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The Clean Water Act
(CWA) of 1972, Amended

*How this law
affects
Waterloo
and you.*

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System-Phase II

- what we need to do:

- **Educate the public**
- **Enlist public participation**
- **Detect and eliminate illicit discharge**
- **Control construction-site runoff**
- **Manage post-construction runoff**
- **Stop polluting at home and away**

What's the reward?

Quality clean rivers and quality streams

Quality Rivers and Streams are up to Us!

What is NPDES Phase II?

Once upon a time, not so long ago, the Cedar River was clean enough to see the bottom, and rich with fish and underwater plant life. It served as a source for drinking water and provided ice for our early settlers. Today, only a small fraction of the fish has survived, and we wouldn't think of the water as being suitable to drink.

Our rivers and streams only have one mortal enemy – us. Careless handling of chemicals, debris, biological hazards, and erosion has endangered our rivers and water supply. There is a solution.

In 1972, the United States Congress adopted the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was established to regulate a plan protecting surface waters, including river, streams and lakes, throughout the United States. Initially, the CWA concentrated on controlling pollution from major contamination sources – in particular industrial and municipal wastewater.


Since 1972, water quality has been substantially improved. Unfortunately, storm water runoff in urban and agricultural areas, construction sites, landfills and mining areas are now the leading cause of continued water pollution. In 1987, the CWA was amended by Congress, requiring the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a multi-phase program to regulate storm water discharge quality, coast-to-coast and Canada to the Gulf.

Phase I was introduced in 1990. It set requirements for controlling the output of separate storm-sewer systems in cities with populations 250,000 and over, along with continued enforcement of industrial output and contamination. Phase I is ongoing.



Phase II extends these regulations to smaller cities, including Waterloo and 47 other cities plus 10 counties in Iowa. These regulations address 6 control measures known as Best Management Practices (BMPs).

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Involvement and Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control
- Post-Construction Storm Water Management
- Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping of Municipal Operations



The requirements of the CWA and the NPDES are now **our legal responsibility**. All of Waterloo and neighboring cities will be affected by the regulations set out under NPDES. **Storm water runoff results in more severe damage to water quality when the banks of rivers and streams are not protected from erosion, and in cities where large amounts of earth are covered with roads, parking lots, buildings and homes. As the rain falls on roofs and roads, it's carried to storm water drains along the curbs and gutters, travels through an elaborate system of tiling, and heads directly to the rivers. As the water moves its way along, it picks up chemicals, biological agents, pollution, trash and debris. Eventually, whatever is in the water's path will find its way to the river. Our job is to clean up the pathway from our homes and offices to the river, so that when the storm waters come, they have a clean path to follow.**



Within the city of Waterloo, ordinances will be adopted in a step-by-step fashion for:

- Storm Water Management Program
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction-Site Runoff Control
- Post-Construction Runoff Control

