

**The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)**

**NPDES Permit for  
Idaho Falls, Idaho  
(IDS-028070)**

**The City of Idaho Falls  
Annual Report**

**Fourth Permit Year  
(FY 2011)  
May 2010 – May 2011**

Prepared by the City of Idaho Falls Public Works Division



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## **INTRODUCTION**

This annual report was prepared by the City of Idaho Falls Public Works Division for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit period extending from May 1, 2010 thru May 1, 2011. Information contained within this report refers to Permit No. IDS-028070 issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10 Office, on March 21, 2007. The permit refers to a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) owned and operated by the City of Idaho Falls and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), District 6, which are co-permittees.

## **APPLICABILITY**

### ***PERMIT AREA***

The NPDES permit covers all areas within the Idaho Falls Urbanized Area served by the municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) owned or operated by the City of Idaho Falls (City) and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), District 6. A map depicting the MS4 is included with the appendices.

### ***DISCHARGES AUTHORIZED UNDER THE PERMIT***

During the effective dates of the NPDES permit, the co-permittees are authorized to discharge storm water to waters of the United States from all portions of the MS4 located within the Idaho Falls Urbanized Area that are owned and operated by the co-permittees, subject to the conditions set forth within the NPDES permit. The NPDES permit also authorizes the discharge of storm water commingled with flows contributed by process wastewater, non-process wastewater and storm water associated with industrial activity, provided that the storm water is commingled only with those discharges set forth in Part I.D of the NPDES permit.

### ***CO-PERMITTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES***

#### **INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Each permittee is individually responsible for NPDES permit compliance related only to portions of the MS4 owned or operated solely by that permittee, and where the NPDES permit directs action or inaction by the named permittee.

#### **JOINT RESPONSIBILITY**

Each permittee is jointly responsible for NPDES permit compliance:

- a. related to portions of the MS4 where operational or storm water management program implementation authority has been transferred from one permittee to

another in accordance with an enforceable intergovernmental cooperative agreement;

- b. related to portions of the MS4 where co-permittees jointly own or operate a portion of the MS4; and
- c. related to the submission of reports or other documents required by Part II and Part IV of the NPDES permit.

### **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

The co-permittees are required to maintain an enforceable intergovernmental cooperative agreement between the partners. This cooperative agreement must specifically identify portions or areas of the MS4 where the co-permittees share joint responsibility. Copies of the signed cooperative agreement must be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effective date of the NPDES permit as directed in Part IV.D.

The signed and executed cooperative agreement between the City of Idaho Falls and the Idaho Transportation Department, District 6 is included in the appendices of this document and can be reviewed at the storm water website.

### **PARTICIPATING CITY DIVISIONS**

City Divisions that participate in meeting the fourth annual NPDES permit requirements include:

- Parks and Recreation Division
- Planning and Zoning Division
- Public Works Division, which includes:
  - Street Department
  - Sewer Department
  - Water Department
  - Sanitation Department

# ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

## STATUS OF COMPLIANCE

### PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- a. The City initiated a water conservation flyer which is posted on the City website. A copy of the flyer is contained within the appendices.

The City also mailed a flyer dealing with storm water in the March utility billings entitled "When It Storms." This flyer provides information in regards to storm water pollution. The flyer was reviewed and approved by the local Idaho Department of Environmental Quality office. Mailings reach every address within the City of Idaho Falls that receives a water, sewer, garbage or electrical bill. A copy of the storm related information flyer is included within the appendices.

The City participated in the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), Bonneville County and the City of Ammon. This program informed residents what household hazardous waste is and established a disposal guide for a variety of hazardous wastes. The program also discussed why proper disposal is necessary and what individuals could do to create less hazardous waste. Household hazardous waste collection days are established for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month beginning in May and ending in September. On these dates residents could bring specific wastes to sites identified for collection and proper disposal.

The City also participated in the Idaho Falls Water Festival which involved educating approximately 1,000 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders about the importance of clean water in conjunction with Water Awareness Week. The Mayor of Idaho Falls and representatives of the Water Department and Sewer Department conducted presentations. An outline detailing the Idaho Falls Water Festival is included within the appendices.

