

Chapter 99

ILLICIT DISCHARGES TO STORM SEWERS

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Patterson 8-14-2024 by L.L. No. 3-2024; Amendments noted where applicable.]

§99-1 Purpose, Authority.

- A. The NYSDEC SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) Permit No. GP-0-24-001 requires the Town of Patterson to regulate non-stormwater discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in order to reduce pollutants to receiving lakes and streams. This law establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the MS4 in order to comply with requirements of the SPDES General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. The objectives of this chapter are:
 - (1) To meet the requirements of the NYSDEC SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) Permit No. GP-0-24-001, or as amended or revised;

- (2) To regulate the discharge of pollutants discharges to the MS4 by non-stormwater discharges;
- (3) To prohibit illicit connections, activities and discharges to the MS4; and
- (4) To establish legal authority to carry out all inspection, surveillance and monitoring procedures necessary to ensure compliance with this law; and

§99-2. Applicability.

- A. This law shall apply to all water entering the MS4 generated on any developed and undeveloped lands unless explicitly exempted by the Town of Patterson.
- B. This chapter shall also apply to all non-stormwater discharges to the storm sewer system which is owned and operated by the Town of Patterson, or to a private storm sewer system within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Town of Patterson, and any other municipal storm sewer which is interconnected to, and which discharges to the Town of Patterson storm sewer system.

§99-3. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

303(d) LIST. - A list of all surface waters in the state for which beneficial uses of the water (drinking, recreation, aquatic habitat, and industrial use) are impaired by pollutants, prepared periodically by the Department of Environmental Conservation as required by Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. 303(d) listed waters are estuaries, lakes and streams that fall short of state surface water quality standards and are not expected to improve within the next two years.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs). - Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, general good house keeping practices, pollution prevention and educational practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants directly or indirectly to stormwater, receiving waters, or stormwater conveyance systems. BMPs also include treatment practices, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage.

CLEAN WATER ACT. - The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), and any subsequent amendments thereto.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY. - Land disturbance activities resulting in soil disturbances of 5,000 square feet or more. Such activities include but are not limited to clearing and grubbing, grading, excavating, and demolition.

DESIGN PROFESSIONAL. - New York State licensed professional engineer or licensed architect.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. - Any material, including any substance, waste, or combination thereof, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may cause, or significantly contribute to, a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, safety, property, or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

ILLICIT CONNECTIONS. - Any drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface, which allows a non-stormwater discharge to enter the MS4, including but not limited to:

- A. Any conveyances which allow any non-stormwater discharge including treated or untreated sewage, process wastewater, and wash water to enter the MS4 and any connections to the storm drain system from indoor drains and sinks, regardless of whether said drain or connection had been previously allowed, permitted, or approved by an authorized enforcement agency; or
- B. Any drain or conveyance connected from a commercial or industrial land use to the MS4 which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records and approved by an authorized enforcement agency.

ILLCIT DISCHARGE. - Any direct or indirect non-stormwater discharge to the MS4, except as exempt pursuant to §99-6 of this law.

INDIVIDUAL SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEM. - A facility serving one or more parcels of land or residential households, or a private, commercial or institutional facility, that treats sewage or other liquid wastes for discharge into the groundwaters of New York State, except where a permit for such a facility is required under the applicable provisions of Article 17 of the Environmental Conservation Law.

INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY. - Activities requiring the SPDES permit for discharges from industrial activities except construction, GP-98-03, as amended or revised.

MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM (MS4). - A conveyance or system of conveyances including, but not limited to roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains which are:

- A. Owned or operated by the Town of Patterson;
- B. Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater;
- C. Which is not a combined sewer; and
- D. Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40CFR 122.2

NON-STORMWATER DISCHARGE. - Any discharge to the MS4 stormwater conveyance system that is not composed entirely of stormwater.

PERSON - Any individual, association, organization, partnership, firm, corporation or other entity recognized by law and acting as either the owner or as the owner's agent.

POLLUTANT - Any material which may cause or might reasonably be expected to cause degradation of the waters of the state in contravention of the water quality standards including, but not limited to dredged spoil, filter backwash, solid waste, incinerator residue, treated or untreated sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand and industrial, municipal, agricultural waste and ballast discharged into water;

PREMISES. - Any building, lot, parcel of land, or portion of land whether improved or unimproved including adjacent sidewalks and parking strips.

STATE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (SPDES) - Stormwater Discharge Permit. A permit issued by the Department that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the state.

