

DNREC Sediment & Stormwater Listserve Update: November 2020

This month's topics:

1. **Notice of Public Hearing – December 1, 2020**
2. **Blue Card Course Dates for 2020**
3. **Webinar – Stormwater Funding: Innovative Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Financing Strategies – Thursday, November 19, 2020, 2pm**
4. **Link of the Month: Measuring Rainfall by Studying Radio Waves**

1. **Notice of Public Hearing – December 1, 2020**

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Division of Watershed Stewardship will conduct a virtual public hearing (Docket #2020-R-W-0012) on the proposed revisions to 7 DE Admin. Code 7201 “*Regulations Governing the Control of Water Pollution, Part 2 – Special Conditions for Stormwater Discharges From Construction Activities.*”

The objectives of revising 7 DE Admin. Code 7201 Part 2 are to support the development of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit (CGP) by removing conflicting language, adding effectiveness and expiration dates, eliminating the post-rain event inspection requirement, removing the transfer of authorization option, and to correct typographical and grammatical errors.

The proposed amendments and permit may be inspected online at http://regulations.delaware.gov/services/current_issue.shtml or on the program website at <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/pages/sedimentstormwater.aspx>

A virtual public hearing will be held on **Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020, beginning at 6 p.m.** The web link to the virtual meeting is found on the DNREC Public Hearings site at <https://de.gov/dnrehearings>. If prompted for a password, please use WaterPollAmend. To access the audio-only portion of the virtual hearing, dial 1-408-418-9388 and enter event code 173 792 2277. Closed-captioning is available by request if made at least 7 days before the event.

Those wishing to offer verbal comments during DNREC virtual public hearings must pre-register no later than noon on the date of the virtual hearing at <https://de.gov/dnrecomments> or by telephone at 302-739-9295.

The Department will accept public comment through the close of business on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020. Comments pertaining to the above matter will be accepted in written form via email to DNRECHearingComments@delaware.gov, using the online form at <https://de.gov/dnrecomments>, or by U.S. mail to the following address:

Lisa Vest, Hearing Officer
DNREC – Office of the Secretary
89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901

2. **Blue Card Course Dates for 2020**

The Contractor Training Program, also known as the “Blue Card Course”, is a ½-day course that gives an overview of the Sediment & Stormwater Program, its regulations, and required erosion and sediment control measures in the State of Delaware. Under the Delaware Sediment &

Stormwater Regulations, at least one person in responsible charge of a construction site must have successfully completed the Contractor Training Program. The final Blue Card Course date for 2020 is **December 3**. Registration for the December 3 class is currently open.

The December 3, 2020 Contractor Training course will be delivered using the Cisco Webex platform. Additional information and the registration form can be found on the Sediment & Stormwater Program website at the following link:

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/swc/Drainage/Pages/BlueCard.aspx>

3. Webinar – Stormwater Funding: Innovative Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Financing Strategies – Thursday, November 19, 2020, 2pm

Storm water infrastructure is as important to quality of life as wastewater and water infrastructure, roads or electricity. And while solutions to address storm water problems are rather clear, paying for those solutions is a little murky. This webinar will provide an overview of storm water financing strategies for implementing storm water and green infrastructure.

Through valuable case studies, this webinar will also describe the steps needed to implement storm water utilities: feasibility study, outreach strategy, program review, rate structure and implementation strategy. Lessons learned on how to enhance stakeholder support will also be presented.

Notably, this session will provide an overview of the March 2020 EPA report: “Evaluating Stormwater Infrastructure Funding and Financing,” which was developed in response to Section 4101 of the 2018 America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) and the impact of affordability considerations on rates and the selection of financing strategies.

To register, [click here](#).

4. Link of the Month: Measuring Rainfall by Studying Radio Waves

Conventional approaches to studying rainfall patterns across both large distances and long timeframes suffer from a Goldilocks problem. For example, while a rain gauge may provide comprehensive precipitation data for a specific point on a near-constant basis, accurately capturing the variable nature of rainfall across a watershed may require researchers to deploy too many gauges to be practical. On the other hand, satellites and other large-area measurement methods often read rainfall at a specific point too infrequently to produce much useful data for municipalities, farmers, and meteorologists.

Mobile-phone networks often rely on towers equipped with commercial microwave link (CML) antennas, which communicate via radio signals to coordinate calls across long distances. Rainstorms weaken these signals, and according to the researchers from Germany’s Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and University of Augsburg (UA), analyzing fluctuations in CML signal strength can translate into accurate rainfall measurements across both space and time. Additional information on this research is available at the following link:

<https://stormwater.wef.org/2020/09/german-researchers-measure-rainfall-by-studying-radio-waves/>