4 in one of three ways:

① Automatic Nationwide Designation

The Phase II Final Rule requires nationwide coverage of all operators of small MS4s that are located within the boundaries of a Bureau of the Census-defined “urbanized area” (UA) based on the latest decennial Census. Once a small MS4 is designated into the program based on the UA boundaries, it cannot be removed from the program on that basis that a subsequent decennial UA calculation shows that the small MS4 is no longer within the UA boundaries. However, the designated small MS4 remains eligible for a waiver if it meets the criteria.

② Potential Designation by the NPDES Permitting Authority – Required Evaluation

An operator of small MS4 located outside of a UA have been designated as a regulated small MS4 if the NPDES permitting authority determined that its discharges cause, or have the potential to cause, an adverse impact on water quality. The Phase II Final Rule required the NPDES permitting authority to develop a set of designation criteria and apply them, *at a minimum*, to all small MS4s located outside of a UA serving a jurisdiction with a population of at least 10,000 and a population density of at least 1,000 people/square mile.

☐ Designation Criteria

EPA recommended that the NPDES permitting authority use a balanced consideration of the following designation criteria on a watershed or other local basis:

- ✓ Discharge to sensitive waters;
- ✓ High population density;
- ✓ High growth or growth potential;
- ✓ Contiguity to a UA;
- ✓ Significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the United States; and
- ✓ Ineffective protection of water quality concerns by other programs.

③ **Potential Designation by the NPDES Permitting Authority – Physically Interconnected**

Under the final rule, the NPDES permitting authority was required to designate any small MS4 located outside of a UA that contributes substantially to the pollutant loadings of a *physically interconnected* MS4 regulated by the NPDES stormwater program. The final rule did not set a deadline for designation of small MS4s meeting this criterion.

Physically interconnected means that one MS4 is connected to a second MS4 in such a way that it allows for *direct* discharges into the second system.

State and EPA permitting authorities can be contacted to obtain a full list of regulated MS4s, including both the automatically designated MS4s and those that were additionally designated.

Are Waivers from the Phase II Permit/Program Requirements Possible?

Yes, two waiver options are available to operators of automatically designated small MS4s if discharges do not cause, or have the potential to cause, water quality impairment.

The first applies where:

- (1) the jurisdiction served by the system is less than 1,000 people within the urbanized area;
- (2) the system is not contributing substantially to the pollutant loadings of a physically interconnected regulated MS4; and
- (3) if the small MS4 discharges any pollutants identified as a cause of impairment of any water body to which it discharges, stormwater controls are not needed based on wasteload allocations that are part of an EPA approved or established “total maximum daily load” (TMDL) that addresses the pollutant(s) of concern.

TMDLs are water quality assessments that determine the source or sources of pollutants of concern for a particular waterbody, consider the maximum amount of pollutants the waterbody can assimilate, and then allocate to each source a set level of pollutants that it is allowed to discharge (i.e., a “wasteload allocation”). Small MS4s that are not given a wasteload allocation would meet the third criterion above.

The second applies where:

- (1) the jurisdiction served by the system is less than 10,000 people;
- (2) an evaluation of all waters of the U.S. that receive a discharge from the system shows that stormwater controls are not needed based on wasteload allocations that are part of an EPA approved or established TMDL that addresses the pollutant(s) of concern or an equivalent analysis; and
- (3) it is determined that future discharges from the small MS4 do not have the potential to result in exceedances of water quality standards.

The NPDES permitting authority is required to periodically review any waivers granted to MS4 operators to determine whether any information required for granting the waiver has changed. Minimally, such a review needs to be conducted once every five years.

Can More than One MS4 in the Same Political Jurisdiction Be Automatically Designated?

Yes. Since the final rule provides automatic coverage of all small MS4s within a UA, the result would likely be coverage of several governments and agencies with multiple, perhaps overlapping, jurisdictions. For example, a city that is located within a UA and operates its own small MS4 could be designated alongside the State’s department of transportation (DOT) and the county’s DOT if the State and county operate roads that are within the borders of the city. All three entities would be responsible for developing a stormwater management program for the portion of their respective MS4s within the city limits. In such a case, the permittees are strongly encouraged to work together to form a unified stormwater management program.

Who Is Responsible if the Small MS4 Operator Lacks the Necessary Legal Authority?

