

# PADEP Updates Post-Construction Stormwater Management Manual

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On January 28, 2023, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) released an updated draft of the Pennsylvania Post-Construction Stormwater Management Manual (Manual or PCSM Manual). This Manual is intended to establish guidance standards for the management of stormwater through the implementation of stormwater control measures (SCMs) and other measures to comply with the regulatory requirements under 25 Pa. Code ch. 102.

This Manual was developed to update and replace the Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual that PADEP published in December 2006 in order to reflect and incorporate the advancements in stormwater processes since that time. The Manual now extends beyond the avoidance and minimization of historic stormwater problems to include mitigation through the regulation of municipal separate storm sewer systems and combined sewer systems. It also includes an increased focus on the resilience and maintenance of SCMs.

In the Manual, SCMs are synonymous with “best management practices” (BMPs) as defined in 25 Pa. Code § 102.1. This term is intended to reflect the improved understanding of stormwater management. The use of the term SCM is also intended to clarify the functions of stormwater BMPs, consistent with a national trend to do so.

Ultimately, the objective of the PCSM Manual remains the same as the 2006 Stormwater BMP Manual: “to protect, maintain, reclaim and restore water quality and the existing and designated uses of the waters of the Commonwealth.” Similar to other guidance documents, this Manual serves as a supplement to federal and state regulations, providing numerous examples of SCMs that can be employed to meet regulatory requirements. It is intended to be used as a technical reference for planning concepts and design standards that will satisfy Pennsylvania’s regulatory requirements and stormwater management policies. Alternative SCMs not listed in the Manual may also be used to satisfy regulatory requirements if they provide the same or a greater level of protection. Permittees whose activities and PCSM plans were authorized under Chapter 102 prior to the effective date of the Manual are not required to modify their PCSM plan to conform to the procedures and standards in the Manual.

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