- b. The City has established a storm water educational webpage which can be viewed at: <http://www.idahofallsidaho.gov/city/city-departments/public-works/engineering/storm-water.html>
- c. ITD has provided relevant and appropriate storm water management education and training for ITD staff that hold positions responsible for maintenance activity and/or in-field construction oversight.
- d. The City has established a storm drain stenciling program. Locations of storm drains that have been stenciled are included within the appendices.

Approximately 56% of the city's inlet boxes have been stenciled to date. In addition, new inlets will be labeled with markers that read "Only Rain in the Drain."

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION**

- a. Public involvement/participation programs comply with State and local notice requirements.
- b. Applicable storm water management documents and this annual report are available for review at the City's website.
- c. The City (Sanitation Department) has participated in the annual "Adopt-a-Canal" and ITD has continued with its "Adopt-a-Highway" clean-up programs.

## **ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION**

- a. The City has established a mechanism to detect and eliminate illicit discharges to the MS4. This involves notification of the Sewer Department to respond to a discharge and determine the source. Municipal employees have been trained to be aware of illicit discharges if they are noticed in the field. The Sewer Department will keep record of the discharge through paper filing.
- b. The existing Idaho Falls Code of Ordinances contains provision for prohibition of pollutants to the sewer system as designated in Title 8, Chapter 1, Section 6 and Title 8, Chapter 1, Section 63 allows for searches to take place on private property:

### ***8-1-6: SEWAGE TO BE DISCHARGED INTO WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM:***

*All sanitary sewage, industrial waste or other waters containing any pollutant shall be discharged into the POTW. No person shall dispose of sewage, waste or polluted waters into the POTW except through an authorized connection to the POTW or unless otherwise expressly permitted by this chapter. No person shall discharge sewage, waste or water containing any pollutant into the public sewer through a manhole, unless expressly authorized by the Sewer Superintendent. (Ord. 2357, 12-22-99)*

### ***8-1-63: SEARCH WARRANTS:***

*If the Director has been refused access to a building, structure or property, or any part thereof, and 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 as part of a routine inspection program of the City designed to verify compliance with this chapter or any wastewater discharge permit or order issued hereunder, or to protect the overall public health, safety and welfare of the community, then the Director may seek*

*issuance of a search or seizure warrant from a court of competent jurisdiction. Such warrant shall be served in the manner allowed by law. (Ord. 2223, 1-9-97)*

- c. The existing Idaho Falls Code of Ordinances contains provisions that designate what water may be discharged to the storm water system in Title 8, Chapter 1, Section 8:

*8-1-8: UNPOLLUTED WATER DISCHARGED TO STORM DRAIN:*

*All storm water shall be discharged to such sewers as are expressly designated or approved by the City as combined sewers or storm drains, or to a natural outlet approved by the City. Industrial cooling water or unpolluted process water may be discharged upon approval of the City to a storm drain, combined sewer or natural outlet. (Ord. 2223, 1-9-97)*

- d. The City has developed and continues to refine a comprehensive storm sewer system map for the jurisdictions located within the Idaho Falls Urbanized Area. A copy of the map is included within the appendices of this annual report.
- e. The City has teamed with the IDEQ, Bonneville County and the City of Ammon in order to inform the public about improper disposal of common wastes through the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program. Storm water flyers have been included in utility billings that specifically discuss solutions to storm water pollution. The city also participated in the Idaho Falls Water Festival which educates area 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders about water as a resource.
- f. The City continues to conduct dry weather field screening for non-storm water flows from storm water outfalls. At least 50% of the outfalls have been screened during dry weather flow. This work is being completed by Idaho Falls Sewer Department pre-treatment personal. To date, no inventoried outfalls have contained flow during non-storm event inspections.
- g. The City has determined that there are no industrial facilities as defined in 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(i) through (xi) that discharge directly into the MS4s or waters of the United States within the Idaho Falls Urbanized Area. A memo from the Sewer Department documenting this determination is included within the appendices.

