



Standard Operating Procedure: Water Disposal from Dewatering Activities		
Date: 2024/05/01	Version: 1	Review Frequency: Annual

Reasons for Procedure

Montgomery County (County) has a permit to operate a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VAR040134). Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has entered into an agreement to meet certain responsibilities under the permit. This permit authorizes the County to discharge stormwater pursuant to the Virginia Stormwater Management Program and the Virginia Stormwater Management Act.

1.0 Purpose

The removal of water from maintenance and operational activities must be accomplished following best management practices to prevent pollution of state waterways. Best management practices prevent contaminants from reaching receiving waters. Depending on the source of the pumped water it may contain pollutants such as greases, oils, sediments, nutrients, pesticides, cleaning agents, bacteria, metals, and other chemicals.

2.0 Scope

Construction projects covered under a 2024-2028 Construction General Permit (CGP) are required to adhere to the specific requirements of the permit. The scope of this procedure is to address the disposal of water pumped during maintenance or non-CGP construction operations where that water could be discarded outdoors or directly to stormwater conveyances. This includes but is not limited to the dewatering of utility vaults, tunnels, basements, crawl spaces and excavations.

3.0 Responsibility

All County and MCPS staff are responsible for preventing illicit discharges from their operations.

3.1 Environmental Support Staff

The County Stormwater Specialist (540-394-2090) and MCPS Environmental and Maintenance Program Manager (540-382-5141) are responsible supporting staff with assessments of suitable water disposal options upon request.

3.2 Managers and Supervisors

All Managers and Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that employees are properly informed of and trained on how to follow the procedures.

3.3 Personnel Performing Dewatering and Water Disposal Activities

Personnel must follow the correct procedures in accordance with this SOP.

4.0 Procedures

4.1 Tunnels, Vaults, Electrical Manholes, and other Structures

4.1.1 Visually inspect the water to be removed. Determine if there are visible pollutants in the water to be pumped and the potential sources of those pollutants on site.

4.1.2 Water collected in vaults or tunnels often results from rainwater or groundwater infiltration. If there is no reason to suspect the water has become contaminated as determined by the visual inspection and lack of potential pollutant sources, clear water can be pumped into a nearby vegetated area and allowed to infiltrate. Staff should observe the de-watering procedure to ensure that pumped water does not travel from the vegetated area or cause localized erosion. If a suitable vegetated area is not available, the pumped water can be discharged to the sanitary sewer or hauled off from site for disposal at an appropriate treatment facility. Environmental Support Staff can assist with this determination.

4.1.3 Water that is suspected of having chemical or biological contamination or to contain anything other than pure rain or groundwater should be evaluated for proper disposal options by Environmental Support Staff. Proper disposal options could include discharging the water to the sanitary sewer, hauling it to an off-site permitted disposal facility, or if it is deemed appropriate based on the assessment, to the surface as described in 4.1.2.

4.2 Excavations

4.2.1 Staff and Contractors shall take appropriate measures to restrict the flow of water from the surface into an excavation if possible.

4.2.2 Visually inspect the water to be removed. Water in excavations usually results from groundwater infiltration or rainfall. Determine if the water is laden with sediment or shows visible signs of any other contaminants.

4.2.3 Sediment laden water may be allowed to settle to remove suspended solids prior to dewatering. Once the water is clear, the water can be pumped into a nearby vegetated area to promote infiltration and filtration.

4.2.4 Sediment laden water that needs to be removed immediately must be pumped through an appropriately sized sediment bag following manufacturer's specifications for discharge volumes. Discharge water from the sediment bag should be directed into a vegetated area, wherever possible, but is allowed to discharge into stormwater conveyances after passing through the sediment bag. The sediment bag must be routinely inspected during the pumping operation to make sure that it is functioning properly and has not become clogged. If muddy

water is being released from the sediment bag, additional measures may be needed to minimize impacts from the discharge. Options include surrounding the bag with silt fence and straw bales or placing the bag on a gravel pad.

5.0 Review of Procedure/Training

Supervisors are responsible for coordinating with the County Stormwater Specialist at 540-394-2090 or the MCPS Environmental and Maintenance Program Manager at 540-382-5141 to review this procedure with all employees who have these job duties at least once every 24 months and with any questions regarding this SOP.

6.0 Regulatory Impacts

6.1 Stormwater Regulations

Any operations involving the pumping of water from utility, construction, and maintenance activities must implement best management practices in a manner that avoids Illicit discharges as prohibited by the MS4 permit. State permit noncompliance is grounds for enforcement action, for state permit termination, revocation, modification, or denial of a state permit renewal application.

*Printed versions of SOPs with previous review dates are considered current as long as the version number is the same as the current version. Current versions of all SOPs are maintained on the County Stormwater Resources website.