



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GRAND RAPIDS DISTRICT OFFICE



DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

December 3, 2014

VIA EMAIL

Ms. Carrie Rivette, Project Engineer
City of Grand Rapids
1300 Market Avenue SW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Dear Ms. Rivette:

SUBJECT: 2014 Progress Report and Compliance Review
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
Certificate of Coverage (COC) No. MIG610371
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

On September 25, 2014, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Resources Division (WRD) received the 2014 Progress Report for the City of Grand Rapids (City). The deadline for the Annual Report submission outlined in the COC was October 1, 2014. General Permit No. MIG619000 authorizes discharges of storm water from municipal separate storm sewers to the surface waters of the state, and thus you are subject to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq; the "Federal Act"), Part 31 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), and Michigan Executive Orders 1991-31, 1995-4 and 1995-18.

The purpose of the Progress Report is to describe the status of compliance with the general permit conditions. The Annual Report should cover, at a minimum, the status of the Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP), Public Education Program (PEP), and the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI), as well as, information related to special reporting requirements outlined in the permit.

Public Education Program

The Lower Grand River Watershed (LGRW) permittees continued to provide many opportunities for public education with respect to the DEQ educational categories. As a group, LGRW permittees have focused on providing public education opportunities during community events. This is reported to be well-received by event attendees. The City of Grand Rapids also conducts independent education activities, including stormwater discussions during waste water treatment plant tours.

Illicit Discharge Elimination Program

Grand Rapids completed the current round of dry-weather screening in September 2013. The City identified seven (7) outfalls that required follow-up investigation. With the exception of one ongoing investigation of an intermittent flow, all of them have been resolved. The City received and addressed several illicit discharges that were identified through complaints or in the course of daily activities. Environmental Services and Parking Services employees continue to receive training on a regular basis. Additionally, new staff who operate the 311 system have been trained to respond to and redirect calls related to storm sewer system complaints.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative

The City reported meeting its established goals for training, good housekeeping and incorporating Watershed Management Plan goals into their daily activities.

Special Reporting Requirements

The City provided data reports from regular Water Quality Index monitoring of the Grand River. The City provided a revised fiscal analysis and budget, including amounts spent on stormwater management, maintenance and street sweeping.

The 2014 Progress Report shows that City of Grand Rapids continued to meet goals that were set in order to improve storm water quality in the Lower Grand River watershed. No corrections or resubmissions are necessary. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at 616-356-0215; stamoura@michigan.gov; or the DEQ, WRD, Grand Rapids District Office, 350 Ottawa Avenue NW, Unit 10, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2341.

Sincerely,



Amanda St. Amour
Senior Environmental Quality Analyst

as/lr

cc: Ms. Bonnie Broadwater, GVMC (via email)