



State-Wide Water Permit

Comment Period Now Open – Public Meeting

WHAT: The EPA has written a new draft “Multi-Sector General Permit” to control contaminated stormwater from polluting New Mexico’s rivers and streams. Coverage under this permit will be required for many industries across New Mexico ranging from small industrial sites to larger areas like the Los Alamos National Laboratory. This is a general permit that allows many entities to get coverage under one permit.

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE? Runoff from rainfall hitting the ground (or buildings, parking lots, or streets) and flowing into our rivers and streams - called stormwater runoff- is the biggest source of water pollution in the country. Many of New Mexico’s rivers are polluted because of the devastating impacts from stormwater runoff. For example, Los Alamos National Laboratory has, for decades, been discharging contaminated stormwater in the Río Grande. This stormwater contains sediment, PCBs and other toxic chemicals. Sediment can clog up the bottom of our rivers destroying habitat for fish and other aquatic life. PCBs and other toxic chemicals hurt the aquatic ecosystem and endanger public health by threatening our drinking water supplies.

PUBLIC MEETING: February 6, 2006 at 7:00 pm - Albuquerque, NM
Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute, Workforce Training Center
5600 Eagle Rock Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113

COMMENT DEADLINE: The comment period ends February 16th 2006.

WHERE TO SEND COMMENTS: Email: ow-docket@epa.gov and put “Attention Docket ID No. OW-2005-007” in the subject line. Mailing Address: Send the original and three copies of your comments to: Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mailcode 4101T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, 20460

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR COMMENTS:

- Ask the EPA to require industries that are applying for coverage under the permit to submit their Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to the EPA.
- Ask the EPA to make these SWPPPS accessible to the public by posting them online. This could be easily done by requiring industry to submit their SWPPP electronically.
- The Notice Of Intent (NOI), the document that industry submits stating that they would like to obtain coverage under the general permit, should be required to identify impaired (polluted) waters near the industrial site.
- Tell the EPA that major polluting entities should not be allowed to use the general permit. These major polluters need an individual permit specifically designed to address their pollution problems

