



Steckbeck Engineering & Surveying, Inc
Civil/Environmental/Municipal Engineers/Land Surveyors

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FROM THE DRAFTING TABLE



SEESI Office—Lebanon, PA

Steckbeck Engineering & Surveying, Inc. (SEESI) presents the latest edition of our quarterly newsletter, titled "From The Drafting Table." The purpose of the newsletter is to share services that we can provide and to convey relevant information which may affect our clients as they consider and begin new projects. This can include anything from changing regulations and new design concepts, to our experiences and lessons learned. It is our goal at SEESI to provide our clients with the best service and up-to-date engineering practices that are cost effective solutions for your needs.

SEESI Launches New Website

In an effort to continue serving our existing clients effectively and reach new clients, Steckbeck Engineering & Surveying, Inc. has launched a new website: www.steckbeck.net. We invite you to take a look at our website which will provide you with a plethora of information; including the services we provide, projects that are underway or have been completed, news and information, contact information, and history of our company. SEESI is proud to be an Employee Owned Company and is eager to continue serving our clients in Central Pennsylvania.



Steckbeck Engineering & Surveying, Inc. Office

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As technology continues to advance in the 21st Century, one of our goals is to better serve our existing clients while reaching out to new clients. Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SEESI1990

SEESI Welcomes New Engineer

Steckbeck Engineering & Surveying Inc. is pleased to welcome Ms. Jennifer I. Kintzer, P.E., to our staff. Ms. Kintzer will join our Environmental Engineering Department and brings with her an extensive background and valuable experience in the water and wastewater field.

Jennifer has over 18 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry. During that time she has been extensively involved in the design, permitting and construction phase of a variety of projects including wastewater treatment facilities, wastewater collection systems, water treatment facilities, water distribution systems, water and wastewater pumping stations, and water storage facilities. Jennifer is also well versed in conducting feasibility studies and preparing yearly reports for both private and municipal water and wastewater clients. As a licensed water treatment plant operator she has also acted as an operations consultant and performed quarterly water sampling for municipal clients.

Ms. Kintzer earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. Jennifer is registered in Pennsylvania as a Professional Engineer and is Certified in Pennsylvania as a Water Treatment Plant Operator (Class B and E, Sub-classes 1-14). Ms. Kintzer is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Society of Women Engineers and is an Honorary Member of the Eastern Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Operators Association.

**Civil and Municipal Engineering * Water and Wastewater Engineering * Subdivision and Land Development Planning
Geographic Information Systems (GIS) * Construction Administration and Inspection * Land Surveying**



Storm Water Management & Understanding the MS4 Program (Part 2)

What is the MS4 Program?

In our previous Newsletter, the MS4 Program or Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System was introduced. The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer is comprised of drainage systems, including streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels and storm pipes, owned by a state, county, city, town, township, borough or other public entity. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water Phase II regulations require permit coverage for storm water discharges from MS4s, mainly those located in urbanized areas. Therefore, most Townships and Boroughs are required to comply with the MS4 Program. As a follow up, it is important to provide additional information explaining “What is an illicit discharge, and what kind of discharges are allowed ?”

What is an illicit Discharge?

An illicit discharge is the discharge of pollutants or non-storm water materials into a storm sewer system via overland flow, direct dumping, or unpermitted connections. *Figure 1 illustrates an example of an illicit discharge of unknown fluids leaking out of a trash dumpster.* Illicit connections are pipes or other direct connections that illegally or unknowingly release pollutants or non-storm water materials into a storm sewer system or directly into a body of water.

It is up to each municipality to adopt an Ordinance that prohibits illicit discharges into the municipality’s storm water system. The Ordinance prohibits any discharge into the municipality’s storm sewer system which is not composed entirely of storm water, except as provided below; and discharges approved under a state or federal permit.



Figure 1 – Unknown fluids leaking from a trash dumpster

What kinds of discharges are allowed?

- Discharges which may be allowed and do not significantly contribute to pollution of surface waters of the Commonwealth, are:
- Discharges from fire fighting activities
- Discharges from potable water sources not containing chlorine, including dechlorinated water line and fire hydrant flushing.
- Irrigation drainage.
- Discharges from routine external building wash down (which does not use detergents or other compounds).
- Discharges from air conditioning condensate.
- Discharges from water from individual residential car washing.
- Springs.
- Discharges of uncontaminated water from basement or crawl space sump pumps.
- Discharges of uncontaminated water from foundation or footing drains.
- Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands.
- Discharges from lawn watering.
- Pavement wash waters where spills or leaks of toxic or hazardous materials have not occurred (unless all spill material has been removed) and where detergents are not used.
- Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges.
- Discharges from uncontaminated groundwater.
- Dye testing, but verbal notification must be provided to the Municipality prior to the time of the test.

