

State of Mississippi
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)



Office of Pollution Control
Environmental Permits Division

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES
FOR
SMALL MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER
SYSTEM (MS4)
GENERAL PERMIT**

SPRING 2026

SUMMARY OF CHANGES INCOPORATED IN 2026 MS4 GP RENEWAL

General Structural and Terminology Updates

- Elected to implement a two-step approach (Option 2 – Procedural Approach)
- Replaced “Executive Director” with “Commission on Environmental Quality” throughout.
- Removed references to outdated physical submission methods (e.g., 3-ring binders).
- Updated “owner/operator” to “responsible party.”
- Introduced e-reporting provisions and removed wet signature requirements, aligning with EPA guidelines.

Part 2: MS4 NOI and Obtaining Coverage (and Re-coverage)

- Clarified differences between permit re-coverage and new applicants.
- Removed 4th Annual Report submission requirement that indicated intent for re-coverage
- Consolidated Parts 2.3 and 2.4 into a single re-coverage section.
- Defined administrative continuation under 11 Mississippi Admin Code PT. 6 CH. 1 and set a 180-day deadline for re-coverage submissions.
- Distinguished between physical and mailing address requirements.

Part 3: Public Notice of the SWMP and the NOI

- Removed redundant public comment language.
- Clarified the Permit Board’s role in hearing requests.
- Expanded public engagement options (e.g., community meetings, online postings).

Part 4: SWMP Development and Implementation

- Replaced rigid deadlines with short- and long-term action categories.
- Added enforcement language for failure to meet BMPs or measurable goals.
- Clarified jurisdictional coverage for non-traditional MS4s.
- Expanded and reorganized training requirements.
- Added post-construction stormwater performance standards.
- Removed outdated requirements, such as certain site plan review procedures.
- Added reference to the Large Construction General Permit.
- Clarified that regulated entities—not MDEQ—are responsible for SWMP reviews.

Part 5: Special Conditions and SWMP Modifications

- Defined “minor” versus “major” changes to the SWMP.
- Required notification for all changes, including minor ones.
- Clarified procedures and added subparts for submitting updates.
- Revised Construction Minimum Measure section where MDEQ maintains responsibility for large construction unless petitioned for by a regulated and approved by MDEQ.

- Revised language for Qualifying Local Programs (QLPs).

Part 6: Permit Monitoring, Reporting, and Recordkeeping

- Expanded BMP tracking and responsible party identification requirements.
- Required reporting of all large construction projects, even if not delegated.
- Included updated links and instructions for electronic reporting.
- Removed informal “intent to remain covered” language and replaced with formal regulatory language.

Part 7: Standard and General Permit Conditions

- Removed the standalone Personnel Training Requirements section; content was integrated into Part 5.
- Maintained standard provisions for continuation of expired permits.

Forms and Appendices

- Updated instructions and links for the NOI and Annual Report forms.
- Clarified requirements for applicant details and joint NOIs.
- Removed phone numbers from form instructions.
- Created dedicated forms for major and minor SWMP changes.
- Revised the Construction Minimum Measure Petition