## **CONSTRUCTION SITE STORM WATER RUNOFF CONTROL**

- a. The City has worked through the Planning and Zoning Division to provide information to contractors involving construction activities resulting in land disturbance of greater than or equal to one acre. In addition, Section 205 –

Construction, of the 2010 City of Idaho Falls Standard Specifications provides the following guidance:

*“All construction activities within the City of Idaho Falls that will disturb 1 acre of ground or more or is part of a larger common development that will disturb more than one acre shall require the Contractor to seek coverage under the Construction General Permit (CGP) by filing a Notice of Intent with the EPA to discharge storm water. The Contractor shall also be required to create and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Additional information regarding both SWPPP’s and CGP can be obtained at the current EPA website for Region 10.”*

- b. Through the City of Idaho Falls Standard Specifications, the Planning and Zoning Division and individual dealings with contractors, the City has provided adequate direction in regards to storm water discharges for construction activities.
- c. ITD has provided oversight and direction to contractors working on District projects to ensure compliance with the Construction General Permit. This requirement has been fulfilled through specifications included within each contract and field inspections/reports completed while under construction.
- d. The City through the use of Standard Specifications requires that all new development comply with Construction General Permit requirements, see excerpt, under Subsection a. above. Existing city ordinances that address litter and waste control are as follows:

5-17-1: PLACING DEBRIS ON STREETS:

*Any person who willfully or negligently throws from any vehicle, or who places, deposits or permits to be deposited upon or alongside any highway, street, alley or easement used by the public for public travel, any debris, paper, litter, glass bottle, glass, nails, tacks, hoops, cans, barbed wire, boards, trash or garbage, lighted material, or other waste substance is guilty of a misdemeanor. Such persons shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or by imprisonment not exceeding ten (10) days or both such fine and imprisonment. For the purpose of this section, the terms "highway," "street," "alley" or "easement" shall be construed to include the entire right of way of such highway, street, alley or easement. (Ord 2832, 2-25-10; Ord 2837, 5-13-10)*

5-26-8: IMPROPER HAULING OF LITTER:

*It is unlawful for any person to haul litter, or otherwise operate a vehicle carrying litter, in any manner which causes litter to be deposited upon any public street,*

*sidewalk or private property, or which creates a likelihood that litter will be blown, dropped or spilled therefrom.*

5-26-11: ACCUMULATION OF LITTER UPON PRIVATE PROPERTY:

*It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having control of private property within the City to deposit, store or allow the accumulation of litter upon such property, except:*

*(A) The temporary storage or accumulation of construction debris or materials in a manner which prevents the same from being blown upon adjoining property, while a building or structure is being constructed upon the premises, or during remodeling or reconstruction thereof.*

*(B) Upon any property owned or operated by any recycler, salvage dealer, or junk yard dealer licensed by the City, subject to all provisions and restrictions contained in any ordinance or statute governing the operation of such licensed business.*

10-1-7: LOT IMPROVEMENTS:

*(E) Adequate provisions shall be made for soil preservation, drainage patterns, and debris and waste disposal and collection.*

Improper erosion and sediment control of individual construction sites shall prevent issuance of the certificate of occupancy.

- e. Through Standard Specifications and Planning and Zoning requirements, the City has published or distributed local requirements for construction site operations to implement appropriate erosion and sediment control BMP's and control waste. A class entitled "Sediment and Erosion Control Procedures for Construction Sites" was held June 8<sup>th</sup> and October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The class was sponsored by the City of Idaho Falls. All building contractors licensed to work within the City of Idaho Falls were notified of the class. A copy of the class slide presentation is included within the appendices.
- f. Currently all site plans and improvement drawings are reviewed to ensure conformance with existing storm water requirements for the City of Idaho Falls. Reviews involving potential water quality impacts, erosion and sediment control, control of other wastes and any other impacts that must be established have also been implemented through the site plan review process.
- g. A program has been established to implement, receive, track and consider information submitted by the public regarding all public concerns including construction site erosion and sediment control concerns. This is

accomplished through the City website which establishes a means to email questions that are then distributed to the applicable department for response.

- h. In conformance with sections II.B.4.b & c the City has provided adequate direction to contractors by conducting two training sessions involving storm water pollution prevention in 2010. All contractors licensed to do work within Idaho Falls were invited to these trainings. In addition, ITD continues to provide oversight to contractors working on District projects to ensure storm water compliance. All work involving building permits within the City of Idaho Falls (residential or commercial) requires building inspections. The City's building inspection staff attended training in regards to proper erosion control. Buildings requiring development of a site plan are also reviewed to ensure that site plan requirements are met and adhered to prior to issuing a certificate of occupancy. City ordinances are currently being reviewed to determine if this criteria needs to be strengthened.

