VT DEC MS4
Stormwater General Permit

The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit is an existing stormwater general permit that will be expanded to implement the Lake Champlain TMDL. The existing and proposed permit will cover stormwater discharges from nine municipalities in Chittenden County, St. Albans Town and St. Albans City, Rutland Town, BTV and UVM. VTrans is currently covered under the MS4 permit, but will be permitted under the TS4 permit going forward. The MS4 permit requires municipalities to develop and implement a comprehensive stormwater management program.

Requirements for MS4s

- Municipalities will continue to implement the six basic Minimum Control Measures of 1) Public Education and Outreach, 2) Public Participation and Involvement, 3) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, 4) Construction Site Stormwater Control, 5) Post-Construction Runoff Control, and 6) Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping.

- The MS4 permit will apply to the entire area within a municipality. Currently, the MS4 applies only to the Census defined Urbanized Areas and areas within stormwater impaired watersheds. Municipalities will be better positioned to meet the requirements of the TMDL in the most cost effective manner by prioritizing implementation across the entire municipality.

- Municipalities will develop Phosphorus Control Plans (PCPs) to further capture phosphorus in municipal stormwater runoff. As part of the PCPs, municipalities will be able to account for their ongoing implementation of the MS4 permit and the stormwater impaired waters Flow Restoration Plans (FRPs).

- The MS4 permit will incorporate the requirements of the forthcoming Municipal Roads Permit. Regulated MS4s will not need to apply for a separate roads permit.

Timing of Requirements

- The MS4 permit will be re-opened and amended following the approval of the LC TMDL.

Permit Process

- Public process to develop permit and standards
- 20-year Implementation schedule prioritized by greatest benefit
- Annual reporting to DEC on implementation of plan