

# Stormwater Management – Illicit Discharge Regulatory Policy

Revision date: July 22, 2021

This illicit discharge regulatory policy was developed by the district as a regulatory policy for prevention of pollution from storm water runoff and to protect the quality of the waters of the State of Michigan through the regulation of non-stormwater discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) to the maximum extent practicable as required by federal and state law. This regulatory mechanism establishes methods for controlling the introduction of pollutants into the MS4 in order to comply with the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). The objectives of the regulatory mechanism are:

1. To regulate the contribution of pollutants to the MS4 by stormwater discharges by any user.
2. To prohibit illicit connections and discharges into the MS4.
3. To establish authority to investigate, inspect, and monitor suspected illicit discharges.

At all district facilities.

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**Illicit Discharge** means any discharge to, or seepage into the separate stormwater drainage system that is not composed entirely of stormwater or uncontaminated groundwater except discharges pursuant to an NPDES permit.

**Illicit Connection** means a physical connection to the MS4 separate stormwater system that primarily conveys non-stormwater discharges other than uncontaminated groundwater into the MS4 separate storm sewer system; or a physical connection not authorized or permitted by the local authority, where a local authority requires authorization or a permit for physical connections.

## Prohibitions of Illicit Discharges

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1. Prohibition of Illicit Discharges:
  - a. The district prohibits the discharge of non-stormwater discharges into the storm drain system, including but not limited to pollutants or waters containing any pollutants.
  - b. No person shall throw, drain, or otherwise discharge, cause, or allow others under its control to throw, drain, or otherwise discharge into the MS4 any pollutants or waters containing any pollutants, other than stormwater.
2. The following discharge is **not prohibited**:
  - a. This policy excludes prohibitions from the discharge or flows from firefighting activities to the district MS4. Discharge or flows from firefighting activities will be addressed only if they are identified as significant sources of pollutants to surface waters of the state.
  - b. The following activities are **not prohibited** under this policy unless they are determined to be significant sources of pollutants to surface waters of the state:
    - Water line flushing and discharges from potable water sources.

- Landscape irrigation runoff, lawn water runoff, and irrigation waters.
- Diverted stream flows and flows from riparian habitats and wetlands.
- Rising groundwater and springs.
- Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration and seepage.
- Uncontaminated pumped groundwater, except groundwater cleanups specifically authorized by NPDES permits.
- Air conditioning condensation.

## **Prohibition of Illicit Connections**

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1. The construction, use, maintenance, or continued existence of illicit connections to the MS4 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 regulatory mechanism if the person connects a line conveying sewage to the MS4 or allows such a connection to continue.
4. Improper connections in violation of this regulatory mechanism must be disconnected and redirected.
5. Illicit discharge and connections will be eliminated immediately.

## **Enforcement**

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The district's Stormwater Program Manager will administer and enforce the stormwater management program, including investigate, inspect, and monitor suspected illicit discharges or illicit connections.

**If you witness or think a discharge is taking place, please contact:**

1. **The Stormwater Program Manager, or**
2. **REPORT A POLLUTER - 24-Hour Toll Free Water Pollution Hotline 1-877-679-4337**