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CITY OF AMESBURY
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SPONSORED BY: Kassandra Gove BILL No. 2020-077
Kassandra Gove, Mayor

AN ORDER to Establish an Illicit Discharge and Connection Storm water Ordinance for the City of Amesbury

Summary: The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Amesbury through the regulation of non-storm water discharges to the storm water drainage system to the maximum extent practicable as required by federal and state law. This ordinance establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in order to comply with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process.

Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same, that the following Ordinance be and hereby is adopted:

SECTION 1 - PURPOSE/INTENT

The purpose of this ordinance is to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Amesbury through the regulation of non-storm water discharges to the storm water drainage system to the maximum extent practicable as required by federal and state law. This ordinance establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in order to comply with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process. The objectives of this ordinance are:

- (1) To regulate the contribution of pollutants to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) by storm water discharges by any user;
- (2) To prohibit Illicit Connections and Discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system; and
- (3) To establish legal authority to carry out all inspection, surveillance and monitoring procedures necessary to ensure compliance with this ordinance.

SECTION 2 – DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following shall mean:

Authorized Enforcement Agency: employees or designees of the director of the municipal agency designated to enforce this ordinance.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, general good housekeeping practices, pollution prevention and educational practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants directly or indirectly to storm water, receiving waters, or storm water conveyance systems. BMPs also include treatment practices, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage.

Clean Water Act. The federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), and any subsequent amendments thereto.

Construction Activity. Activities subject to NPDES Construction Permits. These include construction projects resulting in land disturbance of 1 acre or more. Such activities include but are not limited to clearing and grubbing, grading, excavating, and demolition.

Hazardous Materials. Any material, including any substance, waste, or combination thereof, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may cause, or significantly contribute to, a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, safety, property, or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

Illegal Discharge. Any direct or indirect non-storm water discharge to the storm drain system, except as exempted in Section X of this ordinance.

Illicit Connections. An illicit connection is defined as either of the following:

Any drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface, which allows an illegal discharge to enter the storm drain system including but not limited to any conveyances which allow any non-storm water discharge including sewage, process wastewater, and wash water to enter the storm drain system and any connections to the storm drain system from indoor drains and sinks, regardless of whether said drain or connection had been previously allowed, permitted, or approved by an authorized enforcement agency or,

Any drain or conveyance connected from a commercial or industrial land use to the storm drain system which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records and approved by an authorized enforcement agency.

Industrial Activity. Activities subject to NPDES Industrial Permits as defined in 40 CFR, Section 122.26 (b)(14).

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Discharge Permit. Means a permit issued by EPA (or by a State under authority delegated pursuant to 33 USC § 1342(b)) that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States, whether the permit is applicable on an individual, group, or general area-wide basis.

Non-Storm Water Discharge. Any discharge to the storm drain system that is not composed entirely of storm water.

Person. Means any individual, association, organization, partnership, firm, corporation or other entity recognized by law and acting as either the owner or as the owner's agent.

Pollutant. Anything which causes or contributes to pollution. Pollutants may include, but are not limited to: paints, varnishes, and solvents; oil and other automotive fluids; non-hazardous liquid and solid wastes and yard wastes; refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded or abandoned objects, ordinances, and accumulations, so that same may cause or contribute to pollution; floatables; pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; hazardous substances and wastes; sewage, fecal coliform and pathogens; dissolved and particulate metals; animal wastes; wastes and residues that result from constructing a building or structure; and noxious or offensive matter of any kind.

Premises. Any building, lot, parcel of land, or portion of land whether improved or unimproved including adjacent sidewalks and parking strips.

Storm Drainage System. Publicly-owned facilities by which storm water is collected and/or conveyed, including but not limited to any roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, gutters, curbs, inlets, piped storm drains, pumping facilities, retention and detention basins, natural and human-made or altered drainage channels, reservoirs, and other drainage structures.

Storm Water. Any surface flow, runoff, and drainage consisting entirely of water from any form of natural precipitation, and resulting from such precipitation.

Storm water Pollution Prevention Plan. A document which describes the Best Management Practices and activities to be implemented by a person or business to identify sources of pollution or contamination at a site and the actions to eliminate or reduce pollutant discharges to Storm water, Storm water Conveyance Systems, and/or Receiving Waters to the Maximum Extent Practicable.

Wastewater. Means any water or other liquid, other than uncontaminated storm water, discharged from a facility.

SECTION 3 – APPLICABILITY

This ordinance shall apply to all water entering the storm drain system generated on any developed and undeveloped lands unless explicitly exempted by an authorized enforcement agency.

SECTION 4 - RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Public Works (DPW) shall administer, implement, and enforce the provisions of this ordinance. Any powers granted or duties imposed upon the DPW may be delegated in writing by the Director of Public Works to persons or entities acting in the beneficial interest of or in the employ of the DPW.

SECTION 5 - SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6 - ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY

The standards set forth herein and promulgated pursuant to this ordinance are minimum standards. Therefore, this ordinance does not intend nor imply that compliance by any person will ensure that there will be no contamination, pollution, nor unauthorized discharge of pollutants.

SECTION 7 - DISCHARGE PROHIBITIONS

Prohibition of Illegal Discharges.

