

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 20, 2004

To: Jan Hrcir, City Clerks Office, City of Minneapolis

From: Jim Hafner, Project Manager/Senior Technician

RE: Comments on 2004 NPDES Storm Water Management Program and Annual Report

We have reviewed the 2004 NPDES Annual Report and offer the following comments:

1. It is recommended that the citizen education/outreach program be expanded to promote volunteer cleaning of storm drains to remove debris following significant rain events. Neighborhood groups/associations could reduce the litter washed into surface waters and improve the general appearance of their neighborhoods.
2. Past experiences have shown that education of city staff on the topics of erosion control and discharge of construction waste/soils to storm sewers have been necessary due to specific violations. We encourage this be a part of the education component of the city's activities.
3. Storm sewer outfalls are point sources of pollution to surface waters. Inspection once in five years seems inadequate. Significant deposits of sediment and other debris occur annually and should be addressed on an annual basis. Those outfalls emptying directly to a surface water (stream, lake, or wetland) should be inspected and maintained more frequently.
4. The report should reflect the timing of grit chamber cleaning and street sweeping. If these activities occur after snow melt and rain events have washed sediments and debris from the streets, sweeping will miss the majority of material to be removed and may result in the need for more frequent cleaning of grit chambers.
5. Improved storage of salt and other deicing materials is to be applauded. This is an important BMP and will help reduce chloride transport to surface waters.
6. With the completion of the MCWD's Hydrologic/Hydraulic and Pollutant Loading Study, a copy of the model has been provided to the city engineering department.
7. Six lakes in Minneapolis are listed as Impaired Waters on the MPCA Impaired Waters List. The MCWD has obtained a grant from MPCA to write a plan for improving these waters with the goal have having them de-listed. Efforts will be coordinated with the city and the MPRB.