

Maintenance Advisory

From Jon W. Reincke, Engineer of Operations

MDOT

Division of Operations
Maintenance
6333 Old Lansing Road
Lansing, MI 48917

For questions regarding
this advisory, contact:

Chris Potvin,
Env. Services Section
Stormwater Program
Manager
Phone: 517-256-6868
PotvinC@michigan.gov



Illicit Discharges

MDOT's Statewide Stormwater Discharge Permit requires the department to have a process in place to receive and respond to reports of illicit discharges/connections (ID/C) to our stormwater drainage system.

Illicit Discharges are discharges, seepage, or overland flow into MDOT's drainage system that is not composed entirely of stormwater, and which is not specifically exempt under MDOT's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) statewide permit. Examples include flow entering a drainage structure or ditch when it hasn't rained in 72 hours, evidence of sheens/discolorations, and odors.

Illicit Connections are physical connections (open ditch or pipe) to MDOT's drainage system that conveys an illicit discharge or are not authorized or permitted by MDOT where such authorization or permit is required. Examples include unidentified connections to the MDOT drainage system

The Region Resource Specialist (RRS) in each region is designated as the Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP) Coordinator. In most regions, this person is also the Stormwater Coordinator.

Maintenance staff may encounter ID/Cs while performing routine activities such as ditch clean-outs, mowing, or picking up litter. If you suspect or encounter an ID/C, it is important to take action and follow the procedures listed in the Construction Permit Manual (Section 1512.71). The procedure is summarized below.

1. **OBSERVE & RECORD.** Record basic information about the ID/C including location, characteristics (color, smell, texture), estimate of flow, size of pipe, etc. Document with photographs if possible.

If the situation appears to pose immediate danger to public health or the environment, contact the Pollution Emergency Alert System (PEAS) at 1-800-292-4706 to notify EGLE of the emergency. Notify your supervisor, RRS/IDEP coordinator, and the Stormwater Program Manager next. Examples of nonemergency ID/Cs may include wash water from laundromats or floor drains.

2. **SOURCE.** Attempt to determine the likely source of the ID/C based on the surrounding land use and observable characteristics of the discharge and direction of the flow/pipe.

Maintenance Advisory

January 12, 2009

From Jon W. Reincke, Engineer of Operations

MDOT
Division of Operations
Maintenance
6333 Old Lansing Road
Lansing, MI 48917

For questions regarding
this advisory, contact:

Chris Potvin,
Env. Services
Section Stormwater
Program Manager
Phone: 517-256-6868
PotvinC@michigan.gov



3. **REPORT.** If you are able to immediately identify the source, relay this information to the RRS/IDEP Coordinator and Stormwater Program Manager as quickly as possible. They will continue the investigation/notification process. If the source can't be immediately determined, the RRS/IDEP Coordinator and Stormwater Program Manager will continue the source investigation.

4. **FOLLOW-UP.** The RRS/IDEP Coordinator and Stormwater Program Manager will work with the Maintenance Area/TSC to identify the source and notify all appropriate agencies, following established procedures.

Remember, MDOT is required, as a condition of our MS4 permit, to document and follow up on all ID/Cs that we encounter or are made aware of on our right-of-way. ID/Cs originating from outside our right-of-way will be referred to the local health department, EGLE, or other regulatory agency as necessary. MDOT will assist these agencies where access to our right-of-way is needed.

If you have any questions on how to report an illicit discharge or illicit connection, or if you would like to receive additional information on our permit requirements contact the Stormwater Program Manager or your region IDEP Coordinator.

The following non-stormwater discharges may be allowed unless they are identified as significant contributors of pollutants:

- Water line flushing and discharges of potable water sources
- Landscape irrigation runoff, lawn watering runoff, and irrigation waters
- Diverted stream flows and flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
- Rising groundwaters and springs
- Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration [as defined by 40 CFR 35.2005(20)]
- Pumped groundwaters (except for groundwater cleanups not specifically authorized by NPDES permits), foundation drains, water from crawlspace pumps; footing drains, and basement sump pumps
- Air conditioning condensates
- Waters from noncommercial car washing
- Residual street wash waters
- Discharges or flows from emergency fire fighting activities
- Residential swimming pool discharges
- Water from non-commercial car washing
- Discharges for flows from emergency firefighting activities
- Discharges from potable water sources