



City of **PHENIX CITY** *Alabama*

ENGINEERING / PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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March 31, 2014

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Attn: Mrs. Marla Shelley Smith
Water Division
P.O. Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

RE: NPDES Permit No. ALR040019
Phenix City, Alabama

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Please find attached the annual report for the above referenced permit. Included with the report are copies of resources currently being used to fulfill our commitment to the Phase II Regulations. Also included in this package is our updated Stormwater Management Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Brown, Stormwater and Erosion Control Coordinator, at (334) 448-2774.

Sincerely,

Angel Moore, P.E.
City Engineer

STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT



City of Phenix City

March 2013 – March 2014


SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)

PERMIT NUMBER ALR040019

City of Phenix City

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEMS (NPDES)
PERMIT NUMBER ALR040003
MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly fathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for fathering the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

 3/18/14

Eddie Lowe Date

Mayor, City of Phenix City
601 12th Street
Phenix City, Alabama 36867

(334) 448-2704

 3/18/14

Wallace B. Hunter Date

City Manager, City of Phenix City
601 12th Street
Phenix City, Alabama 36867

(334) 448-2702

 3/18/14

Angel Moore, P.E. Date

City Engineer, City of Phenix City
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I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II Stormwater Regulations, the City of Phenix City (City) applied for and received an NPDES permit for stormwater discharges from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) in March 2003. The original permit was issued for a 5-year time period ending in March 2008. The City of Phenix City sent the General Phase II MS4 Stormwater Permit Renewal Notice of Intent and the accompanying fee on August 31, 2007, for Permit Number ALR040019. On February 17, 2009, the City of Phenix City sent an updated Notice of Intent to reflect changes in Responsible Official and Permit contact due to personnel changes in the positions of Mayor and City Engineer. The City continued to operate under this permit while the new NPDES permit was finalized. On October 29, 2009, after reviewing the first draft of the new permit, the City of Phenix City submitted comments to the ADEM Water Division. On September 23, 2010, a Phenix City representative attended the NPDES Construction General Permit Update in Auburn, AL. Having received the revised draft of the new MS4 permit on February 12, 2010, the City once more submitted comments to the ADEM Water Division. On January 31, 2011, the City of Phenix City received the reissued NPDES Permit No. ALR0400019 and is currently implementing all changes in this permit period.

This report is being submitted to ADEM pursuant to Part V; paragraph C of NPDES Permit ALR040019.

This annual report covers the reporting period from March 2013 through March 2014.

II. SITE DESCRIPTION

The City of Phenix City is located in East Alabama on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. A map of the City is provided in Appendix B. The city limits encompass an area of approximately 28.01 square miles (17,926 acres) as of January 2014. The current population of Phenix City is approximately 32,822 per the 2010 U.S. Census. The City has grown compared to the 2000 census which had a population of 28,265. The City approved over 155 residential/commercial plats in 2013. The City issued eight (8) land disturbing permits during 2013. See attachments.

III. KNOWN OR SUSPECTED WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS

The City's storm sewer system discharges into streams located in three primary watersheds, Mill Creek, Holland Creek, and Cochgaleechee Creek watersheds.

Mill Creek is currently on the 303(d) list (AL03130003-0101-100) for organic enrichment.

IV. RESPONSIBLE PARTY

The City's Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) is composed of several programs operating under various departments within the City's organization. Components of the SWMP are as follows:

Engineering Department – Monitors residential and commercial construction and conducts erosion and sediment control inspections; Manages water quality sampling program; Manages public education and outreach program; Annual detention pond inspections; Manages overall SWMP and compliance with the Phase II Stormwater Permit. Two Engineering Technicians and our Graduate Engineer are QCI certified.

Parks and Recreation Department – Performs maintenance within City Parks, and handles recycling within the Parks. Informs Engineering of any problems found.

Building Department, Code Enforcement Division – Assists with monitoring of residential and commercial construction; Issues citations as needed. Informs Engineering of any problems found. One Code Enforcement Officer is QCI certified.

