

ILLICIT DISCHARGE, DETECTION AND ELIMINATION PROGRAM

FOR

SALEM TOWNSHIP

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PA

REVISED AUGUST, 2025

PREPARED BY:

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SUMMARY

This Program is developed to assist the Township or its designated representative in the detection and elimination of illicit discharges within the Urbanized Area of the Township. The Urbanized Area of Salem Township includes Mark Drive, Cloverleaf Road, Old Route 66 Road, Brick Hill Road, the Cramer, Villa Maria and Salem Meadows Plans and the Route 22 corridor west of the Route 66 interchange. With the exception of Old Route 66 Road all areas are contributory to Beaver Run. Beaver Run is classified as High Quality. Old Route 66 Road drains to a tributary of Bushy Run, a tributary of Turtle Creek.

This Program includes the following components:

- General information on Illicit Discharges
- Components of the Program
- Implementation

GENERAL

An illicit discharge is defined by Federal Regulations as any discharge to a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) that is not composed entirely of storm water, except discharges allowed under an NPDES permit or waters used for fire fighting operations. Non storm water discharges occur due to illegal connections to the MS4 from residential, commercial or industrial facilities.

Sources of Illicit discharges can include the following:

- Sanitary wastewater
- Effluent from septic systems
- Car wash wastewaters
- Improper oil disposal
- Radiator flushing disposal
- Laundry wastewater
- Spills from vehicle accidents
- Improper disposal of auto and household toxics

Illicit Discharges are “illicit” because MS4’s are not designed to accept, process or discharge such non storm water wastes. Illicit discharges can be intentional or unknown to the property owner.

The goal of the illicit discharge and detection program is to identify, correct and prevent discharges to the MS4 that contaminate surface and ground waters.

PRIORITY AREAS

Priority areas are areas that have a higher likelihood of illicit discharges, illicit connections and illegal dumping. Commercial and industrial areas are considered high risk areas. Any area where illegal dumping has previously occurred is also considered to be high risk. Priority areas are established as follows in order of decreasing priority:

1. Areas where illegal dumping has previously occurred
2. Industrial areas
3. Commercial areas
4. Areas without a centralized sewer system
5. Other areas

The Urbanized Areas of Salem Township are a mixture of residential, commercial and institutional areas. The Route 22 corridor is commercial with a mixture of shopping centers, restaurants and other uses. Residential development dominates the remainder of the Urbanized Areas with a few commercial establishments. A total of nine outfalls have been identified in the Urbanized Area. There is one Outfall on Old Route 66 Road and in the Villa Maria Plan. There are two Outfalls on Brick Hill Road and Mark Drive and three on Cloverleaf Road. There aren't any point source discharges in either the Cramer or Salem Meadows Plans. The Township has no record of illegal discharges so no priority areas have been established.

OUTFALL SCREENING PROCEDURE

Each outfall will be screened during the term of the NPDES Permit. Approximately 25% of the outfalls are screened per year. Outfalls will be screened during dry weather. If dry weather flow is identified the outfall will be screened annually. The procedure for screening each outfall will be as follows:

1. Complete the applicable portions of Section 1 (Background Information) and Section 2 (Outfall Description) on the MS4 Outfall Field Screening Report.
2. Observe the outfall for dry weather flow.
3. If no flow is observed, Complete Sections 5 and 6 on the Outfall Field Screening Report.
4. If flow is observed, Complete Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 on the Outfall Field Screening Report.

5. If Indicators of Illicit Discharges are identified in Sections 4 and 5 an attempt should be made, utilizing the outfall/storm sewer maps, to isolate the source of the Illicit Discharge to a subarea of the contributory storm sewers.
6. Unless the type of Illicit Discharge can be identified (e.g. sewage, oil) from the Indicators or by on site testing then additional sampling/testing is required. Additional testing shall be performed by a laboratory certified to perform the test by the appropriate regulatory agency. It is anticipated that Geochemical Testing, 2005 North Center Avenue, Somerset, PA 15501-7441 will be used for testing as required.

DETERMINING THE SOURCE OF ILLICIT DISCHARGE

In the event an Illicit Discharge is identified through Field Screening, an attempt will be made to determine the source of the discharge. The type of Illicit Discharge will determine the steps necessary to determine the source.

Sewage related discharges in areas without a centralized sanitary sewer system can be identified through an inspection program of individual structures or by dye testing. Court orders may be required to conduct dye testing of suspected dischargers if voluntary permission is not granted. In areas with a centralized sanitary sewer system cameras can be employed to televise the existing system to find leaking sewer pipes.

Where the Illicit Discharge is not sewage related the characteristics of the discharge should be utilized to determine the possible source based on the industrial and commercial establishments located within the subarea and their potential for Illicit Discharges. If there are no industrial or commercial establishments located in the subarea an attempt should be made to trace the discharge through the contributory storm sewer system. If the Discharge is intermittent it may be necessary to conduct additional screenings to determine the source.

CORRECTION OF ILLICIT DISCHARGES

In the event Illicit Discharges are detected an attempt to eliminate them must be made. Sewage related discharges can be eliminated through extension of sanitary sewers where available or by on lot corrections, if possible. It may not be possible to eliminate on lot discharges where sanitary sewers are not available due to soils, lot size or isolation distance issues. The Township is able to eliminate Illicit Discharges from industrial or commercial properties through legal means, if necessary.

RECORDS

The Township must document all actions taken to implement the plan. This includes completion of the MS4 Outfall Field Screening Report, the number of outfalls screened, illicit discharges detected and illicit discharges eliminated.

An Illicit Discharge Complaint Form is attached. Records of complaints received and their disposition will be retained as required by the Township Code.

ILLCIT DISCHARGE COMPLAINT FORM

Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Date: _____

Time Discharge Discovered: _____

Location of Discharge: _____

Where was discharge found?

☐ Open Ditch

☐ Stream

☐ Pipe Outfall

Other _____

Was water flow observed?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Was a photo taken?

☐ No

☐ Yes (Attach a copy to form if available)

Odor:

☐ None

☐ Sewage

☐ Musty

☐ Gas/Oil

Other (Describe) _____

Color:

☐ Clear

☐ Grey

☐ Red

☐ Yellow

☐ Green

Other (Describe) _____

Clarity:

☐ Clear

☐ Cloudy

☐ Opaque

Was there an:

Oily Sheen

☐ Yes

☐ No

Debris/Sewage

☐ Yes

☐ No

Other (Describe) _____

Additional Information: _____

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Outfall Number: _____ Inspector: _____

Field Analysis: _____ Water temperature _____ Ammonia Nitrogen _____ pH

Was a Laboratory Sample Collected? ☐ No ☐ Yes (Attach report)

Comments: _____

Signature of Inspector: _____ Date: _____

Follow Up with Complainant: _____
