

SECTION 2 – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT/ PARTICIPATION

This minimum control measure is a key component to the stormwater management program as it helps to ensure broader public support, and shorter implementation schedules, as well as provide a broader base of knowledge. Persons who are personally involved with the decision making process are less likely to challenge the program and can provide a valuable resource of knowledge that will be beneficial to the development, implementation and enforcement of the program.

2.1 REQUIREMENTS

Compliance with applicable State and local public notice and Freedom of Information regulations are required when implementing a public involvement/participation program. Where notice requirements are inconsistent, the notice provisions providing for the most notice and opportunity for public comment shall be followed.

The development of a public involvement/participation program that includes the public in developing, implementing, and reviewing the stormwater management program is required.

Appropriate BMP's and measurable goals for this minimum control measure must be determined. This must include the persons(s) or position(s) responsible and implementation dates for each BMP.

2.2 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following BMP's will be utilized in the implementation of the program to address the minimum control measure for Public Participation and Involvement.

2.2.1 CTDOT NPDES Phase II Working Committee

As part of the development of the stormwater management plan, a working committee was established with representatives of several units within the department including, Aviation and Ports, Construction, Consultant Design, Environmental Compliance, Environmental Planning, Hydraulics and Drainage, Maintenance (Highway Operations), Property and Facilities, Public Relations, Public Transportation, State Design, Rights of Way, Surveys and the department's consultant for this assignment, Maguire Group Inc.

During the development of the plan, the committee met on a regular basis to discuss relevant issues and provide input and guidance in the development of the plan. The committee met on a biweekly basis beginning in July 2002 through the completion of the stormwater management plan. A list of the members of the working committee can be found in the appendix of this document.

The benefits associated with this BMP include the participation and knowledge of representatives of the units involved in planning, design, construction and

maintenance within the department, which covers a wide range of disciplines.

2.2.2 Public Information Meetings – Stormwater Management Plan Development

Public information meetings were held during the development of the stormwater management plan to allow for public participation and comment. The meetings were held at the following locations and dates in each of the department's four districts, in the spring of 2003.

- **District 1**
February 20, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
Connecticut Department of
Transportation
Conference A-B
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT
- **District 2**
February 18, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
Waterford Town Hall
15 Rope Ferry Road
Waterford, CT
- **District 3**
February 27, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
Stratford Town Hall
2nd Floor Council Chambers
2725 Main Street
Stratford, CT
- **District 4**
February 25, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.
Council of Governments of Central
Naugatuck Valley
Lombard Building, Room 300
20 East Main Street
Waterbury, CT

The public information meetings were conducted by the CTDOT along with the department's consultant for this assignment, Maguire Group Inc. The purpose of the meetings was to provide information, answer questions, and receive comments on CTDOT's Draft Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). A handout was provided that included copies of presentation slides, the SWMP executive summary and introduction, and a copy of the State contract for laboratory services. The presentation was followed by a comment period, where individuals could discuss specific topics in detail.

The meetings were attended by a total of 74 people including municipal representatives, public works directors, town engineers and town management from many towns within the districts. Employees of the regional planning agencies, as well as CTDOT employees and some environmental groups also attended.

Generally, the comments resulting from the presentation related to specific details about how the department would coordinate with the towns in situations where there was overlap between state and municipal facilities. Questions pertaining to the requirements of the CTDEP general permit (state and municipal) including specific dates and deadlines were also posed. In addition, there was an interest in the availability of state resources for use with municipal general permits and storm water management plans.

The attendees were informed that the CTDOT would make information and materials available in the future to aid in the development of their own stormwater management plans. A digital copy of the department's SWMP was provided upon request.

The public comments resulting from the information meetings were recorded, reviewed and implemented as appropriate.

The benefits associated with this BMP include the accumulation of ideas from a diverse audience and all interests who can share their knowledge and concerns. Public meetings are an excellent way to inform the public about stormwater impacts in addition to gaining support for the proposed stormwater management plan and program. Key issues, especially those that directly affect the public, can be described during these meetings to increase awareness of the departments and public's role in the program including responsibility, implementation dates, and expected benefits.

*SWMP Public
Information Meetings*



2.2.3 Brochures at Public Information Meetings

Brochures addressing the effects of stormwater quality on the environment will be developed. The brochures will be available to the public at public information meetings for design/construction projects conducted by the department. The brochure will be developed by the end of the first year of the program with distribution occurring at the public meetings during the second year.

The benefits associated with this BMP include reaching a diverse audience covering a large geographic area. Public hearings / information meetings are conducted by the department at various locations throughout the state on a continuous basis as part of the department's design process. This will allow the public the opportunity to comment and participate in the development of stormwater management plans for specific projects during the design development process.

The measurable goals, target dates and responsible position associated with this BMP are detailed in the following table.

**Table 2.1 Public Information Meeting Brochure BMP
Measurable Goals and Implementation Dates**

Target Date	Activity	Position Responsible
Year 1	Develop brochure	Bureau Chief Arthur W. Gruhn
Year 2	Display / distribute brochures at 5 public information meetings	Bureau Chief Arthur W. Gruhn
Year 3	Display / distribute brochures at 10 public information meetings	Bureau Chief Arthur W. Gruhn
Year 4	Display / distribute brochures at 20 public information meetings	Bureau Chief Arthur W. Gruhn
Year 5	Display / distribute brochures at all public hearings / information meetings	Bureau Chief Arthur W. Gruhn

2.2.4 Storm Drain Marking/Stenciling – Give Stencil to Towns

The storm drain marking / stenciling program developed for Section 2 “Public Education and Outreach will be made available to towns and municipalities, beginning the third year of the program, at which time the stencils will have been tested and evaluated. The materials will be available to all towns on a limited first come, first served basis.

The benefits associated with this BMP include increased public participation in local stormwater management programs and increased awareness by the general public. It will educate and demonstrate to the public the direct link between the storm sewer system and the surface waters to which it drains.

Example of storm drain marking/stenciling participation on a community level.



The measurable goals, target dates and responsible position associated with this BMP are detailed in the following table.

**Table 2.2 Storm Drain Marking / Stenciling BMP
Measurable Goals and Implementation Dates**

Target Date	Activity	Position Responsible
Year 1	Evaluate stenciling / marking materials and installation methods. Select preferred material, installation method and graphic / message.	Bureau Chief Arthur W. Gruhn
Year 2	Begin trial program on V.I.P. projects	Bureau Chief Arthur W. Gruhn
Year 3	Evaluate trial program Distribute materials to towns on a limited basis	Bureau Chief Arthur W. Gruhn
Year 4	Distribute materials to towns on a limited basis	Bureau Chief Arthur W. Gruhn
Year 5	Distribute materials to towns on a limited basis	Bureau Chief Arthur W. Gruhn