

DEP to Hold Public Meetings on Proposed Changes Stormwater BMP Manual

HARRISBURG (April 7) - DEP will publish proposed changes to the Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual in tomorrow's Pennsylvania Bulletin.

The purpose of this draft manual is to establish recommended guidance for stormwater management utilizing best management practices (BMPs) in Pennsylvania.

In addition, DEP will hold three public meetings concerning the draft manual on the following dates and locations:

MAY 2 - Allegheny County: Ross Township Municipal Building, 1000 Ross Municipal Dr., Pittsburgh. The 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. meeting will be held in the gymnasium. The 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. meeting will be held in the Commissioner's Meeting Room. Driving directions can be found on the Ross Township website at <http://www.ross.pa.us/administration/communectr.htm>.

May 4 - Dauphin County: Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg. Both the 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. meetings will be held in the second floor auditorium. Driving directions can be found on DEP's website at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=474491>.

May 8 - Lehigh County: Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville Campus (Main Campus), 4525 Education Park Dr., Schnecksville. Both the 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. meetings will be held in Room 8113/8115 of the Administration Building. Driving directions can be found on the Lehigh Carbon Community College website at <http://www.lccc.edu/default.aspx?pageid=58>.

Due to the increased need to improve water quality and protect water resources through improved stormwater runoff management, the draft manual will provide the planning concepts and design standards to guide local and state governments, planners, land developers, contractors, and others involved with planning, designing, reviewing, approving, and constructing land development projects in meeting those needs.

The draft manual advances the most recent innovations in stormwater management focusing on preserving onsite and offsite pre-construction hydraulic conditions, including volume and rate management through local onsite management. Water quality components composed of structural and non-structural techniques and technologies are emphasized and integrated into the draft manual.

In an effort to coordinate stormwater management identified in the draft manual, DEP also will publish a draft Stormwater Management Model Ordinance at a later date. It is anticipated that the draft Stormwater Management Model Ordinance will be discussed at the public meetings.

DEP will accept public comments on the draft manual until June 14. Written statements should be sent to: Chief, NPDES Construction and Erosion Control, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Watershed Management, Division of Waterways, Wetlands and Stormwater Management, P.O. Box 8775, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8775. Comments may also be sent electronically to: epstormwatermanual@state.pa.us. Comments submitted by facsimile will not be accepted.

During the preparation of the draft manual, the DEP established a Stormwater Management Oversight Committee and held 12 regional focus group meetings. Individuals representing academia, industry, environmental organizations, county conservation districts and state and federal agencies participated by providing direction, guidance and expertise in the development of the draft manual. A summary of meeting agendas, minutes, comments, and other information can be found on DEP's website at <http://www.depweb.state.pa.us> (Keywords: "Stormwater"; select "General Information"; then select "Stormwater Oversight Committee").