City ordinances exist which allow for enforcement of the established storm water policy. Ordinances addressing these compliance issues include the following:

8-1-75:                    *CIVIL PENALTIES:*

*(A) A User which has violated or continues to violate any provision of this chapter, a wastewater discharge permit, or order issued hereunder, or any other pretreatment standard or requirement shall be liable to the City for a maximum civil penalty of \$1,000 per violation, per day. In the case of a monthly or other long-term average discharge limit, penalties shall accrue for each day during the period of the violation.*

*(B) To the fullest extent permitted by State law, the Director may recover reasonable attorneys' fees, court costs and other expenses associated with enforcement activities, including sampling and monitoring expenses and the cost of any actual damages incurred by the City.*

*(C) In determining the amount of civil liability, the Court shall take into account all relevant circumstances, including, but not limited to, the extent of harm caused by the violation, the magnitude and duration, any economic benefit gained through the User's violation, corrective actions by the User, the compliance history of the User, and any other factor as justice requires.*

*(D) Filing a suit for civil penalties shall not be a bar against, or a prerequisite for, taking any other action against a User. (Ord. 2223, 1-9-97; Ord. 2684, 12-14-06)*

- i. All construction projects administered by the Public Works Division comply with the Construction General Permit and all relevant local requirements for erosion, sediment and onsite materials control.

## **POST-CONSTRUCTION STORM WATER MANAGEMENT IN NEW DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT**

- a. CH2M Hill completed a Storm Water Design Criteria Report for the City of Idaho Falls in August 1988. This report indicated that runoff caused by snowmelt over frozen ground can result in substantially more runoff volume than extreme precipitation events, of similar total volume over non-frozen ground. A recommendation was made that development and redevelopment within the city provide onsite storage of storm water equal to 1.3 inches over the entire site with no allowances made for impervious area. The non-allowance of infiltration was established to address the worst case scenario of snowmelt over frozen ground. Therefore, the city implemented a policy that new development must adhere to these requirements. This policy is covered by existing ordinance:

### *10-5-3: SURFACE DRAINAGE FACILITIES:*

*No property shall be annexed to the City or platted or developed within the City unless adequate provisions are made for disposal of surface waters originating therefrom, either by wholly self-contained system of pumps and retention ponds or by use of publicly-owned storm drainage interceptors and ponds. For purposes of determining adequacy of such facilities a minimum design standard of 1.33 inches over frozen ground shall be used.*

- b. The City has reviewed the existing ordinance referenced above and determined that it adequately addresses post-construction run-off requirements.
- c. The City has reviewed the program to ensure that proper long-term maintenance exists. City owned storm ponds are addressed on an annual basis for maintenance needs. The majority of city owned storm ponds are maintained by the Parks and Recreation Division. The Public Works Department is informed of any improvements required for pond maintenance. An annual allocation of funds is established in the City's Capital Improvement Program to address these maintenance concerns.

## **POLLUTION PREVENTION AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING FOR MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS**

- a. Prior to these permitting requirement through EPA the City already utilized best management practices in regards to negative storm water related water quality impacts which include grounds/park and open space maintenance operation; fleet maintenance and vehicle washing operations; building maintenance; storm water system maintenance; and snow disposal site operation and maintenance.

The Parks and Recreation Division seek to minimize chemical fertilizers and ensure that mower decks are set at proper heights so that adequate grass heights are maintained. This allows better retention of storm water within established grasses and discourages runoff.

The Street Department conducts periodic washing of its vehicles within its maintenance facility. This washing is conducted in vehicle bays, which collects wash water through floor drains and conveys this water to the sanitary sewer system for treatment.

The Water Department conducts annual training informing its employees how to respond to water wasting complaints. In addition, the Water Department publishes an annual flyer that addresses water conservation. A copy of the flyer is included within the appendices. Also included within the appendices are work orders associated with specific property addresses that were inspected for water wasting.

