Month Day, 20XX

$$Organization name$$

$$X Street name$$

$$Town/city, NH ZIP$$

Re: **$$Town/city$$, New Hampshire**

 **2017 NPDES New Hampshire Small MS4 General Permit**

 **Stormwater Outreach - Construction Activities**

To Whom It May Concern,

The $$town/city$$ of $$name of town or city$$ is contacting you to ensure you are aware of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP). It has come to the $$town/city$$ of $$name of town or city$$’s attention that $$Organization name$$ is involved with, or conducts construction projects within, $$name of town$$’s boundaries and therefore should be aware of the general requirements of the CGP.

Construction projects that require coverage under the CGP are projects or activities that disturb one, or more, acres of land. This also includes construction activities that are part of a larger common plan that would cumulatively disturb one, or more, acres of contiguous or noncontiguous land. The purpose of the CGP is to ensure proper site preparation, inspection, and maintenance to reduce the amount of pollutants, such as sediment, that are picked up by stormwater and deposited into local lakes and rivers. If construction sites are not properly prepared to reduce the amount of pollutants that are picked up by stormwater, these pollutants can cause negative effects to the water quality of these lakes and rivers along with the fish and other wildlife that depend on them.

While meeting the requirements of the CGP, it is important to ensure that the correct best management practices (BMPs) are installed and maintained within and around the construction area. These BMPs help to reduce the amount of pollutants that leave the construction site within stormwater runoff. To learn information about common construction related BMPs, EPA has produced factsheets which include how to select, install, and maintain each BMP. These factsheets can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/national-menu-best-management-practices-bmps-stormwater-construction>.

In 2022, a new version of the CGP was released which has many changes from the previous version that your organization should be aware of. One of the major changes to the new version of the CGP is that all inspections conducted for any projects that received permit coverage on or after February 17, 2023, must have inspections conducted by a qualified inspector. For an inspector to become qualified, they must either complete the free EPA construction inspection course developed for this permit and pass the exam OR hold a current valid certification or license from a non-EPA training program that covers the same principles. EPA has released a free on demand training for all inspectors looking to become certified. For more information about becoming a qualified inspector, including where to find the free EPA qualified inspector training, visit <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/construction-general-permit-inspector-training>.

To learn more about the CGP, please see EPA’s CGP webpage which is located at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/2022-construction-general-permit-cgp>. This page contains both the link to the online version of the CGP as well as a recording of a webinar by EPA which talks about some of the major changes to the new version of the permit.

The $$town/city$$ of $$name of town or city$$ hopes that by sharing these resources we are able to collectively reduce stormwater pollution and improve water quality as a whole within our community, and throughout New Hampshire, by reducing the amount of sediment and other materials that enter local waterbodies from construction sites. If you have any further questions, or would like more information about $$town/city$$’s efforts, please reach out to $$name of MS4 contact$$ at $$phone number$$. We also encourage you to visit our stormwater webpage at: $$link to community’s stormwater webpage$$. Together we can make a large impact to help improve water quality in New Hampshire.

Thank you or Sincerely,

Attachments:

2024 Construction General Permit Fact Sheet

2024 Construction Site Erosion and Sediment BMPs Fact Sheet