Proposed Charge for the Illicit Discharge Elimination Expert Panel
04-27-2012

EXPERT BMP REVIEW PANEL Illicit Discharge Elimination		
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Background.

MS4 communities in the Bay watershed have permit requirements to screen their stormwater outfalls to detect illicit discharges of sewage and other pollutants, and take actions to eliminate them.

High nutrient levels have been detected in dry weather flows in a number of urban streams in the Chesapeake Bay. Subsequent outfall screening using nutrient based indicators suggest that the much of nutrients are derived from illicit discharges of sewage. Part of the reason is the interaction of flows and overflows from aging sanitary sewers and storm sewers which often run close together.

Recent studies indicate that these discharges may account a significant fraction of the annual nutrient load of some urban streams (CWP, 2011). This suggests that an aggressive local IDDE program could achieve significant nutrient reductions. IDDE efforts are already required under municipal MS4 stormwater permits.

The proposed nutrient credit would apply to episodic or chronic discharges of diluted sewage into the municipal storm drain system that are detected based on nutrient screening of dry weather flow at stormwater outfalls, tracked back up through the storm drain system to their source using the methods of Brown et al (2004) and physically eliminated.

Charge to the Panel

The initial charge of the panel is to review all of the available science on the nutrient load generated by illicit discharges in storm drain systems.

The panel is specifically requested to assess:

- Make recommendations on how to better incorporate nutrient loadings from illicit discharges and sanitary sewer overflows into the urban land component of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.

- Review available literature on the nutrient loading rates associated with illicit discharges and the effect of measures to physically eliminate them

- Provide a specific definition of what constitutes an illicit discharge and outline the qualifying conditions under which a locality can receive a nutrient reduction credit for eliminating it. The panel may wish to define a nutrient monitoring protocol to determine the magnitude of the discharge and confirm that it has been actually eliminated

- Define the proper units that local governments will use to report eliminated discharges to the state for inclusion into future CBWM progress runs, as well as verification procedures.

- Provide guidance to MS4 communities on improved stormwater outfall screening protocols to detect nutrient-laden illicit discharges.

- Critically analyze any unintended consequences associated with the nutrient credit and any potential for double or over-counting of the credit

While conducting its review, the panel shall follow the procedures and process outlined in the WQGIT BMP review protocol.

Proposed Panel Schedule

- Tetra tech to Conduct Initial Literature Review (June , 2012)
- Kickoff teleconference in July 2012 to review literature, discuss proposed charge, and plan out panel work
- Research Review Workshop in August/ September 2012
- Continue teleconferences and/or face to face meetings until a consensus is reached

Reference:

Brown, T., D. Caraco and B. Pitt. 2004. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: a guidance manual for program development and technical assessments. Center for Watershed Protection and University of Alabama. Ellicott City, MD .