

SWANA Mid-Atlantic Chapter

Follow-up to Roundtable Discussion

Maryland 12-SW General Permit for Discharges from Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activities

Questions and Responses

January 2014

The following are MDE's responses to the questions which were generated during the roundtable discussion on January 16, 2014:

1. **Question:** In terms of collecting visual and benchmark samples – the guidance is to collect them 30 minutes into a rainfall event. The term “measurable” is referenced in the permit – but the industry group was looking for more guidance into the specifics of the rainfall which would justify or warrant a sample.

Response: *This is within the first 30 minutes of the storm event. Measurable means when there is actually a discharge. More guidance is on our website. We provide the EPA document which hopefully provides all sorts of good specific guidance for the folks. http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Permits/WaterManagementPermits/WaterDischargePermitApplications/Documents/GDP%20Stormwater/EPA%20Industrial%20Stormwater%20Guidance/EPA_Monitoring_Guide.pdf.*

2. **Question:** In the SWPPP, it references documenting historical spills on the site map. How far back should one go when referencing historical spills?

Response: *Permit says three (3) years, which should be sufficient.*

3. **Question:** The permit “effective” date is January. They wanted confirmation on when to start visual assessments. Should they start immediately – or after they submit their NOI in June/December?

Response: *Once covered by the permit (after they submit NOI and get letter from the Department verifying coverage), the visual monitoring is mandatory. Until then it is advisable to be considering this, but not required by the existing 02-SW permit.*