***Instructions:*** *The Written Catchment Investigation Procedures document is an elaboration of the IDDE Program Plan, Section 7 (Catchment Investigations), and in accordance with the NH MS4 General Permit, page 39, Section 2.3.4.8.b. This document has been set up as an attachment to your IDDE Program Plan. If you prefer to incorporate the language directly into your IDDE Program Plan, you will need to renumber the following sections from “1” to “7” (i.e. Section 1.1 would be Section 7.1, etc).*

***Note:*** *Any language that is highlighted in “green” will be updated by the NH Stormwater Coalition subcommittee in early 2020. The references are not applicable to this document and need to be updated with the proper references.*

# Catchment Investigations

Once stormwater outfalls with evidence of illicit discharges have been identified, various methods can be used to investigate the source of the potential discharge within the outfall catchment area. Common catchment investigation techniques include, but are not limited to:

* Review of maps, historic plans, and records
* Manhole inspection
* Dry and wet weather sampling
* Video inspection
* Smoke testing
* Dye testing.

This section outlines a systematic procedure to investigate outfall catchments and identify the source(s) of potential illicit discharges. Information and data collected as part of the catchment investigations will be reported in each annual report.

## Map and Record Review

The **##AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT** will review relevant mapping and historic plans and records to identify areas within the catchment with higher potential for illicit connections. The following information will be reviewed:

* Plans related to the construction of the drainage network
* Prior work on the storm drains
* Health Department or other municipal data on septic system failures or required upgrades
* Records related to septic system breakouts, SSOs, and sanitary sewer surcharges
* **##OTHER INFORMATION**

## System Vulnerability Factors

Based on the Map and Records review, ##AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT will identify any of the following System Vulnerability Factors (SVFs). SVFs indicate a risk of sanitary or septic system inputs to the MS4 under wet weather conditions.

The **##AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT’s** SVF inventory (**Table X-X**) will be updated based on this information.

***Instructions:*** *Select the following System Vulnerability Factors that apply most to your community or MS4 and delete those that do not apply. For example, SSOs and sanitary sewer-related factors are not relevant for communities served solely by septic systems.*

* History of SSOs, including, but not limited to, those resulting from wet weather, high water table, or fat/oil/grease blockages.
* Sewer pump/lift stations, siphons, or known sanitary sewer restrictions where power/equipment failures or blockages could readily result in SSOs.
* Inadequate sanitary sewer level of service (LOS) resulting in regular surcharging, customer back-ups, or frequent customer complaints.
* Common or twin-invert manholes serving storm and sanitary sewer alignments.
* Common trench construction serving both storm and sanitary sewer alignments.
* Crossings of storm and sanitary sewer alignments.
* Sanitary sewer alignments known or suspected to have been constructed with an underdrain system.
* Areas formerly served by combined sewer systems.
* Sanitary sewer infrastructure defects such as leaking service laterals, cracked, broken, or offset sanitary infrastructure, directly piped connections between storm drain and sanitary sewer infrastructure, or other vulnerability factors identified through Inflow/Infiltration Analyses, Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Surveys, or other infrastructure investigations.
* Areas formerly served by combined sewer systems.
* Any storm drain infrastructure greater than 40 years old in medium and densely developed areas.
* Widespread code-required septic system upgrades required at property transfers (indicative of inadequate soils, water table separation, or other physical constraints of the area rather that poor owner maintenance).
* History of multiple health department actions addressing widespread septic system failures (indicative of inadequate soils, water table separation, or other physical constraints of the area rather that poor owner maintenance).

INSERT SYSTEM VULNERABILITY INVENTORY HERE

## Dry Weather Catchment Investigation (Manhole Inspections)

The **## MUNICIPALITY** will implement a dry weather storm drain network investigation that involves systematically and progressively observing, sampling and evaluating key junction manholes in the MS4 to determine the approximate location of suspected illicit discharges.

The **##AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT** will be responsible for implementing the dry weather manhole inspection program and making updates as necessary. Infrastructure information will be incorporated into the storm system map, and catchment delineations will be refined based on the field investigation, where necessary. The SVF inventory will also be updated based on information obtained during the field investigations, where necessary.

