



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

February 23, 2015

Ms. Karen Boone
Environmental and Hydraulic Services Assistant Manager
Washington State Department of Transportation
Olympic Region
P.O. Box 47440
Olympia, Washington 98504-7440

RE: Clarification of NPDES Permit Application Requirements for Washington Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) Stormwater Discharges to the Portions of the Puyallup River Subject to Federal and Tribal Jurisdiction

Dear Ms. Boone:

This letter clarifies the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's expected content of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Application for Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) stormwater discharges to the portions of the Puyallup River subject to federal and tribal jurisdiction.

During our meeting on November 19, 2014, we discussed the WSDOT Permit Application materials initially submitted by WSDOT on December 18, 2012. Upon reconsideration of the original NPDES Permit Application requirements provided by the EPA to WSDOT on June 19, 2012, subsequent information provided by WSDOT regarding the physical characteristics of the existing WSDOT outfalls along River Road, and visual examination of these outfalls, the EPA and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians (PTI) agree that further characterization monitoring of discharges from the existing outfalls along River Road is no longer necessary in order for the EPA to determine the WSDOT Permit Application as "complete."

In its December 18, 2012, cover letter to the Permit Application, WSDOT stated that it would conduct stormwater characterization monitoring from the identified existing outfalls upon EPA approval of its alternate monitoring proposal. WSDOT's alternate monitoring proposal included physical descriptions and photos of the existing outfall locations along River Road. As stated above, based on the subsequent information, EPA and PTI now agree that characterization monitoring of stormwater discharges from these existing outfalls is no longer necessary in order for the EPA and PTI to move forward with the development of the NPDES permit for the WSDOT discharges.

The EPA understands that, since early 2013, the WSDOT project design and timelines have been revised and/or updated as a result of the settlement agreement established between WSDOT and PTI. As further discussed during the November 19, 2014 meeting, the EPA and PTI now expect WSDOT to provide this updated project design information (and associated project maps) as amendments to the existing Permit Application originally submitted in December 2012. Upon review of the updated materials, the EPA will likely be able to consider the amended WSDOT Permit Application package complete.

If you have any questions regarding this clarification, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-6650 or vakoc.misha@epa.gov. Alternatively, you may contact Susan Poulosom, NPDES Permits Team Lead, at 206-553-6258, or at poulosom.susan@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Misha Vakoc, NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit Coordinator
NPDES Permits Unit

cc: Bill Sullivan – Puyallup Tribe
Char Naylor – Puyallup Tribe
Dick Gersib – WSDOT
Fred Bergdolt – WSDOT
Jana Ratcliff – WSDOT
Jeff Sawyer – WSDOT