

A photograph of a river at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the background, there are several tall industrial smokestacks and a power line tower. The river's surface is calm, reflecting the sky and the structures. There are some fallen leaves floating in the water.

NPDES Permit Program

Activities & Initiatives

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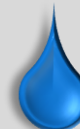
2014 NPDES Program Focus Areas & Objectives



Plan

Modernization of the NPDES Program

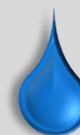
Meet the 21st century water
quality challenges



Program

Urban Stormwater Management

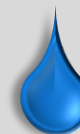
Protect vital water resources



Produce

Partnerships
WQS & TMDL Programs

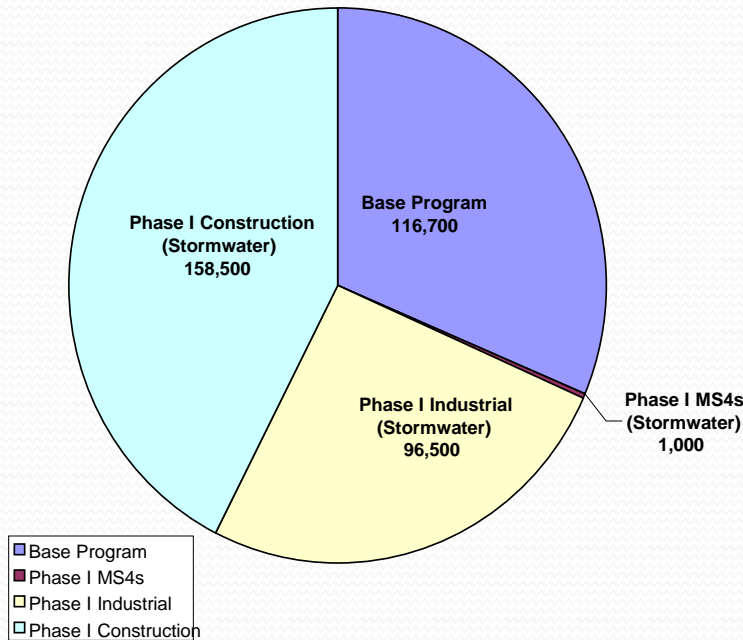
Clarify partner's roles and
responsibilities



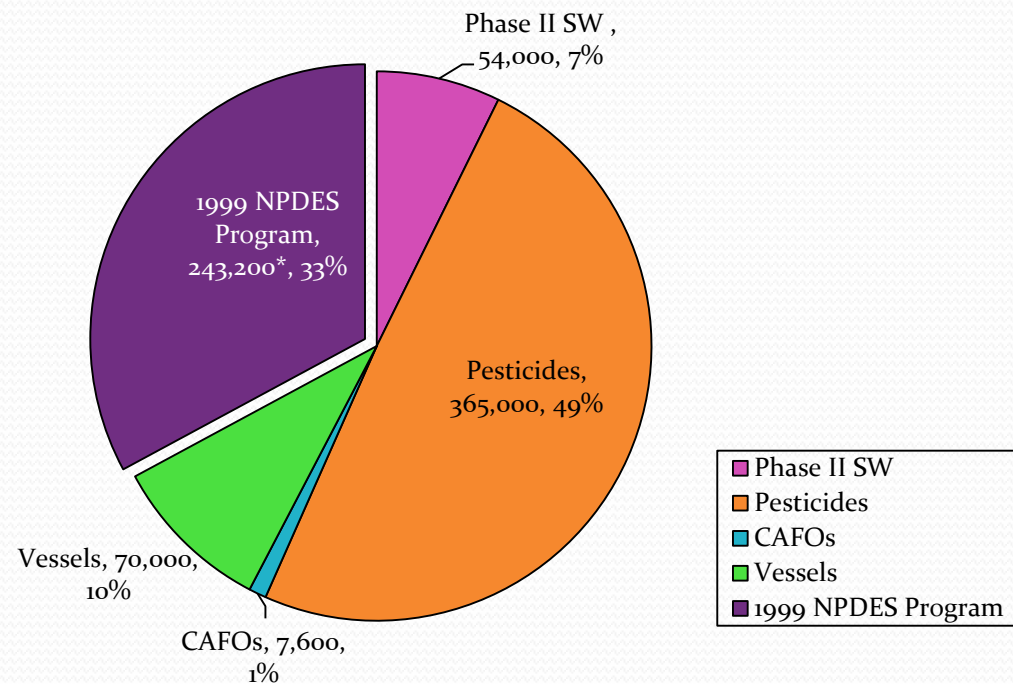
Integrated efforts resulting in effective collaboration between HQ, Regions, and States