Some regulated small MS4s may lack the necessary legal authority to implement one or more of the required minimum control measures that comprise the Phase II stormwater management program. For example, a local government that is a small MS4 operator may be in a State that does not have an enabling statute that allows local regulatory control of construction site runoff into the sewer system. Another example is a State DOT that may not have the legal authority to require and enforce controls on illicit discharges into its system. In these situations the small MS4 is encouraged to work with the neighboring regulated small MS4s. As co-permittees, they could form a shared stormwater management program in which each permittee is responsible for activities that are within their individual legal authorities and abilities.

For Additional Information

Contacts

☛ U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Phone: 202-564-9545

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater>

☛ Your NPDES Permitting Authority. Most States and Territories are authorized to administer the NPDES Program, except the following, for which EPA is the permitting authority:

District of Columbia

Idaho

Massachusetts

New Hampshire

New Mexico

Puerto Rico

Guam

Johnston Atoll

Midway and Wake Islands

Northern Mariana Islands

Trust Territories

American Samoa

☛ A list of names and telephone numbers for each EPA Region and State is located at

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater>

(click on “Contacts”)

Reference Documents

☛ EPA’s Stormwater Web Site

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater>

- Stormwater Phase II Final Rule Fact Sheet Series
- Stormwater Phase II Final Rule (64 FR 68722)
- National Menu of Best Management Practices for Stormwater Phase II
- Measurable Goals Guidance for Phase II Small MS4s
- Stormwater Case Studies

☛ Census Urbanized Area Information

<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/urbanmaps>

- General Information:
<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/uaucbndy.html>



Stormwater Phase II Final Rule

Urbanized Areas: Definition and Description

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4.0 – Conditional No Exposure
Exclusion for Industrial Activity

As discussed in Fact Sheet 2.1, *Who's Covered? Designation and Waivers of Regulated Small MS4s*, the Phase II Final Rule covers all small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) located within an "urbanized area" (UA). UAs constitute the largest and most dense areas of settlement. UA calculations delineate boundaries around these dense areas of settlement and, in doing so, identify the areas of concentrated development. UA designations are used for several purposes in both the public and private sectors. For example, the Federal Government has used UAs to calculate allocations for transportation funding, and some planning agencies and development firms use UA boundaries to help ascertain current, and predict future, growth areas.

What Is an Urbanized Area (UA)?

The Bureau of the Census determines UAs by applying a detailed set of published UA criteria (see 55 *FR* 42592, October 22, 1990) to the latest decennial census data. Although the full UA definition is complex, the Bureau of the Census' general definition of a UA, based on population and population density, is provided below.

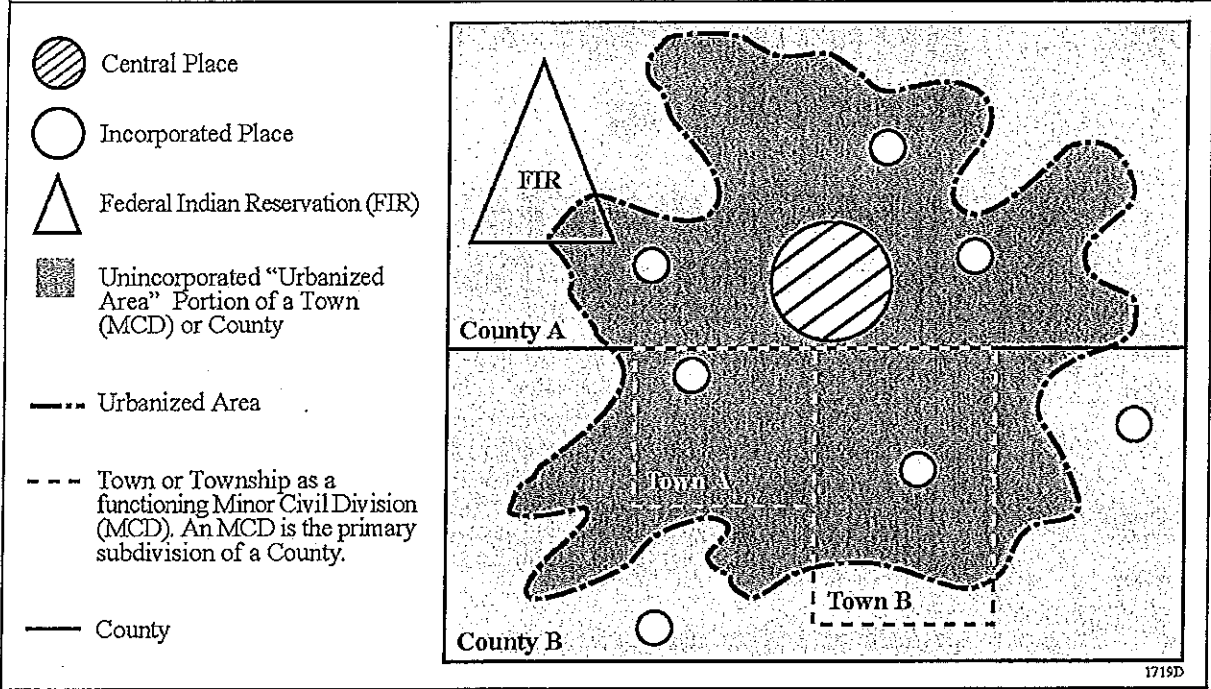
An *urbanized area* (UA) is a densely settled core of census tracts and/or census blocks that have population of at least 50,000, along with adjacent territory containing non-residential urban land uses as well as territory with low population density included to link outlying densely settled territory with the densely settled core. It is a calculation used by the Bureau of the Census to determine the geographic boundaries of the most heavily developed and dense urban areas.