STORMWATER. - Surface runoff resulting from rain, snow or ice.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICER (SMO). - An employee, the municipal engineer or other public official(s) designated by the Town of Patterson to enforce this chapter. The SMO may also be designated by the municipality to accept and review stormwater pollution prevention plans, forward the plans to the applicable municipal board and inspect stormwater management practices.

TMDL. Total Maximum Daily Load.

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD (TMDL) - The maximum amount of a pollutant to be allowed to be released into a waterbody so as not to impair uses of the water, allocated among the sources of that pollutant.

WASTEWATER. - Water that is not stormwater, is contaminated with pollutants and is or will be discarded.

§99-4. Administration.

The Stormwater Management Officer(s) (SMO(s)) appointed by resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Patterson shall administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of this chapter. The Town Board may also appoint a deputy stormwater management officer who shall have all the duties and responsibilities of the stormwater management officer.

§99-5. Prohibited Non-Stormwater Discharges to MS4.

- A. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged into the MS4 any materials other than stormwater except as provided in §99-6.
- B. No person shall make any connection to the MS4 system, including but not limited to any pipe, catchbasin, manhole or drain inlet without the expressed consent of the Town of Patterson Highway Superintendent.
- C. No person shall make any connection to a storm drain collection system including but not limited to any pipe, catchbasin, manhole or drain inlet for which there is an irrevocable offer of dedication to the Town of Patterson, without the expressed consent of the Town of Patterson SMO.
- D. The construction, use, maintenance or continued existence of any illicit connections to the MS4 is prohibited. This prohibition expressly includes, without limitation, illicit connections made in the past, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under law or practices applicable or prevailing at the time of connection.

§99-6. Exempt Non-Stormwater Discharges to MS4.

- A. The following discharges are exempt from discharge prohibitions established by this chapter, unless the municipality has determined them to be substantial contributors of pollutants: water line flushing or other potable water sources, landscape irrigation or lawn watering, existing diverted stream flows, rising ground water, uncontaminated ground water infiltration to storm drains, uncontaminated pumped ground water, foundation or footing drains, crawl space or basement sump pumps, air conditioning condensate, irrigation water, springs, water from individual residential car washing, natural riparian habitat or wetland flows, dechlorinated swimming pool discharges, residential street wash water, water from fire fighting activities, and any other water source not containing pollutants. Such exempt discharges shall be made in accordance with an appropriate plan for reducing pollutants.

- B. Discharges approved in writing by the SMO to protect life or property from imminent harm or damage, provided that, such approval shall not be construed to constitute compliance with other applicable laws and requirements, and further provided that such discharges may be permitted for a specified time period and under such conditions as the SMO may deem appropriate to protect such life and property while reasonably maintaining the purpose and intent of this chapter.
- C. Dye testing in compliance with applicable state and local laws is an allowable discharge, but requires a verbal notification to the SMO prior to the time of the test.
- d. The prohibition shall not apply to any discharge permitted under an SPDES permit, waiver, or waste discharge order issued to the discharger and administered under the authority of the Department, provided that the discharger is in full compliance with all requirements of the permit, waiver, or order and other applicable laws and regulations, and provided that written approval has been granted for any discharge to the MS4.

§99-7. Prohibition of Illicit Connections.

- A. No person shall make a connection to the Town of Patterson MS4 system without the written consent of the individual authorized to grant such consent. Such consent shall only be given if the discharge is an exempt discharge pursuant to §99-6.
- B. The construction, use, maintenance or continued existence of illicit connections to the MS4 is prohibited. This prohibition expressly includes, without limitation, illicit connections made in the past, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under law or practices applicable or prevailing at the time of connection.
- C. A person is considered to be in violation of this chapter if the person connects a line conveying sewage to the municipality's MS4, or allows such a connection to continue.

§99-8. Prohibition Against Failing Individual Sewage Treatment Systems.

- A. No persons shall operate a failing individual sewage treatment system in areas tributary to the municipality's MS4. A failing individual sewage treatment system is one which has one or more of the following conditions:
 - (1) The backup of sewage into a structure.
 - (2) Discharges of treated or untreated sewage onto the ground surface.
 - (3) A connection or connections to a separate stormwater sewer system.
 - (4) Liquid level in the septic tank above the outlet invert.
 - (5) Structural failure of any component of the individual sewage treatment system that could lead to any of the other failure conditions as noted in this section.
 - (6) Contamination of off-site groundwater.

§99-9. Prohibited Activities Contaminating Stormwater.