No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged into the municipal storm drain system or watercourses any materials, including but not limited to pollutants or waters containing any pollutants that cause or contribute to a violation of applicable water quality standards, other than storm water. The commencement, conduct or continuance of any illegal discharge to the storm drain system is prohibited except as described as follows:

- (1) The following discharges are exempt from discharge prohibitions established by this ordinance: water line flushing or other potable water sources, landscape irrigation or lawn watering, diverted stream flows, rising ground water, ground water infiltration to storm drains, uncontaminated pumped ground water, foundation or footing drains (not including active groundwater dewatering systems), crawl space pumps, air conditioning condensation, springs, non-commercial washing of vehicles, natural riparian habitat or wet-land flows, swimming pools (if dechlorinated - typically less than one PPM chlorine), firefighting activities, and any other water source not containing pollutants.
- (2) Discharges specified in writing by the authorized enforcement agency as being necessary to protect public health and safety.
- (3) Dye testing is an allowable discharge, but requires a verbal notification to the DPW prior to the time of the test.
- (4) The prohibition shall not apply to any non-storm water discharge permitted under an NPDES permit, waiver, or waste discharge order issued to the discharger and administered under the authority of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, provided that the discharger is in full compliance with all requirements of the permit, waiver, or order and other applicable laws and regulations, and provided that written approval has been granted for any discharge to the storm drain system.

Prohibition of Illicit Connections.

- (1) The construction, use, maintenance or continued existence of illicit connections to the storm drain system is prohibited.
- (2) This prohibition expressly includes, without limitation, illicit connections made in the past, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under law or practices applicable or prevailing at the time of connection.
- (3) A person is considered to be in violation of this ordinance if the person connects a line conveying sewage to the MS4, or allows such a connection to continue.

SECTION 8 - SUSPENSION OF MS4 ACCESS

Suspension Due to Illicit Discharges in Emergency Situations.

The DPW may, without prior notice, suspend MS4 discharge access to a person when such suspension is necessary to stop an actual or threatened discharge which presents or may present imminent and substantial danger to the environment, or to the health or welfare of persons, or to the MS4 or waters of the United States. If the violator fails to comply with a suspension order issued in an emergency, the authorized enforcement agency may take such steps as deemed necessary to prevent or minimize damage to the MS4 or waters of the United States, or to minimize danger to persons.

Suspension Due to the Detection of Illicit Discharge.

Any person discharging to the MS4 in violation of this ordinance may have their MS4 access terminated if such termination would abate or reduce an illicit discharge. The authorized enforcement agency will notify a violator of the proposed termination of its MS4 access. The violator may petition the authorized enforcement agency for a reconsideration and hearing.

A person commits an offense if the person reinstates MS4 access to premises terminated pursuant to this Section, without the prior approval of the authorized enforcement agency.

SECTION 9 - INDUSTRIAL OR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY DISCHARGES

Any person subject to an industrial or construction activity NPDES storm water discharge permit shall comply with all provisions of such permit. Proof of compliance with said permit may be required in a form acceptable to the DPW prior to the allowing of discharges to the MS4.

SECTION 10 - MONITORING OF DISCHARGES

Applicability.

This section applies to all facilities that have storm water discharges associated with industrial activity, including construction activity.

Access to Facilities.

- (1) The DPW shall be permitted to enter and inspect facilities subject to regulation under this ordinance as often as may be necessary to determine compliance with this ordinance. If a discharger has security measures in force which require proper identification and clearance before entry into its premises, the discharger shall make the necessary arrangements to allow access to representatives of the authorized enforcement agency.
- (2) Facility operators shall allow the DPW ready access to all parts of the premises for the purposes of inspection, sampling, examination and copying of records that must be kept under the conditions of an NPDES permit to discharge storm water, and the performance of any additional duties as defined by state and federal law.
- (3) The DPW shall have the right to set up on any permitted facility such devices as are necessary in the opinion of the authorized enforcement agency to conduct monitoring and/or sampling of the facility's storm water discharge.
- (4) The DPW has the right to require the discharger to install monitoring equipment as necessary. The facility's sampling and monitoring equipment shall be maintained at all times in a safe and proper operating condition by the discharger at its own expense. All devices used to measure storm water flow and quality shall be calibrated to ensure their accuracy.

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that proper record-keeping is essential for financial transparency and accountability. This section also outlines the various methods used to collect and analyze data, ensuring that the information is reliable and up-to-date.

2. The second part of the document details the specific procedures for data collection and analysis. It describes the steps involved in identifying relevant data sources, gathering the information, and then processing it to extract meaningful insights. This section highlights the use of advanced analytical tools and techniques to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the data.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the interpretation and application of the collected data. It discusses how the analyzed information can be used to identify trends, patterns, and potential areas for improvement. This section also provides guidance on how to communicate the findings effectively to stakeholders, ensuring that the data is presented in a clear and concise manner that supports decision-making.

4. The final part of the document concludes with a summary of the key findings and recommendations. It reiterates the importance of ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the data remains relevant and useful over time. The document also includes a list of references and a glossary of terms used throughout the text.

5. The document is organized into several sections, each addressing a different aspect of the data analysis process. The sections are: Introduction, Data Collection, Data Analysis, Data Interpretation, and Conclusion. Each section is clearly marked with a heading and contains detailed information on the respective topic.

6. The document is written in a professional and objective tone, focusing on providing factual information and practical guidance. It is intended for a wide audience of professionals and researchers who are interested in data analysis and its applications. The document is well-structured and easy to read, with clear headings and sub-headings that facilitate navigation. The use of bullet points and numbered lists helps to organize the information and make it more accessible. The document is a valuable resource for anyone looking to improve their data analysis skills and understanding of the process.