Public Works Department – Performs maintenance of stormwater infrastructure; Operates the recycling program; Operates and manages the street sweeping program. Informs Engineering of any problems found.

The person responsible for the coordination and implementation of the individual SWMP is as follows:

Angel Moore, P.E., City Engineer
City of Phenix City Engineering Department
1111 Broad Street, Building B
Phenix City, AL 36867

(334) 448-2760
amoore@phenixcityal.us

V. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The Phase II stormwater regulations require operators of small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in urbanized areas to develop and implement stormwater management programs employing best management practices (BMP's) to adequately address six minimum control measures. The control measures include:

Public Education and Outreach;

Public Involvement/Participation;

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination;

Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control;

Post-Construction Stormwater Management; and

Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.

This report describes the measures taken to fulfill all required controls, to further maintain their applications and objectives, and any additional actions put in place since the last reporting period. Included with this report are copies of all Land Disturbing Permits issued by the City of Phenix City since the last reporting period.

VI. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ON STORMWATER IMPACTS

A. Brochure Publications

Pamphlets and brochures are an effective way to present and explain stormwater issues. Unlike other communication vehicles, pamphlets and brochures can be distributed in many locations without requiring staffing and the location of distribution can specifically target the audience you are trying to reach. The goal for brochure publications is to provide two (2) brochures per year. During the permit year 2013-2014, two (2) brochures were provided for distribution by the City. Brochures provided by the City over the past year include:

After the Storm, A Citizen's Guide to understanding Stormwater. EPA 833-B-03-002
Take the Stormwater Runoff Challenge. EPA Publication, crossword puzzle

Copies of the previous brochures, which are still in use, were submitted with past reports.

B. Website

Citizens can go to the City's website to obtain information on items of local interest. The web page is accessible 24 hours per day and can serve citizens that do not have the time or the ability to physically meet with staff during normal working hours.

Citizens can find out more information on Stormwater, download the Erosion and Sediment Control ordinance or report areas of concern.

The webpage was added during this permit year and is kept current and updated by the Engineering Department.

For more information on the website please visit:

<http://www.phenixcityal.us>

C. Recycling Center

The City of Phenix City currently has two drop off centers where residents can leave a variety of recyclable materials. The Coca-Cola/NRC Bin Grant awarded bins to be distributed in local parks and sporting complexes. A policy for the collection of electronics was developed in order to better manage electronic waste. All City Buildings have received recycling bins for use by employees.

D. Posters

Posters were developed during the initial permitting cycle and remain on display in public buildings including the lobbies of the Engineering and Building Department's. The purpose of these posters is both to educate and to help express the need for community involvement in the fight against pollution. These posters describe how stormwater can become polluted and show practices that can be followed to help prevent pollution. Copies of these posters have been submitted with past reports.

E. Utilities Department Call Waiting Messages

The City of Phenix City has recorded three (3) messages to be used when customers are on hold. The messages are entitled:

We All Want to Protect Our Planet
9 Inexpensive Ways You Can Prevent Erosion
10 Ways You Can Protect Our Water.

These messages went into use this year. We hope these messages can educate the public and perhaps spark an interest in becoming involved with the environment.

VII. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/PARTICIPATION

A. Feedback Form

A feedback form was created during the initial permitting cycle and was attached to a compact printout of the first brochure. The feedback form allows citizens to assess the areas in which they live and give feedback that will help the City identify the community's needs. It also inquires into the usage of the City's recycling centers. Contact information is given on the forms so that City personnel can assist the public in finding answers relating to pollution. A Feedback Form/Suggestion Box has been placed in the lobby of the Engineering Department and provides a means for the public to inform the City of their concerns, while also allowing the City to evaluate its own progress.

Contact information is also shown on all brochures and posters to encourage the public to communicate with the Phenix City Engineering Department any concerns including erosion and sediment control and other water quality issues.

