

The Jackson Township Highway Department has a very active part in NPDES II, the Federal Clean Water Act. The department is involved in four of the six minimum control measures (MCM) known as MCM#3 - Illicit Discharge Control, MCM#4 - Construction Site Runoff Control, MCM#5 - Post Construction Runoff Control, and finally, MCM#6 - Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping.

Illicit discharge is primarily found in poorly functioning septic systems but relates to all other contaminating chemicals and materials being discharged into our water runoff systems. The Stark County Board of Health becomes involved.

Construction site runoff is initiated and maintained by the contractor using catch basin barriers and silt fences to prevent newly graded lands from eroding into the water runoff systems. Grasses are to be planted as soon as practical. The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District closely monitors new construction with the Highway Department.

Post construction follows the above new construction with the same observance necessary downstream to watch for increased runoff or runoff carrying contaminants to the waterways. The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District also assists us in this endeavor.

Pollution prevention/good housekeeping requires the Highway Department street sweepings and catch basin cleanings to be protected from rain and weather. The initial recovered liquids must go into sanitary sewers. All highway facility containers and equipment subject to rain runoff is covered. Road kill is appropriately disposed at the landfills. Finally the salt distributed to control snow and ice on the roadways in winter is controlled electronically by each truck to a calibrated amount per lane mile.

The end result of these efforts is to cause clean water to enter our streams, ponds, and rivers thereby preserving the life and habitat using these waterways as well as our daily personal water sources.