



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Storm Water & Construction

[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

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### Description:

- Storm water discharges are generated by run-off from land and impervious areas such as paved streets, parking lots and building rooftops during rainfall and snow events.
- In November 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) began Phase I of its storm water program requiring states to develop regulatory programs.
- Today, regulations known as Storm Water Phase II, have been established in Indiana to reduce the impacts of storm water run-off from construction, industrial, municipal, governmental and institutional sources.
- General storm water rules are found in 327 IAC 15 (Article 15). 327 IAC 15-5, commonly referred to as Rule 5, addresses storm water run-off that is associated with construction/land disturbance.

### Environmental Impacts:

- Storm water run-off that is associated with construction activities can have a significant impact on water quality. Storm water impacts can occur during active construction as well as from run-off that is associated with the post-construction land use.
- As storm water flows over a construction site, sediment and other pollutants can be washed onto nearby properties and into water bodies. The post-construction land use can also generate pollutants as storm water run-off discharges off the property. The post-construction land use will determine the level and type of pollutants that are generated.
- Polluted storm water run-off can adversely affect the physical and biological integrity of Indiana's surface waters. Pollutants can reduce the recreational use of Indiana's waters and be detrimental to the habitat and diversity of aquatic organisms, fish and other wildlife.

### IDEM's Role:

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- In accordance with this goal, IDEM administers 327 IAC 15-5 (Rule 5).
- Rule 5 requires a General Permit to be obtained prior to all land disturbing activities of one (1) acre or more.
- The General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Construction Plan/Storm Water Pollution Plan for each project meeting the applicability requirements of the Rule.
- Project site owners are also required to file a complete Notice of Intent with IDEM.

### Citizen's Role:

- Citizen involvement has been and will continue to be a vital component of IDEM's overall plan to protect Indiana's environment and the health of Hoosiers.
- Citizens are encouraged to contact IDEM's Office of Water Quality with any questions or concerns about storm water run-off and its effects on water quality.

### More Information:

- For more information about storm water quality please visit IDEM's Storm Water website at [www.idem.IN.gov/4896.htm](http://www.idem.IN.gov/4896.htm).
- For more information about Rule 5, visit IDEM's website at [www.idem.IN.gov/4902.htm](http://www.idem.IN.gov/4902.htm).
- For Rule 5 related questions or concerns, please call IDEM's Storm Water Permits Coordinator at (317) 233-1864.