Several important terms related to the dry weather manhole inspection program are defined by the MS4 Permit as follows:

* **Junction Manhole** is a manhole or structure with two or more inlets accepting flow from two or more MS4 alignments. Manholes with inlets solely from private storm drains, individual catch basins, or both are not considered junction manholes for these purposes.
* **Key Junction Manholes** are those junction manholes that can represent one or more junction manholes without compromising adequate implementation of the illicit discharge program. Adequate implementation of the illicit discharge program would not be compromised if the exclusion of a particular junction manhole as a key junction manhole would not affect the permittee’s ability to determine the possible presence of an upstream illicit discharge. A permittee may exclude a junction manhole located upstream from another located in the immediate vicinity or that is serving a drainage alignment with no potential for illicit connections.

For all catchments identified for investigation, during dry weather, field crews will systematically inspect **key junction manholes** for evidence of illicit discharges and confirm or identify potential system vulnerability factors. This program involves progressive inspection and sampling at manholes in the storm drain network to isolate and eliminate illicit discharges.

The manhole inspection methodology will be conducted in one of two ways (or a combination of both):

* By working progressively up from the outfall and inspecting key junction manholes along the way, or
* By working progressively down from the upper parts of the catchment toward the outfall and inspecting key junction manholes along the way.

For most catchments, manhole inspections will proceed from the outfall moving up into the system.

However, the decision to move up or down the system depends on the nature of the drainage system and the surrounding land use and the availability of information on the catchment and drainage system. Moving up the system can begin immediately when an illicit discharge is detected at an outfall, and only a map of the storm drain system is required. Moving down the system requires more advance preparation and reliable drainage system information on the upstream segments of the storm drain system, but may be more efficient if the sources of illicit discharges are believed to be located in the upstream portions of the catchment area. Once a manhole inspection methodology has been selected, investigations will continue systematically through the catchment.

Inspection of key junction manholes will proceed as follows:

1. Manholes will be opened and inspected for visual and olfactory evidence of illicit connections. A sample field inspection form is provided in **Appendix X. See “draft” Drain Manhole Inspection Log on the NH MS4 Blog dated December 2019**
2. If flow is observed, a sample will be collected and analyzed at a minimum for ammonia, chlorine, and surfactants. Field kits can be used for these analyses, provided that they meet the minimum threshold indicator concentrations as outlined on Page 38 of the Permit (Section 2.3.4.7.b.iii.4.b). Sampling and analysis will be in accordance with procedures outlined in **Section 7**. Additional indicator sampling may assist in determining potential sources.
3. Where sampling results or visual or olfactory evidence indicate potential illicit discharges, the area draining to the junction manhole will be flagged for further upstream manhole investigation and/or isolation and confirmation of sources.
4. Subsequent key junction manhole inspections will proceed until the location of suspected illicit discharges can be isolated to a pipe segment between two manholes.
5. If no evidence of an illicit discharge is found, catchment investigations will be considered complete upon completion of key junction manhole sampling.

## Wet Weather Catchment Investigation (Outfall Sampling)

Where a minimum of one (1) System Vulnerability Factor (SVF) is identified based on previous information or the catchment investigation, a wet weather investigation must also be conducted at the associated outfall. The **##AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT** will be responsible for implementing the wet weather outfall sampling program and making updates as necessary.

Outfalls will be inspected and sampled under wet weather conditions, to the extent necessary, to determine whether wet weather-induced high flows in sanitary sewers or high groundwater in areas served by septic systems result in discharges of sanitary flow to the MS4.

Wet weather outfall sampling will proceed as follows:

At least one wet weather sample will be collected at the outfall for the same parameters required during dry weather screening (refer to Table 7-3 , Required Analytical Methods, Detection Limits, Hold Times, and Preservatives and Table 7-4. Benchmark Field Measurements for Select Parameters).

