



SAFETY ALERT

Stormwater Permitting For The Concrete Pipe Industry

To monitor discharges associated with industrial activities the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was established by the EPA in the 1990's. This system monitors eleven categories of industry, including Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 32XX – Glass, Clay, Cement, **Concrete (3272)**, and Gypsum Products. Following are the two most common NPDES permits:

- NPDES General Permit – a general permit covers an industry segment. The rules and conditions spelled out in this type of permit would be the same for all concrete pipe facilities within a regulated area. Most concrete pipe facilities would fall into this category.
- NPDES Individual Permit – this permit is developed for an individual site and is usually implemented only at the direction of the regulatory agency, and is normally because the site has an unusual feature or location. The rules and conditions for this type of permit would only apply to the individual facility. A few facilities may maintain this type of permit.

In the Concrete Pipe industry, there are varying site configurations, machines, equipment, and raw materials. However, most sites have one thing in common: Activities and storage occur both indoors and outdoors. Rain then comes into contact with those items and is discharged from the site via storm drains, settling ponds, ditches or other method of conveyance. **These activities are the basis for the requirement to have a Storm Water Permit.** Therefore, it is very important that companies be knowledgeable and obtain the proper permit.

Although there are rare exceptions, the vast majority of Concrete Pipe facilities are required to obtain coverage under the NPDES program. Most NPDES permits require the site to meet conditions such as (not inclusive):

- Development of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWP3).
- Periodic sampling and analysis or monitoring and inspection of drainage from the site.
- Reporting to a regulatory agency either by completing an annual report, or sending information about sampling events.

Once a permit is obtained, it is very critical to review the permit, determine the terms and conditions required, and develop a workable plan to ensure their completion.

To obtain more information about the NPDES Stormwater Permit program and how it may be applicable to your site, below are sources of information:

- EPA website: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwatermonth.cfm>
- State or local governmental environmental agencies usually maintain a website which provides information such as contacts and reference materials for NPDES permitting.
- If needed, an environmental consultant can assist in determining a site's requirements.