The basic unit for delineating the UA boundary is the census block. Census blocks are based on visible physical boundaries, such as the city block, when possible, or on invisible political boundaries, when not. An urbanized area can comprise places, counties, Federal Indian Reservations, and minor civil divisions (MCDs - towns and townships).

How Can Status as a Regulated Small MS4 Be Determined?

The drawing below (see Figure 1) is a simplified UA illustration that demonstrates the concept of UAs in relation to the Phase II Final Rule. The "urbanized area" includes within its boundaries incorporated places, a portion of a Federal Indian reservation, an entire MCD, a portion of another MCD, and portions of two counties. Any and all operators of small MS4s located within the boundaries of the UA are covered under the Phase II Final Rule, regardless of political boundaries. Operators of small MS4s located outside of the UA are subject to potential designation into the Phase II MS4 program by the NPDES permitting authority.

Figure 1



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Operators of small MS4s can determine if they are located within a UA, and therefore covered by the Phase II storm water program, by contacting one or more of the institutions listed below for more detailed information on the location of the UA boundary. EPA and the States have compiled a list of municipalities to be covered under the Phase II Rule, but the urbanized area boundaries are important in some cases for determining the specific area within a municipality's boundaries that is covered (e.g., a county included in Phase II might only be required to implement their program for the urbanized area of the county).

☐ **The State or NPDES Permitting Authority (may be the State or the U.S. EPA Region)**

Storm Water Coordinators: The NPDES permitting authority may be the State or the U.S. EPA Region. The Storm Water Coordinators for each U.S. EPA Region are listed in the *For Additional Information* section in Fact Sheet 2.9. These regional contacts can assist with UA information and provide the names of State storm water contacts. Regional and State contact information can also be obtained from OWM.

State Data Centers: Each State's Data Center receives listings of all entities that are located in UAs, as well as detailed maps and electronic files of UA boundaries. The Bureau of the Census web site includes a list of contact names and phone numbers for the data in each State at www.census.gov/sdc/www.

State Planning/Economic/Transportation Agencies: These agencies typically use UAs to assess current development and forecast future growth trends and, therefore, should have detailed UA information readily available to help determine the UA boundaries in any given area.

☐ **County or Regional Planning Commissions/Boards**

As with State agencies, these entities are likely to have detailed UA data and maps to help determine UA boundaries.

☐ **U.S. EPA**

NPDES Website: Information about urbanized areas maps is available at EPA's website:
<http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/urbanmaps>

Enviromapper Website: EPA modified a Web-based geographic program called *Enviromapper*. This allows MS4 operators to enter a location and see a detailed map of the UA boundary (called "city boundaries"). *Enviromapper* can be accessed at
<http://www.epa.gov/emeftdata/em4ef.home>

☐ The Bureau of the Census

The site provides information on downloading UA maps and other electronic files for use with computerized mapping systems.
<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/2010urbanruralclass.html>

How Will Subsequent Censuses Affect the Determination of Status as a Regulated Small MS4?

Any additional automatic designations of small MS4s based on subsequent census years is governed by the Bureau of the Census' definition of a UA in effect for that year and the UA boundaries determined as a results of the definition. Once a small MS4 is designated into the program based on the UA boundaries, it cannot be waived from the program if in a subsequent UA calculation the small MS4 is no longer within the UA boundaries. An automatically designated small MS4 remains regulated unless, or until, it meets the criteria for a waiver (see Fact Sheet 2.1 for more information on the regulated small MS4 waiver option).

For Additional Information

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