



Maryland

Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

April 27, 2018

Mr. Alexcy Romero, Superintendent
National Park Service
George Washington Memorial Parkway
700 George Washington Memorial Parkway
McLean, VA 22101

RE: Designation Letter

Dear Mr. Romero:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (the Department), Water and Science Administration has reached a Final Determination to issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Discharges from State and Federal Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) (General Discharge Permit No. 13-SF-5501, General NPDES No. MDR055501). The legal framework for permit requirements is provided in the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 122 pertaining to NPDES MS4 programs, and numerous guidelines of the United States (U.S.) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). MS4 owners or operators required to obtain coverage under this MS4 general permit are those located within urbanized areas or other MS4s designated by the Department under authority of the CWA and CFR. A small MS4 can be a municipally owned separate storm sewer system, but can also apply to State and federal agencies, and include transportation, universities, local sewer districts, hospitals, military bases, and prisons.

You are receiving this letter because the National Park Service (NPS) George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) owns or operates one or more properties within an urbanized area according to the 2010 U.S. Census or an area designated by the Department for coverage under the general permit in accordance with § 123.35(b). Your MS4 will come under the purview of the CWA's stormwater permitting requirements in accordance with 40 CFR § 122.32(a)(1). The MS4 general permit will become effective on October 31, 2018. Conditions of the general permit are effective for a five year term unless administratively continued by the Department.

As an owner or operator of a designated MS4 to be regulated under this general permit, NPS-GWMP must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Department by the effective date. An NOI serves as notification that NPS-GWMP intends to comply with the terms and conditions of this general permit. For agencies that have multiple properties eligible for coverage, a separate NOI can be submitted for each property or a single NOI can be submitted that includes multiple properties. If the property owner and operator are different agencies, those agencies should submit a joint NOI that details the responsibilities of each agency. State and federal property owners may also apply for a waiver from

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coverage if certain criteria detailed in Appendix A of the permit are met. NPS-GWMP is encouraged to communicate any questions about eligibility with the Department prior to the effective date to ensure properties are correctly identified.

The MS4 general permit requires implementation of stormwater management programs and restoration actions to control the discharge of pollutants from regulated MS4s. Compliance with the general permit will reduce stormwater pollutants to local water ways and the Chesapeake Bay. Furthermore, pollution reductions from NPS-GWMP are necessary to comply with the assumptions and requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load. Restoration requirements are based on untreated impervious areas located within NPS-GWMP's property boundaries. For State and federal permittees that have multiple properties, the general permit allows flexibility to implement restoration projects and management programs across those properties.

The Department has complied with public participation requirements established under Maryland's Administrative Procedures Act in order to reach this Final Determination. The Department has met with numerous stakeholders, held a public hearing, and accepted public comments from December 22, 2016 through March 30, 2017. The Final Determination, MS4 general permit, and the comments submitted during the public comment period may be found on the Department's website at: www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/StormwaterManagementProgram. Additional resources related to stormwater program implementation and restoration planning can also be found on the website.

Thank you for your cooperation in reviewing this MS4 general permit and planning activities that will result in full program implementation by the end of the permit term. Compliance with the general permit will support Maryland's broader goals of improving local water quality and contribute to long standing efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay. The Department looks forward to working with you to achieve these goals. If you have any questions, please contact me at 410-537-3567 or Ms. Jennifer Smith at 410-537-3543 or jenniferm.smith@maryland.gov.

Regards,



D. Lee Currey
Director, Water and Science Administration