Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District
Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

1404 Goodale Blvd., Suite 100
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The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has released a draft of the updated Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewers System (MS4s) General Permit – OHQ00005. The public notice is dated as June 4th, 2026 and public comments will be accepted until August 4th, 2026. A hearing will be held in-person and virtually on July 28th, 2026, at 1:30pm at Ohio EPA on Town St.

This document is educational and not intended to be comprehensive of all changes within the permit or the intent behind those changes. If any part of this document conflicts with OEPA guidance, please rely on OEPA permits and fact sheets for accurate information.

For additional information regarding the draft general permit renewal, contact Anthony Robinson (Anthony.Robinson@epa.ohio.gov) or Jason Fyffe (Jason.Fyffe@epa.ohio.gov). Have questions about what this means for practical management of your MS4 permit? Need assistance managing your MS4 permit? Call our office at 614-486-9613 or customerassistance.franklinswcd.org.

Links to OEPA Website and Pertinent Documents

Small MS4 General Permit Website

Draft Public Notice

Draft General Permit Fact Sheet

Draft General Redlined Version

Draft General Permit Clean version

Comments will be accepted at this link until August 4th, 2026

SWMPs

- III.A.2 - SWMPs need to be updated by **April 1st, 2027.**

MCM 1

- III.B.1.a - Park districts are explicitly called out as non-traditional MS4s
- III.B.1.c.ii – “At least one theme or message shall target residential or commercial/institutional facilities on proper salt storage, handling, and application practices to minimize environmental impacts.”

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MCM 2

- III.B.2.a -Park districts added to definition of non-traditional MS4s

MCM 3

- III.B.3.j.vi - Fecal coliform added as a TMDL pollutant

MCM 4

- III.B.4.c.ii - Added "SWP3 review and approval shall include a letter or email documenting final approval of the plan".
- III.B.4.c.iii – Added "all applicable sites shall have an initial inspection *within 14 days of the start of earth disturbance*" and "…and inspection findings shall be provided to the site operator and documented (e.g. emails; letters; or via phone/verbally with date, time, participants' names and discussion summary)."

MCM5

- III.B.5.f.ii – Added "SWP3 review and approval shall include a letter or email documenting final approval of the plan."
- III.B.5.f.iii. "Inspection findings shall be provided to the site operator and documented (e.g. emails; letters; or via phone/verbally with date, time, participants' names and discussion summary)."

MCM6

- III.B.6.c – In relation to municipal facilities outside of a TMDL area (and not requiring an industrial permit) – "At a minimum, you shall conduct an annual, not quarterly, Routine Facility Inspection in accordance with Part.1 of OHR00007."
- III.B.6.e.iii and iv – "This performance standard shall commence no later than two (2) years after the effective date of this permit for small MS4s obtaining initial coverage under this permit." (Rather than renewing – practices should be in place
- III.B.6.e.vi. – Added Fecal Coliform as a TMDL pollutant. Removed the sentence "Implementation of this permit requirement shall commence no later than two (2) years after the effective date of this permit for small MS4s renewing coverage under this permit."

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Definitions

- Part VI. Added "SWP3 is an acronym for a "Construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan" and "SWPPP is an acronym for an "Industrial Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan"."

Appendix A

- Some new small MS4s added as per results of 2020 Census. Several communities added as TMDL communities. Some communities have had additional TMDL pollutants added to one or more watersheds.
    - Franklin County Communities that were added as small MS4s **OR** now have TMDL watersheds within their jurisdiction.
        - Blendon Twp
        - Dublin City
        - Groveport City
        - Mifflin Township
        - Minerva Park Village