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April 30, 2013

Rebecca Stack
Low Impact Development Specialist
Watershed Protection Division DDOE
1200 First Street, NE, 5th Floor
Washington DC 20002

Re: SWEMA's comments on the Draft Stormwater Management Guidebook

Ms. Stack:

The Stormwater Equipment Manufacturer's Association (SWEMA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the District Department of Environment (DDOE) regarding the Revised Draft Stormwater Management Guidebook (dated 04-02-13) (Guidebook).

In particular, SWEMA is pleased to see the Guidebook refers to the revised New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) laboratory protocols for approving manufactured stormwater treatment systems in the District. SWEMA members, at the specific request of NJDEP, devoted a considerable amount of resources and time in developing these protocols with NJDEP and the New Jersey Corporation for Advanced Technology (NJCAT). These protocols were finalized January 25th, 2013. The Guidebook should be updated to reflect the most recent NJDEP protocols.

SWEMA submits the following comments to the Guidebook, as identified below

SWEMA looks forward to our continued interactions with the DDOE. We would be pleased to discuss our comments in the event the Department has any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene LaManna".

Gene LaManna
SWEMA President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris French".

Chris French
SWEMA GARC Chair



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SWEMA's comments on the Draft Stormwater Management Guidebook (dated 04-02-13).

1. SWEMA concurs with the changes made to Chapter 3.12, Proprietary Practices which moves all reference to proprietary systems to Appendix T.
2. SWEMA would like to thank DDOE for replacing the original evaluation protocol for manufactured systems with the reference to the new NJDEP laboratory protocols (Appendix T). The new protocols were recently finalized by NJDEP and can be located at <http://www.njstormwater.org/treatment.html>. The optional field protocols are currently under review by NJDEP and will be posted to this site upon completion. SWEMA recommends DDOE update Appendix T in order to reflect these recent changes and insert appropriate references
3. SWEMA believes it is premature to include any reference to the Virginia Technology Acceptance Protocol (VTAP) in Appendix T. The VTAP is focused specifically on Total Phosphorus while the District's regulations address sediment as the pollutant of concern. In addition, the VTAP is a draft regulation which has not yet been completed and will not be completed until after the adoption of the Guidebook and Stormwater Rule. Last, the VA stormwater program is undergoing substantial administration changes in 2013 and long term support for the VTAP program is uncertain. SWEMA strongly suggests that DDOE rely upon the NJDEP laboratory protocols for verification of manufactured treatment devices.
4. The Guidebook needs further clarification on the balance of water quality treatment and on-site retention/infiltration requirements; especially given the emphasis DDOE is placing on the successful implementation of a stormwater offset program and establishing criteria for providing relief of "Extraordinarily Difficult Sites" (Appendix E.). SWEMA feels water quality treatment should be provided to the maximum extent possible for all sites; even if on-site retention/infiltration is not possible. There should be a greater recognition of the role water quality treatment systems have to offer in the Guidebook when retention/infiltration is not possible due to site condition limitations.