

East Cocalico Township's Stormwater Management Program

Ever wonder why there is a ditch or swale in your back yard? It's no accident, these facilities are designed to manage the stormwater on your property and neighboring properties. Water runoff resulting from rainfall is a natural occurrence that provides numerous benefits to our environment. However, when excessive or unmanaged runoff occurs as a result of previous or current development, negative impacts may occur affecting the environment and local citizens. East Cocalico Township reviews proposed land development projects with the intent of preventing unwanted impacts through the implementation of the Township's Stormwater Management Ordinance.



The Board of Supervisors adopted the current "East Cocalico Township Stormwater Management and Earth Disturbance Ordinance" to support the Township's on-going goals of properly managing runoff and improving water quality. This ordinance incorporates requirements recommended by the PA DEP as a result of recent regional studies of the Cocalico Creek and Conestoga River watersheds. The general purpose of the Ordinance is to control and minimize stormwater runoff impacts resulting from development. The Ordinance requires stormwater runoff from new land development to be infiltrated and detained on-site in an effort to replenish groundwater aquifers, improve water quality, maintain natural stream conditions, preserve riparian buffer areas, and regulate the peak stormwater discharges from the development site. With limited exceptions, the ordinance applies to all residential, commercial, and industrial development, including single-family homes, barns, and home additions.

While potential stormwater impacts from large scale developments are obvious to most people, the cumulative impacts from smaller projects such as newly constructed single-family homes, barns, or home additions may not be as obvious. These small scale projects can create significant problems to adjacent or downstream properties.

As part of the Township's stormwater management program, the Township maintains a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit with the intent of improving the water quality in our creeks, ponds and aquifers. The NPDES permit requires the Township to perform various

activities ranging from public education to observations of pipe discharges in order to meet six minimum control measures. The six minimum control measures are:

- **Public Education and Outreach**
- **Public Participation and Involvement**
- **Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**
- **Construction Site Runoff Control**
- **Post-Construction Runoff Control**
- **Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping**

East Cocalico Township is committed to the principles of stormwater management and good land stewardship, while also acknowledging the need to accommodate reasonable and responsible growth in the Township.

To find out more about the Township's Stormwater program or the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, please contact the Township office at 717-336-1720 or use the following links:

[Cocalico Creek Watershed](#)

[Pennsylvania Act 167 – Local Watersheds](#)

[Lancaster County Conservation District](#)

[Chesapeake Bay Program](#)

[Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Stormwater Management Program](#)

[United States Environmental Protection Agency National Pollutant Discharge & Elimination System \(NPDES\)](#)