

Alliance for the Great Lakes * American Forests * American Rivers * Amigos Bravos *
Center for Neighborhood Technology * Citizens Campaign for the Environment *
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge * Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) *
Clean Water Action * Clean Water Network * Clean Wisconsin * Connecticut Fund for the Environment * Conservation Law
Foundation * Earthjustice * Environment America *
The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition * Lake Erie Waterkeeper Association *
Milwaukee Riverkeeper * National Garden Club *
Natural Resources Defense Council * Nature Abounds * Ohio Environmental Council *
Ohio River Foundation * Openlands * Oregon Environmental Council * People for Puget Sound *
River Network * Sierra Club * Tualatin Riverkeeper

EPA Post Construction Stormwater Rulemaking: Clean Water, Healthy Communities Platform Principles

Polluted stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of pollution to our streams, rivers, the coastal marine environment and other large waterways, including the Chesapeake Bay, the Great Lakes, Puget Sound and urban rivers around the country. However, existing pollution controls and management approaches for these discharges are woefully inadequate. For the first time in years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced its intention to tackle this problem in a meaningful way, through federal rulemaking that will improve stormwater regulations and clean water nationwide. *EPA's current proposal to develop and issue new nationwide stormwater regulations in 2012 provides a significant and timely opportunity to improve clean water.*

Core Platform Elements

- A. EPA must adopt new Objective Performance Standards which are necessary to achieve significant water quality improvements and create regulatory mechanisms that drive the use of Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure approaches to stormwater management wherever possible. These standards must represent a minimum level of performance, must not preempt the adoption of more stringent standards in a region or watershed, and must not promote sprawl development.
- B. EPA must require retrofits in already developed public and private areas, and as part of infrastructure reconstruction projects. Reducing effective imperviousness through green infrastructure-based approaches is necessary to diminish the impacts of existing stormwater pollution.
- C. EPA must improve pollution control and watershed protection by targeting areas subject to stormwater regulation based on pollutant contribution and impact and the need to prevent degradation of high quality waters. Areas of new or expected development, critical or sensitive watersheds and impervious areas that cause or contribute to water quality problems should be targeted. EPA must make use of any and all tools at its disposal for achieving this more effective reach, including broader application of the Agency's MS4 regulatory authority and construction stormwater permits.
- D. Total Maximum Daily Loads/Water Quality Standards – TMDL waste load allocations must be fully incorporated into stormwater permits. Discharges regulated by such permits should be expressly required to meet WLAs and water quality standards, and there should be consequences for states that fail to incorporate the TMDL load allocations.
- E. Enforceable Permits and Plans – New and revised permits must include terms that are clear, measurable, objective, specific and enforceable so that permittees are held accountable; implementation plans must include benchmarks and deadlines.
- F. Industrial stormwater – Improvements to the industrial stormwater program must include better monitoring and links to TMDLs and water quality standards.