- b. Training has been conducted for municipal personnel related to optimal maintenance practices for the protection of water quality. One of the integral parts of annual street maintenance involves sweeping of debris before the deposits can enter the storm system. Annual training is conducted by the Street Department to ensure that staff understands the most efficient means of removing debris from the streets and understands the value in keeping this material out of our storm systems.
- c. The City currently establishes snow dumpsites within its corporate boundary. These sites are established based on needed volume of storage for specific areas of the City and to minimize possible snowmelt discharges directly to Waters of United States. Ideally, these sites encourage ground infiltration of storm water and filtering across established vegetation during gradual spring snowmelt. A copy of established current snow dumpsites is provided within the appendices.

A brief description of snow management for the City is as follows:

Snow removal on arterial and collector streets consists of sweeping snow to the center of the roadway where snow is picked up and hauled to designated snow storage dumpsites. This removal process occurs as needed based on annual snow events.

Following a snow removal proclamation issued by the Mayor, residential streets are swept to the side of the roadway. Snow in residential cul-de-sacs is temporarily swept to the center until it can be loaded and hauled to designated snow storage dumpsites.

Due to adverse winter weather conditions the Street Department applies salts and sand to minimize vehicular collisions caused by icy roadways.

### ***RESULTS OF COLLECTED INFORMATION***

The City Street Department spent approximately 4,740 man-hours and equipment-hours conducting street cleaning.

### ***SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES PERFORMED***

The City responded to a number of notices of construction site off tracking on City streets, which generally occur in the spring of the year. The City located the contractor who completed the offense and informed them that they were required to clean the sediment from the roadway and properly dispose of the material. If they were unable to complete this work, the Street Department deployed sweepers to remove the material from the roadway and the contractor was charged for this cleaning service.

### ***SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE ENFORCEMENT***

The City of Idaho Falls received no enforcement actions from any regulatory agency, including the EPA that involved storm water discharge compliance during this permit year.

## ***SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION***

Included within the appendices is supporting documentation for all ancillary items required under this NPDES permit. Items included consist of:

- Idaho Falls MS4 Storm Sewer Map
- Water Conservation Flyer
- Hazardous Waste Collection Program Flyer
- Storm Water Informational Flyer
- Storm Drain Stenciling Map
- Water Wasting Work Orders
- Snow Dump Site Map
- Storm Water Management Plan
- Cooperative Agreement – City of Idaho Falls and ITD, District 6
- Maintenance Agreement – City of Idaho Falls and ITD, District 6
- Erosion and Sediment Control Class Slides
- Water Festival Outline
- Memo on Industrial Facilities
- Permit No. IDS-028070

## ***GENERAL SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING CYCLE***

The City intends to comply with NPDES permit requirements in the following permit year by conducting/implementing the following:

- Conduct an annual review of SWMP implementation and submit an Annual Report
- Continue public education regarding impacts of storm water
- Maintain storm water educational webpage
- Continue to distribute appropriate and relevant storm water information to citizens and businesses through City utility billings and post all applicable information on the storm water webpage

- ITD shall continue appropriate training
- Continue storm drain stenciling program
- Continue to post SWMP documentation and annual reports on the website
- Continue to comply with State and Federal notice requirements
- Continue participation in the local “Adopt-a-Canal” and “Adopt-a-Highway” clean-up programs
- Prohibit Non-Storm Water Discharges to the Storm System
- Continue updates to the storm sewer system map
- Continue implementing a strategy for informing public employees, businesses, and the general public of hazards associated with illegal discharges and improper disposal of waste
- Continue dry weather screening for non-storm water flows
- Review, implement and enforce program to reduce pollutants to the system
- Provide adequate direction to developers
- ITD to continue to provide adequate direction to contractors
- Ensure site operators implement appropriate erosion and sediment control
- Continue to distribute local requirements for construction site operators to implement appropriate erosion and sediment control
- Continue to ensure permittee-owned construction projects comply with the EPA Construction General Permit
- Implement and enforce a post-construction storm water management program
- Enforce the ordinance to address post construction storm water management
- Continue to review the program to ensure long-term operation of post construction storm water management controls
- Continue municipal operations that reduce pollutants to the MS4
- Continue to educate employees with in-field responsibilities regarding storm water management

## ***DESCRIPTION AND SCHEDULE OF IMPLEMENTATION***

The City has not identified the need for new or additional BMP implementation to ensure compliance with applicable water quality standards.

## ***NOTICE OF IMPLEMENTATION***

Currently the permittees are not relying on any other entities to satisfy any of the NPDES permit obligations.