

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently determined that Pennsylvania's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan to address water quality goals in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed is inadequate. The plan is 9.7 million pounds short of meeting the nitrogen reduction target. The primary source of nitrogen is uncontrolled manure runoff into streams, but there are other sources noted, including urban stormwater runoff.

What Does This Mean for Water Quality in Pennsylvania?

EPA has indicated they will do the following:

- ▶ Increase agriculture and municipal stormwater inspections
- ▶ Increase permit oversight (e.g., National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, MS4, concentrated animal feeding operation [CAFO], and nutrient management permits)
- ▶ Heighten enforcement actions
- ▶ Redirect federal funds to cost-effective projects.

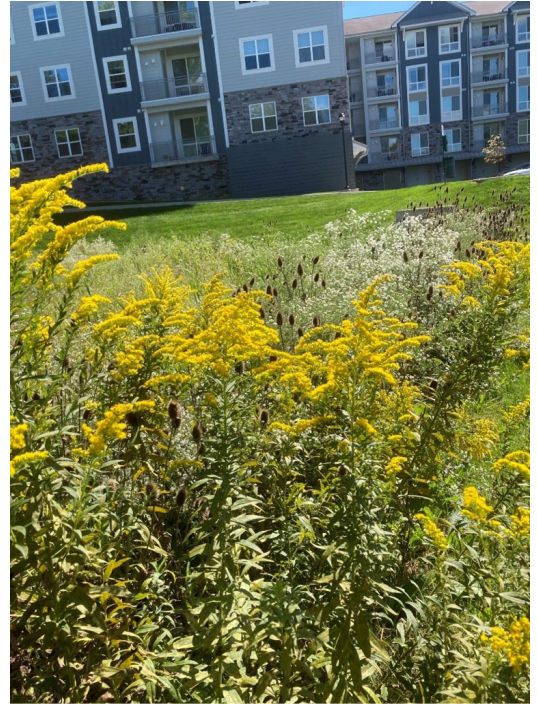
How Will This Affect MS4 Municipalities?

EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) are likely to increase municipal MS4 inspections and audits to ensure permit requirements are being met by municipal staff. Conducting regular inspections to ensure stormwater management facilities and best management practices (BMPs) are functioning as designed, along with documenting inspections, are critical components of a successful stormwater management program. They have also been the areas of focus of recent EPA and PA DEP inspections.

Who is Qualified to Conduct BMP Inspections?

PA DEP has not required any type of certification for BMP inspectors, yet municipal staff need training and guidance. RETTEW is developing a BMP Inspector Certification Course to train municipal staff to conduct regular BMP inspections. The training would include the following:

- ▶ Stormwater management principles and regulations
- ▶ Overview of the function and purpose of a variety of stormwater BMPs
- ▶ Fundamentals on native plants and how they function to improve water quality
- ▶ Common maintenance issues and how to remediate underperforming facilities
- ▶ Inspection forms, procedures, and enforcement
- ▶ Field study and exam.



*Are you interested in a BMP
inspector training course?*

CONTACT US

*Share your interest and the type
of course you want:
in person, virtual, or hybrid!*

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