



Bureau of Watershed Protection & Restoration

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December 22, 2023

Mr. Stewart Comstock, P.E.
Program Review Division Chief
Stormwater, Dam Safety, and Flood Management Program
Water and Science Administration
Maryland Dept. of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21230

Subject: Anne Arundel County NPDES MS4 Permit # MD0068306 (20-DP-3316)
Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) Annual Report

Dear Mr. Comstock:

With this correspondence we are submitting Anne Arundel County's Fiscal Year 2023 NPDES MS4 Annual Report (Report). This Report provides compliance information pertinent to the subject NPDES MS4 Permit (Permit) and covers the time period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This is the second annual compliance report for the above referenced Permit, issued Nov. 5, 2021. The County's Department of Public Works, Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration continues to coordinate Permit administration in collaboration with sister County agencies.

As with previous report submissions, all compliance information and data are submitted electronically. In addition to the narrative report, data and supporting information are provided in the required MS4 Geodatabase format (Appendix A to the Report). Appendix A also includes stand-alone geodatabases specific to the County stormwater infrastructure and identification of commercial and industrial outfalls as required by Part IV.C., and a stand-alone Excel workbook of biological and habitat data collected in FY23 as required by Part IV. G.2.b. We also call your attention to the ReadMe documents found in Appendix A; these pertain to the MS4 Geodatabase and to the Excel workbook of biological and habitat data.



Specific compliance narrative reports and other supporting data (e.g., IDDE – FY23 Annual Report; Countywide TMDL Stormwater Implementation, Year 3 BMP Portfolio) are submitted in electronic format as Report appendices and are included in the *NarrativeFiles* table of the MS4 Geodatabase.

Demonstration of sufficient funding to comply with Permit conditions is documented in the required FY23 WPRP Annual (Financial) Report (Appendix G, *NarrativeFiles*). Additional financial information is found in the *FiscalAnalyses* table of the MS4 Geodatabase. A Financial Assurance Plan is not required this year; however, one will be prepared and submitted with the FY24 MS4 Annual Report in December 2024.

Information pertaining to the County's stormwater management facilities is found in the MS4 Geodatabase. Stormwater BMP data collection continues, with data from as-built plans entered into a database structure and geospatial framework designed to manage the County's inventory. With this Report, the County transitioned the BMP data to fully align with the September 2023 version of the MS4 Geodatabase.

Stormwater management construction inspection and preventative maintenance inspections continued in FY23. We are pleased to report that 6,061 triennial maintenance inspections were conducted and are included in the *BMPInspections* table of the MS4 Geodatabase. These triennial maintenance inspections are in addition to the reported inspections for alternative BMPs and restoration BMPs. County agencies continue to work toward an annual inspection rate as discussed in Part IV.D.1.d of the Report.

The County's Erosion and Sediment Control Program continues to maintain delegation of enforcement authority through June 2025. The FY23 delegation review found the majority of reviewed sites were in good condition and routine County enforcement was generally effective. Areas for improvement were identified and steps have been taken to address these. More specific information and actions are found in Part IV.D.2 of the Report.

As required by the Permit, we continue implementation of an IDDE Program in FY23. The County's Outfall Screening Prioritization Process (FY22-FY26), submitted with the FY22 MS4 Report, was recognized as acceptable via MDE's FY22 Annual Report Comments (received July 2023). As requested, written IDDE Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are resubmitted with the FY23 Report (Appendix C, *NarrativeFiles*) for MDE approval. The updated SOPs contain additional descriptive information (i.e., photos) of poor housekeeping practices that would trigger corrective action. We appreciate MDEs timely review of this revised document.

During FY23, the County's IDDE program successfully inspected 163 outfalls and visually screened 355 commercial and industrial areas for evidence of upland pollutant sources. Complete documentation of IDDE activities and follow-up enforcement actions are found in Appendix C and the *IDDEScreening* and *NarrativeFiles* tables of the MS4 Geodatabase.



During FY23, Anne Arundel County government facilities covered by the Stormwater General Permit 20-SW submitted NOIs as required to prevent a lapse in that permit coverage. These facilities continued to implement their individual SWPPPs throughout the year (see *MunicipalFacilities* feature class and Part IV.D. 4 of the Report). Additionally, the County joined six other MS4 Phase I jurisdictions to jointly develop a Good Housekeeping Plan (GHP) template that can be specifically tailored to each jurisdiction. We thank MDE for their input and participation in this group, and recognize the County's GHP will be submitted with the third year (FY24) Annual Report.

Information on application of de-icing materials during FY23 is found in Part IV.D.4.c of the Report and in the *ChemicalApplication* table of the M4 Geodatabase. Snow totals were the lowest observed in the past five years (0.20") resulting in the County applying the least amount of total salt recorded in the past five years to County roadways (1,018 tons of salt (road salt and liquid salt brine)). Continued application of the County's Salt Management Plan and Sensible Salting Practices result in the efficient use of de-icing materials to ensure roadway safety. The County's Salt Management Plan will be submitted with the third year (FY24) Annual Report.