B. Website Hotline

In an effort to provide the general public with an additional means of reporting potential erosion control violations, the City developed the "Action Center". Citizens now have the ability to log on to the website 24 hours a day and provide information on suspected violations. The information is forwarded to the Engineering Department and an investigation is initiated. The website hotline has proven to be a valuable tool over the course of the past years by assisting City personnel in responding to citizens' concerns. The Action Center can be used to report a number of items. For more information concerning the hotline, please visit <http://www.phenixcityal.us/Default.asp?ID=14&pg=Action+Center>

Of course, the public can always contact the Engineering Department at 334 448 2760 if they would prefer to talk with a person.

C. Help the Hooch

Our community is involved in the Help the Hooch Program, an annual clean up in the Columbus GA, Fort Benning, and Phenix City, AL area. Volunteers pick up trash/litter to help keep our river and river banks clean. In 2013, over 9,500 volunteers participated in his highly successful program. The collected material totaled over 100,000 pounds and included litter, e-waste, and household hazardous waste. Phenix City's Engineering and Public Works Department and the Parks and Recreation Department serve as partner organizations and the City's Public Works picks up the trash collected with Phenix City's clean up areas from a designated drop-off point.

In 2013, the City of Phenix City also participated in Help the Hooch's National Drug Take Back day by providing drop off locations in the City for unused/expired prescription drugs. This allowed the prescription drugs to be safely discarded. Some of our local drug stores served as drop off locations.

VIII. ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION

A. Inspection of Drainage System

The Public Works Department conducts routine inspections of its drainage system in order to maintain free flowing conditions. During this process, key stream sections, bridges, and culverts are inspected and routine maintenance is conducted. As areas are identified for maintenance, the work is listed on the maintenance schedule and a crew is assigned to perform the task. City Inspectors also inform Public Works of any drainage systems they find that need repair/cleaning. The Public Works Department has obtained a portable Vactor Jet and a International 7400 Vactor Jet to facilitate storm drain clean up.

B. Water Sampling Program

In 2012, the City of Phenix City began a water-sampling program in an effort to analyze the water quality of streams within the City. The City currently maintains three (3) sampling sites as Phenix City Water Watch. Test results are uploaded to the Alabama Water Watch Database. In February 2014, the City of Phenix City purchased a Environmental test kit and is no longer reliant on the Alabama Water Watch organization for testing equipment.

In February 2014, the City of Phenix City purchased a LaMotte Storm Drain Monitoring Kit and began conducting random tests of storm drains in the city.

C. Storm Sewer Map

The City updated its Storm sewer map in 2013, showing the location of outfalls and the names and location of all waters of the State that receive discharges from those outfalls. An updated copy of this map is attached.

IX. CONSTRUCTION SITE STORMWATER RUNOFF CONTROL

A. Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance

The original Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (Ordinance) adopted by the City of Phenix City was Ordinance 98-09, adopted on February 17, 1998.

The Ordinance was reviewed and underwent major changes in 2005. This Ordinance was adopted on August 16, 2005.

The Ordinance was reviewed and amended again on February 21, 2007 as Ordinance 2007-07. This is the current Ordinance that is in force at this time.

The Ordinance is reviewed each year with the last review in February 2014.

The policy provides for a regional set of rules that can be applied to contractors, citizens, developers and engineers in the area. A letter of notification continues to be signed by those obtaining building permits in an effort to make those sites less than an acre and not required to obtain approval of an ESC Plan aware of the policy and its provisions. This letter of notification was revised following the amendments to the Erosion and Sediment Control Policy that were adopted in February 2007. These notifications also require that basic contact information be submitted by the developer or builder, which assist's in communication during construction.

B. Erosion Control Inspections

The City, in an effort to patrol the management of erosion and sediment control measures on active construction sites, initiated a construction site inspection program in 2005. The inspection program is designed to identify deficiencies in erosion control and initiate corrective action. Inspections are performed after each $\frac{3}{4}$ inch rainfall event or a minimum of once per month. Approximately 155 residential building sites, 12 subdivision sites, and 8 commercial sites underwent inspections in 2013. Ten (10) letters of Minor Deficiencies, Eight (8) Notices of Violation (NOV's) and 1 stop work order was issued. One (1) citation was issued and went before Municipal Court in January 2014. This case was dismissed upon satisfactory completion of the cited work. The City Engineering Department maintains copies of all reports. Attached is a list of all violations.