What types of connections are prohibited?

The following connections are strictly prohibited:

1. Any drainage pipe, channel or ditch, whether on the surface or subsurface, which allows non-storm water discharge, including sewage, process wastewater, and wash water, to enter the storm sewer system, and any connections to the storm drain system from indoor drains and sinks.
2. Roof Drains
 - a. Roof drains shall not be connected to streets, sanitary or storm sewers or roadside ditches, except as provided below.
 - b. When it is more advantageous to connect directly to streets or storm sewers, connection of roof drains to street or roadside ditches may be permitted on a case by case basis by the municipality.



- c. Roof drains shall discharge to infiltration areas or vegetative BMPs to the maximum extent practical. This will help to promote groundwater recharge and reduce runoff.
- 3. Waste disposal prohibitions—It is illegal to dispose of or leave any refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded materials in any public or private property, driveway, parking area, street, alley, sidewalk or other component of the municipality’s storm sewer system so that such materials may cause or contribute to pollution. Garbage deposited in streets in proper waste receptacles for the purposes of routine collection is exempted from this prohibition. *Figure 2 illustrates an example of trash accumulating in the street gutter adjacent to a catch basin.*
- 4. Any drain or pipe connected to the municipality’s storm sewer system from a commercial or industrial land use which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records, and approved by the municipality.
- 5. The above prohibitions apply to both existing and future connections.



Figure 2 – Trash accumulating next to catch basin

In the event that the municipality determines that any of the discharges identified above contribute to pollution of surface waters, or is so notified by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the municipality will notify the responsible party and order them to cease the discharge within a specified period of time. Any person, business, corporation, or public entity found to have failed to comply with the municipality’s Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Ordinance will be subject to fines of not less than \$100, nor more than \$300, for each offense and each day that the violation continues to occur shall be deemed a separated and distinct offense. In addition, any offender of the Ordinance may be required to pay legal fees and other expenses incurred by the municipality in prosecuting the offense. Failure to pay such fines and legal fees could lead to imprisonment for a term not to exceed 90 days.

This article has provided an in-depth look at Understanding the MS4 Program and What is an Illicit Discharge. If you have any questions regarding the MS4 program, please contact Steckbeck Engineering and Surveying, Inc.

[PennDOT Introduces New Electronic Permitting System \(EPS\)](#)

At Steckbeck Engineering & Surveying, Inc., our goal is to provide service to our clients as efficiently as possible. One of the ways we continue to try to meet that goal is by staying on top of new regulations and procedures as they become available. SESI’s latest effort to assist our clients is with the new Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Electronic Permitting System (EPS).

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has launched a new statewide online permitting system, called “E-Permitting System” (EPS), for Highway Occupancy Permits (HOPs) which began on November 1, 2011. The system’s goals are to reduce paper, to speed permit review turnaround time, and to increase the ability to track the status of an application.

The new EPS online system will be phased in over a two-year time frame, beginning in November 2011. The system will allow applicants to file HOP submissions through PennDOT’s web site and allow them to view the permit’s status as well as the potential completion date. Additionally, PennDOT department comments regarding the application will be available online along with other related documents.

It is PennDOT’s goal to eliminate wasted time from mailing paper documents back and forth by utilizing the speed of electronic filing and by providing greater access to applicants who need immediate access to comments or information related to their project. The new EPS system will essentially be paperless, since all submission documents will be uploaded electronically and submitted instantly.

The most significant change is that the Applicant (i.e. property owner, developer, municipality, authority, etc.) will be initiating their own application and will need to create a PennDOT Business Partner ID in order to start the HOP application process. This will require a small amount of time initially, to obtain the ID. Most of the regulations and the design process will remain unchanged, however you will notice a difference in how the HOP applications are tracked and reviewed.

SESI will guide you quickly through the new EPS process and can provide you with additional information on how the new system will affect your projects. Should you have any questions, please contact Steckbeck Engineering & Surveying Inc.