1. Wet weather sampling will occur during or after a storm event of sufficient depth or intensity to produce a stormwater discharge at the outfall.
   1. To the extent feasible, sampling should occur during the spring (March through June) when groundwater levels are relatively high.
   2. There is no specific rainfall amount that will trigger sampling, although minimum storm event intensities that are likely to trigger sanitary sewer interconnections are preferred.
   3. Sampling during the initial period of discharge (“first flush”) will be avoided.
2. If wet weather outfall sampling indicates a potential illicit discharge, then additional wet weather source sampling will be performed, as warranted, or source isolation and confirmation procedures will be followed as described in **Section 7.??** **BELOW** Source Isolation and Confirmation
3. If wet weather outfall sampling does not identify evidence of illicit discharges, and no evidence of an illicit discharge is found during dry weather manhole inspections, catchment investigations will be considered complete.

## Source Isolation and Confirmation

Once the source of an illicit discharge is approximated between two manholes, more detailed investigation techniques will be used to isolate and confirm the source of the illicit discharge. The following methods may be used in isolating and confirming the source of illicit discharges:

* Sandbagging
* Smoke Testing
* Dye Testing
* CCTV/Video Inspections
* Optical Brightener Monitoring
* IDDE Canines.

These methods are described in the sections below. Instructions and Standard Operating Procedures (**SOPs**) for these and other IDDE methods are provided in **Appendix F**.

Public notification is an important aspect of a detailed source investigation program. Prior to smoke testing, dye testing, or TV inspections, the **##AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT** will notify property owners in the affected area. Smoke testing notification will include **##ROBOCALLS, ##HANGING NOTIFICATIONS, ## EMAIL** for single family homes, businesses and building lobbies for multi-family dwellings.

***Instructions:*** *Modify the text in the following sections (1.5.1 – 1.5.6) as appropriate for your community. For example, SSOs and sanitary sewer-related methods are not relevant for communities served solely by septic systems.*

### Sandbagging

This technique can be particularly useful when attempting to isolate intermittent illicit discharges or those with very little perceptible flow. The technique involves placing sandbags or similar barriers (e.g., caulking, weirs/plates, or other temporary barriers) within outlets to manholes to form a temporary dam that collects any intermittent ﬂows that may occur. Sandbags are typically left in place for 48 hours, and should only be installed when dry weather is forecast. If flow has collected behind the sandbags/barriers after 48 hours it can be assessed using visual observations or by sampling. If no ﬂow collects behind the sandbag, the upstream pipe network can be ruled out as a source of the intermittent discharge. Finding appropriate durations of dry weather and the need for multiple trips to each manhole makes this method both time-consuming and somewhat limiting.

### Smoke Testing

Smoke testing involves injecting non-toxic smoke into drain lines and noting the emergence of smoke from sanitary sewer vents in illegally connected buildings or from cracks and leaks in the system itself. Typically a smoke bomb or smoke generator is used to inject the smoke into the system at a catch basin or manhole and air is then forced through the system. Test personnel are place in areas where there are suspected illegal connections or cracks/leaks, noting any escape of smoke (indicating an illicit connection or damaged storm drain infrastructure). It is important when using this technique to make proper notifications to area residents and business owners as well as local police and fire departments.

If the initial test of the storm drain system is unsuccessful then a more thorough smoke-test of the sanitary sewer lines can also be performed. Unlike storm drain smoke tests, buildings that do not emit smoke during sanitary sewer smoke tests may have problem connections and may also have sewer gas venting inside, which is hazardous.

It should be noted that smoke may cause minor irritation of respiratory passages. Residents with respiratory conditions may need to be monitored or evacuated from the area of testing altogether to ensure safety during testing.

### Dye Testing

Dye testing involves flushing non-toxic dye into plumbing fixtures such as toilets, showers, and sinks and observing nearby storm drains and sewer manholes as well as stormwater outfalls for the presence of the dye. Similar to smoke testing, it is important to inform local residents and business owners. Police, fire, and local public health staff should also be notified prior to testing in preparation of responding to citizen phone calls concerning the dye and their presence in local surface waters.