C. Rainfall Data Collection

In 2005, the City began maintaining historical rainfall data records. Two rain gauges are maintained by the City. One is located on the City yard at 1111 Broad St; the other is located at the landfill. Data is input into an Excel spreadsheet on a daily basis. The total rainfall amount recorded on the City yard for 2013 was 63.4 inches of rain. The total rainfall amount for 2012 was 36.5 inches. That was a difference of 26.9 inches for the two year period.

D. Monitoring through Plan Review

A Graduate Engineer monitors erosion and sediment control through plan review and regular site inspections to ensure that the provisions of the policy are being met. The City Inspector also monitors erosion and sediment control on new developments through regular inspections. The Engineering Technician conducts regular and rainfall inspections on all sites in the area, meets with developers, builders, and property owners to discuss any issues and how to handle them. The Engineering Technician also handles the annual detention pond inspections, sends letters, inspection reports, documents any issues, and provides photographic documentation.

X. POST-CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER MANAGEMENT IN NEW DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

A. Stormwater Management Details and Standards

The City of Phenix City is currently in the process of updating the Subdivision Regulations. These regulations include all Details and Standards. The process should be complete this year and include the adoption of Stormwater Details and Standards.

B. Stream Buffer Regulations

As part of the Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance adopted by the City Council, a minimum 25-foot non-disturbed vegetative buffer zone was required for new developments on "blue line" streams and creeks identified on USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps

C. Detention Pond Inspections

Existing detention ponds need periodic inspections to evaluate the maintenance and operation of these vital components of the City's drainage system. Because vast quantities of stormwater are collected and passed through these detention ponds every year, inspections of these facilities can identify potential problems and illicit discharges.

The City of Phenix City has 69 sites with a total of 85 ponds. The Engineering Department inspected 65 of these sites with 81 pond inspections completed. 4 of these sites are in their warranty period with those ponds still under the ESC inspections, 27 ponds had no deficiencies, 39 letters were sent, and 6 time extensions were granted. No enforcement action was taken, although several sites were turned over to the City Attorney for further research.

D. Inspections

The City Inspector and the Engineering Technician monitor erosion and sediment control through regular site inspections to ensure that the provisions of the policy are being met. The City Inspector and Engineering Technician conduct regular and rainfall inspections on all sites in the area. They meet with developers, builders, and property owners to discuss any issues and how to handle them. They conduct the annual detention pond inspections, send letters and inspections reports, document any issues, and provide photographic documentation.

The City's Code Enforcement/Building Department has an Inspector who is QCI certified, and he is assisting the Engineering Department in managing post-construction storm water in new developments.

XI. POLLUTION PREVENTION/GOOD HOUSEKEEPING FOR MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

A. Employee Training

Employees from the City's Public Works Department, Utilities Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department have participated in soil, erosion, and sediment control information sessions. The presentation presented information on types of erosion, erosion and sediment control practices and technologies, and Best Management Practices. We also conducted 3 separate Do's and Don'ts of Erosion Control with the Departments. A discussion followed and addressed the specific erosion and sediment control measures that are currently being used by these Departments, and the common installation and maintenance issues associated with these measures. Employees also receive on-the-job training from their supervisors. We plan to conduct quarterly information sessions with these Departments during the next cycle.

B. QCI Program

The Graduate Engineer, City Inspectors, and Engineering Technicians have all complete Qualified Credentialed Inspector refresher training this year and all are current on their certification. Copies of their certifications are attached.

C. Newsletters

A quarterly periodical continues to be produced and distributed to all departments. Topics discussed in the 2013 newsletters include: Water Quality in Alabama, Erosion Control vs. Sediment Control-Understanding the Difference, Nonpoint Source Water Pollution, and Low Impact Development.

D. Other

The Engineering Technician participated in the Alabama Water Policy Symposium hosted by Auburn University.