- A. Activities that cause or contribute to a violation of the municipality's MS4 SPDES permit are prohibited. Such activities include failing individual sewage treatment systems as defined in §99-7, improper management of pet waste or any other activity that causes or contributes to violations of the municipality's MS4 SPDES permit authorization.

- B. Upon notification to a person that he or she is engaged in activities that cause or contribute to violations of the municipality's MS4 SPDES permit authorization, that person shall take all reasonable actions to correct such activities such that he or she no longer causes or contributes to violations of the municipality's MS4 SPDES permit authorization.

§99-10. Requirement to prevent, control, and reduce stormwater pollutants by the use of best management practices.

A. Best Management Practices

- (1) Where the SMO has identified illicit discharges as defined in §99-3, or activities contaminating stormwater as defined in §99-8, the municipality may require implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control those illicit discharges and activities.
- (2) The owner or operator of a commercial or industrial establishment shall provide, at their own expense, reasonable protection from accidental discharge of prohibited materials or other wastes into the MS4 through the use of structural and non-structural BMPs.
- (3) Any person responsible for a property or premise, which is, or may be, the source of an illicit discharge as defined in §99-3 or an activity contaminating stormwater as defined in §99-8, may be required to implement, at said person's expense, additional structural and non-structural BMPs to reduce or eliminate the source of pollutant(s) to the MS4.
- (4) Compliance with all terms and conditions of a valid SPDES permit authorizing the discharge of stormwater associated with industrial activity, to the extent practicable, shall be deemed compliance with the provisions of this section.

§99-11. Suspension of Access to MS4.

A. Illicit Discharges in Emergency Situations.

- (1) The SMO may, without prior notice, suspend MS4 discharge access to a person when such suspension is necessary to stop an actual or threatened discharge which presents or may present imminent and substantial danger to the environment, to the health or welfare of persons, or to the MS4. The SMO shall notify the person of such suspension within a reasonable time thereafter in writing of the reasons for the suspension. If the violator fails to comply with a suspension order issued in an emergency, the SMO may take such steps as deemed necessary to prevent or minimize damage to the MS4 or to minimize danger to persons.
- (2) Suspension due to the detection of illicit discharge. Any person discharging to the municipality's MS4 in violation of this chapter may have their MS4 access terminated if such termination would abate or reduce an illicit discharge. The SMO will notify a violator in writing of the proposed termination of its MS4 access and the reasons therefor. The violator may petition the SMO for a reconsideration and hearing. Access may be granted by the SMO if he/she finds that the illicit discharge has ceased and the discharger has taken steps to prevent its recurrence. Access may be denied if the SMO determines in writing that the illicit discharge has not ceased or is likely to recur. A person commits an offense if the person reinstates MS4 access to premises terminated pursuant to this Section, without the prior approval of the SMO.

§99-12. Industrial or Construction Activity Discharges.

Any person subject to an industrial or construction activity SPDES stormwater discharge permit shall comply with all provisions of such permit. Proof of compliance with said permit may be required in a form acceptable to the municipality prior to the allowing of discharges to the MS4.

§99-13. Access and Monitoring of Discharges.

- A. Applicability. This section applies to all facilities that the SMO must inspect to enforce any provision of this chapter, or whenever the authorized enforcement agency has cause to believe that there exists, or potentially exists, in or upon any premises any condition which constitutes a violation of this chapter.
- B. Access to facilities.
- (1) The SMO shall be permitted to enter and inspect facilities subject to regulation under this chapter as often as may be necessary to determine compliance with this chapter. If a discharger has security measures in force which require proper identification and clearance before entry into its premises, the discharger shall make the necessary arrangements to allow access to the SMO.
 - (2) Facility operators shall allow the SMO ready access to all parts of the premises for the purposes of inspection, sampling, examination and copying of records as may be required to implement this chapter.
 - (3) The municipality shall have the right to set up on any facility subject to this chapter such devices as are necessary in the opinion of the SMO to conduct monitoring and/or sampling of the facility's stormwater discharge.
 - (4) The municipality has the right to require the facilities subject to this chapter to install monitoring equipment as is reasonably necessary to determine compliance with this chapter. The facility's sampling and monitoring equipment shall be maintained at all times in a safe and proper operating condition by the discharger at its own expense. All devices used to measure stormwater flow and quality shall be calibrated to ensure their accuracy.
 - (5) Unreasonable delays in allowing the municipality access to a facility subject to this chapter is a violation of this chapter. A person who is the operator of a facility subject to this chapter commits an offense if the person denies the municipality reasonable access to the facility for the purpose of conducting any activity authorized or required by this chapter.
 - (6) If the SMO has been refused access to any part of the premises from which stormwater is discharged, and he/she is able to demonstrate probable cause to believe that there may be a violation of this chapter, or that there is a need to inspect and/or sample as part of a routine inspection and sampling program designed to verify compliance with this chapter or any order issued hereunder, then the SMO may seek issuance of a search warrant from any court of competent jurisdiction.