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Universe

1999 NPDES Program Universe
Total Universe - 372,700 permittees



2014 NPDES Program Universe
Total Universe - 739,800



*Estimated universe for the 1999 NPDES Program Universe (base program plus Phase I Stormwater) has been adjusted to reflect the current estimate of construction stormwater sites, which have decreased due to economic conditions

NPDES Vision and Overarching Strategy

Meeting 21st century water quality challenges with appropriately focused permitting and oversight processes, modernized data management, and effective use of skilled talent.

GOAL 1

Focus Resources on Environmentally Significant Permits

Target permit issuance and oversight to achieve the greatest water quality gains

OBJECTIVES

1. Prioritize permit issuance according to significance for water quality protection
2. Improve permit oversight and tracking to achieve program accountability
3. Revise performance measures to emphasize issuance of high-priority, environmentally significant permits and a reduction of backlog
4. Provide targeted assistance where persistent technical or process issues hinder permit development or issuance

GOAL 2

Modernize Permit Applications, NOIs, Data Tools, and Decision Support Systems

Utilize user-friendly IT tools to improve data collection, availability, and analysis; streamline permit development; and increase program transparency

OBJECTIVES

1. Update individual permit forms and provide electronic tools for applications and notices of intent
2. Develop and implement electronic decision support tools for permit writing and program management
3. Improve management and integration of EPA data systems to support "one-stop" access (e.g., dashboards)

GOAL 3

Increased Availability of Talent and Expertise

Invest in resources to fill the Agency's knowledge gaps and maximize access to knowledgeable staff

OBJECTIVES

1. Develop and implement NPDES workforce assessment
2. Develop and implement succession and mentoring program to ensure retention of institutional knowledge and expertise
3. Develop and implement work-sharing program to access talent across the country

We will accomplish these objectives by strengthening our partnerships, and clarifying partners' roles and responsibilities, in two cross-cutting ways:

1. Between HQ, Regions, and States
2. Between the WQS, TMDL, and NPDES programs

Municipal Stormwater

Focusing on a suite of actions to help communities effectively address their stormwater challenges

Federal Partnerships

1

Education, Technical Assistance & Engagement with Key Partners

2

Recognition/ Incentive Programs

3

Strengthening the MS4 Program

4



TMDLS & Permits Workgroup

Goals

- To provide input to TMDL writers on what permit writers need to effectively implement WLAs in permits.
- To provide solutions and examples to permit writers for developing WQBELs and other permit provisions when TMDLs do not provide clear WLAs.
- To foster improved collaboration between programs to ensure more effective development and implementation of TMDLs.
- To explore data management options that may improve TMDL writer access to information on permittees and permit writer access to information on TMDLs.

TMDLS & Permits Collaboration

Coming Soon

- Region 9 Best Practices Memo for TMDL and permit writers - addresses a variety of cross-cutting issues. Expected release: May 2014.
- Web-based FAQs to provide solutions to permit writer challenges. First installation to be posted May 2014.
- Piloting collaborative TMDL Review process (TMDL, Permits, Nonpoint Source Programs). Already underway in Region 9. Other Regions interested in pursuing.
- Tools to help connect TMDLs and permit data.
 - Create a Simple Query in AskWATERS to easily search for TMDLs by NPDES Permit ID
 - Update the NPDES Discharge Mapping Tool to include MS4 boundaries and enable users to determine whether the receiving waters are impaired and whether a TMDL has been approved

Questions?