The County continues supporting a robust and comprehensive environmental and stormwater outreach and education program through both online and social media platforms, as well as participation in restoration project-specific public meetings. Please see Part IV.D.5 of the Report for a comprehensive summary of our program. The County continues maintaining the Environmental Hotline for 24/7 reporting of environmental complaints. The Hotline, staffed by the Department of Inspections & Permits, is but one of several primary means of reporting environmental concerns to the County. The County webpage also provides a link to submit on-line requests for investigation of environmental concerns or any other observation or issue of concern, residents may also use the mobile app SeeClickFix© or dial 311 to reach a County constituent services representative.

Stormwater restoration alternative control practices are continued at equivalent levels of implementation as in the previous MS4 Permit. In FY23, the County performed 6,658 lane miles of street sweeping (256 miles every two weeks), resulting in collection of 443.4 tons of material. Manual and mechanical storm drain inlet cleaning successfully removed 334.3 tons of debris. The County also continues to experience a high level of septage pumping, with 19.8 million gallons of septage (equivalent to 19,760 units) pumped during the reporting period.

Progress toward achieving the impervious acre restoration requirement (2,998 acres) of this Permit is documented in Part IV.E.2 of the Report. Overall, the County far exceeded the Year 2 restoration benchmark of 40%, completing 1,796 acres of equivalent impervious restoration by the end of the reporting period. This is roughly 60% of the allocated restoration goal. Although we did not complete all of the restoration projects identified in the Year 2 BMP Portfolio, a number of "replacement" projects were constructed this year. A project-by-project accounting of the Year 2 BMP Portfolio, and the planned Year 3 BMP Portfolio, are found in Appendix D and the *NarrativeFiles*.



The County's TMDL implementation update is fully described in the FY23 Countywide TMDL Stormwater Implementation Plan (Appendix E, *NarrativeFiles*). This document provides annual implementation progress for all County TMDLS as required by the Permit. Additionally, FY23 progress is reported in the *LocalTMDLProgress* and *ChesapeakeBayProgress* tables of the MS4 Geodatabase. No new TMDLS were issued to the County in FY23 and, thus, there are no new draft TMDL implementation plans for review and approval. However, the County still anticipates receiving MDE review comments on the previously submitted Draft Baltimore Harbor Sediment TMDL Implementation Plan. To facilitate this review, the draft plan is resubmitted as Appendix B to the FY23 Countywide TMDL Stormwater Implementation Plan. Lastly, we call your attention to Appendix H of the FY23 Countywide TMDL Plan as this appendix contains the Bacteria TMDL Restoration Plan Update for this permit term. The County appreciates MDEs review and comment on these TMDL implementation documents.

With respect to Assessment of Controls (Part IV.G) compliance, the County previously notified MDE of our participation in the Pooled Monitoring Program (PMP) as coordinated through the Chesapeake Bay Trust CBT). The County joined the PMP in January 2021 for both the BMP Effectiveness Monitoring and the Watershed Assessment Monitoring for the duration of FY21 and FY22. The County modified its' participation in the Watershed Assessment Monitoring pool, in late FY22, such that the permit-required Biological and Habitat monitoring would be conducted by the County (in lieu of PMP participation) while the County continues PMP participation in lieu of the permit-required bacteria and chloride monitoring. All current and amended MOUs and associated correspondence regarding participation in the PMP are found in Appendix F and the *NarrativeFiles*. As required by Part IV.G.2.b, the County received MDE approval of the County's Comprehensive Plan for Watershed Assessment Monitoring: Biological and Habitat Monitoring (October 2023). A copy of this plan and associated correspondence is also found in Appendix F and the *NarrativeFiles*.

During FY23, the County initiated the five-year Countywide Biological Monitoring Program (Round 4) with field data collection starting in March 2023. This County program adheres to the required sampling design elements and incorporates certain recommended elements found in the 2021 MS4 Monitoring Guidelines as described in the Comprehensive Plan noted above. As such, this program fulfills the monitoring requirement of Part IV.G.2.b.i. The FY23 biological and habitat data collected from the County non-tidal stream reaches is submitted as a stand-alone Excel workbook in Appendix A. The Excel file structure follows the template and data guide provided by MDE in October 2023. Also found in Appendix A is the County's ReadMe/Comment document pertaining to this Excel workbook and we hope this provides pertinent explanatory information.



We thank you for your consideration of the FY23 NPDES MS4 Annual Report and Appendices. Should you have any questions regarding the submittal content please contact Janis Markusic at 410-222-0551 or via email at pwmark02@aacounty.org.

Sincerely,



Erik Michelsen
Deputy Director
Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration
Department of Public Works

EM:JM

cc: Karen Henry, Director, DPW
Ginger Ellis, Planning Administrator, BWPR
Brenda Morgan, Engineer Administrator, BWPR
Janis Markusic, Program Manager, BWPR