§99-14. Notification of spills.

Notwithstanding other requirements of law, as soon as any person responsible for a facility or operation, or responsible for emergency response for a facility or operation has information of any known or suspected release of materials which are resulting or may result in illegal discharges or pollutants discharging into the MS4, said person shall take all necessary steps to ensure the

discovery, containment, and cleanup of such release. In the event of such a release of hazardous materials said person shall immediately notify emergency response agencies of the occurrence via emergency dispatch services (911). In the event of a release of non-hazardous materials, said person shall notify the municipality as soon as practicable in person or by telephone or email, however no later than the next business day. Notifications in person or by telephone shall be confirmed by written notice addressed and mailed to the municipality within three business days of the telephone notice. If the discharge of prohibited materials emanates from a commercial or industrial establishment, the owner or operator of such establishment shall also retain an on-site written record of the discharge and the actions taken to prevent its recurrence. Such records shall be retained for at least three years.

§99-15. Enforcement.

A. Notice of violation. When the municipality's SMO finds that a person has violated a prohibition or failed to meet a requirement of this chapter, he/she may order compliance by written notice of violation to the responsible person. Such notice may require without limitation:

- (1) The elimination of illicit connections or discharges;
- (2) That violating discharges, practices, or operations shall cease and desist;
- (3) The abatement or remediation of stormwater pollution or contamination hazards and the restoration of any affected property;
- (4) The performance of monitoring, analyses, and reporting;
- (5) The implementation of source control or treatment BMPs. If abatement of a violation and/or restoration of affected property is required, the notice shall set forth a deadline within which such remediation or restoration must be completed. Said notice shall further advise that, should the violator fail to remediate or restore within the established deadline, the work will be done by a designated governmental agency or a contractor and the expense thereof shall be charged to the violator.

B. Penalties

In addition to or as an alternative to any penalty provided herein or by law, any person who violates the provisions of this local law shall be guilty of a violation punishable by a fine not exceeding three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both for conviction of a first offense; for conviction of a second offense both of which were committed within a period of five years, punishable by a fine not less than three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) nor more than seven hundred dollars (\$700) or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both; and upon conviction for a third or subsequent offense all of which were committed within a period of five years, punishable by a fine not less than seven hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1000) or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both. However, for the purposes of conferring jurisdiction upon courts and judicial officers generally, violations of this chapter shall be deemed misdemeanors and for such purpose only all provisions of law relating to misdemeanors shall apply to such violations. Each week's continued violation shall constitute a separate additional violation.

§99-16. Failure to Comply, Corrective Measures.

If the violation has not been corrected pursuant to the requirements set forth in the notice of violation, then the SMO shall request the owner's permission for access to the subject private property to take any and all measures reasonably necessary to abate the violation and/or restore the

property. If refused access to the subject private property, the SMO may seek a warrant in a court of competent jurisdiction to be authorized to enter upon the property to determine whether a violation has occurred. Upon determination that a violation has occurred, the SMO may seek a court order to take any and all measures reasonably necessary to abate the violation and/or restore the property. The cost of implementing and maintaining such measures shall be the sole responsibility of the discharger.

§99-17. Injunctive Relief.

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate any provision or fail to comply with any of the requirements of this chapter. If a person has violated or continues to violate the provisions of this chapter, the SMO may petition for a preliminary or permanent injunction restraining the person from activities which would create further violations or compelling the person to perform abatement or remediation of the violation.

§99-18. Violations Deemed a Public Nuisance.

In addition to the enforcement processes and penalties provided, any condition caused or permitted to exist in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter is a threat to public health, safety, and welfare, and is declared and deemed a nuisance, and may be summarily abated or restored at the violator's expense, and/or a civil action to abate, enjoin, or otherwise compel the cessation of such nuisance may be taken.

§99-19. Remedies Not Exclusive.

The remedies listed in this chapter are not exclusive of any other remedies available under any applicable federal, state or local law and it is within the discretion of the authorized enforcement agency to seek cumulative remedies.

§99-20. Severability.

The provisions of this chapter are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this chapter or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this chapter.