

The Town of Allenstown is now subject to the 2013 MS4 storm water permit under the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act. This act is regulated by the EPA. Portions of the Town of Allenstown and 14 other communities as a result of the 2010 census are now subject to the requirement to obtain a permit to discharge storm water. The 2010 census placed the downtown area of Allenstown within the Manchester urban area. The EPA uses these defined urban areas as areas subject to the MS4 (Municipal Small Storm Water) permit requirement.

There are sixty communities in the state that are under this requirement. Forty four were subject to the 2003 MS4 permit requirement. The new 2013 permit is presently in draft form. The effective date of the permit has not been determined yet. The question and comment period was continued into the middle of May 2013. The permit has a number of requirements that must be implemented over a seven year period. Many of these requirements will be costly to implement.

We have reviewed the permit requirements and have taken a number of steps to prepare for the permit. The Town is participating in a cooperative effort with the Allenstown Sewer Department and the Pembroke Water Works to map the storm water system, the sanitary sewer system and the water distribution system. The cost will be divided equally among all three entities. The work will be performed by an intern from UNH. This is the first step in the process of identifying the existing system and the outflows to the Merrimack and Suncook Rivers. The Town will be designating an engineering firm to assist with the permit requirements. There will be additional steps in 2014 such as developing a storm water management plan and an ordinance to prohibit illicit discharges in to the system. The implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) will be delineated in the plan.

There are several links on this page that contain the permit requirements, guides and BMPs.