A team of two or more people is needed to perform dye testing (ideally, all with two-way radios). One person is inside the building, while the others are stationed at the appropriate storm sewer and sanitary sewer manholes (which should be opened) and/or outfalls. The person inside the building adds dye into a plumbing fixture (i.e., toilet or sink) and runs a sufficient amount of water to move the dye through the plumbing system. The person inside the building then radios to the outside crew that the dye has been dropped, and the outside crew watches for the dye in the storm sewer and sanitary sewer, recording the presence or absence of the dye.

The test can be relatively quick (about 30 minutes per test), effective (results are usually definitive), and inexpensive. Dye testing is best used when the likely source of an illicit discharge has been narrowed down to a few specific houses or businesses.

### CCTV/Video Inspection

Another method of source isolation involves the use of mobile video cameras that are guided remotely through stormwater drain lines to observe possible illicit discharges. IDDE program staff can review the videos and note any visible illicit discharges. While this tool is both effective and usually definitive, it can be costly and time consuming when compared to other source isolation techniques.

### Optical Brightener Monitoring

Optical brighteners are fluorescent dyes that are used in detergents and paper products to enhance their appearance. The presence of optical brighteners in surface waters or dry weather discharges suggests there is a possible illicit discharge or insufficient removal through adsorption in nearby septic systems or wastewater treatment. Optical brightener monitoring can be done in two ways. The most common, and least expensive, methodology involves placing a cotton pad in a wire cage and securing it in a pipe, manhole, catch basin, or inlet to capture intermittent dry weather flows. The pad is retrieved at a later date and placed under UV light to determine the presence/absence of brighteners during the monitoring period. A second methodology uses handheld fluorometers to detect optical brighteners in water sample collected from outfalls or ambient surface waters. Use of a fluorometer, while more quantitative, is typically more costly, and is not as effective at isolating intermittent discharges as other source isolation techniques.

### IDDE Canines

Dogs specifically trained to smell human related sewage are becoming a cost-effective way to isolate and identify sources of illicit discharges. While not widespread at the moment, the use of IDDE canines is growing as is their accuracy. The use of IDDE canines is not recommended as a standalone practice for source identification; rather it is recommended as a tool to supplement other conventional methods, such as dye testing, in order to fully verify sources of illicit discharges.

## Illicit Discharge Removal

When the specific source of an illicit discharge is identified, the **##MUNICIPALITY** will exercise its authority as necessary to require its removal. The annual report will include the status of IDDE investigation and removal activities including the following information for each confirmed source:

* The location of the discharge and its source(s)
* A description of the discharge
* The method of discovery
* Date of discovery
* Date of elimination, mitigation or enforcement action
* Estimate of the volume of flow removed.

### Confirmatory Outfall Screening

Within one (1) year of removal of all identified illicit discharges and SSO sources within a catchment area, confirmatory outfall or interconnection screening will be conducted. The confirmatory screening will be conducted in dry weather unless System Vulnerability Factors have been identified, in which case both dry weather and wet weather confirmatory screening will be conducted. If confirmatory screening indicates evidence of additional illicit discharges, the catchment will be scheduled for additional investigation. Confirmatory screening is not required in catchments where no illicit discharges or System Vulnerability Factors have been identified and no previous screening indicated suspicious flows.

## Follow-up Screening

Upon completion of all catchment investigations and illicit discharge removal and confirmation (if necessary), each outfall or interconnection will be scheduled for follow-up screening within five (5) years, or sooner based on the catchment’s illicit discharge priority. Ongoing screening will consist of dry weather screening and sampling consistent with the procedures described in **Section 7** of this document. Ongoing wet weather screening and sampling will also be conducted at outfalls where wet weather screening was required due to System Vulnerability Factors and will be conducted in accordance with the procedures described in **Section 8.1**. All sampling results will be reported in the annual report.

## Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Training

**##MUNICIPALITY** will implement a training program, as outlined in Section 8 and **Appendix F** of the IDDE Program Plan, to employees involved in IDDE program about the program, including how to recognize illicit discharges and SSOs. The permittee shall report on the frequency and type of employee training in the annual report.