

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

Policy Number: 308

Categorized: [Administrative Policies](#)

Responsible Office: Facilities Planning and Support Services

Subject: Compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act and NOVA's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit

Related Policies: [Pollution Prevention](#)

Procedures: See [308P](#)

Effective Date: 01/01/2017

Last Reviewed Date: 01/01/2022

1. Scope

This policy applies to all NOVA employees, students, visitors, and contractors on all property owned or controlled by NOVA.

2. Policy

Every storm drain and structural BMP on campus leads to a local natural waterway. Pollution from NOVA's properties can adversely affect the health of humans, wildlife, and Virginia's waterways.

Faculty, staff, and students at NOVA have the responsibility to be good stewards of the campuses' natural resources. The College must prevent illicit discharges to the maximum extent practical in its daily operations and during construction activities. Faculty, staff, and students should be knowledgeable of how potential pollutants are handled and stored to help prevent stormwater pollution.

The College prohibits any discharge to the College's storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater. A violation of this prohibition can result from any person doing the following:

- a. Cause or allow any non-stormwater discharges, including but not limited to the discharge of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes, into the storm sewer system, or any component thereof, or onto streets, sidewalks, parking lots, or any other areas draining to the storm sewer system.
- b. Connect, or allow to be connected, any sanitary sewer to the storm sewer system.
- c. Discharge any materials or item other than stormwater to the storm sewer system by spill, dumping, or disposal of any type without a valid federal and/or state permit or unless otherwise authorized by law.
- d. Throw, place, or deposit or cause to be thrown, placed, or deposited in the storm sewer system anything that impedes or interferes with the free flow of stormwater therein.

The following non-stormwater discharges or flows occurring on campus shall only be considered illicit discharges if they are identified by the college as a significant contributor of pollutants discharging to the storm sewer system:

- a. Water line flushing, managed in a manner to avoid an instream impact;
- b. Landscape irrigation;
- c. Diverted stream flows;
- d. Uncontaminated groundwater infiltration;
- e. Uncontaminated pumped groundwater;
- f. Discharges from potable water sources, foundation drains, water from crawl space pumps, springs, footing drains;
- g. Air conditioning condensation;
- h. Street wash water;
- i. Discharges or flows from firefighting activities;
- j. Discharges from noncommercial fundraising car washes if the washing uses only biodegradable, phosphate-free, water-based cleaners; or
- k. Other activities generating discharges identified by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality as not requiring Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit authorization.

Flows identified by the Department of Environmental Quality as *de minimus* discharges are not significant sources of pollutants to surface water.

In the event that a discharge or flow is found to cause pollutants to be discharged into the storm sewer system, the college shall so notify the person performing such activities and shall order that such activities cease or be conducted in such a manner as to avoid the discharge of pollutants into the storm sewer system. The failure to comply with any such order shall constitute a violation of the college's prohibition of non-stormwater discharges to the storm sewer system and the offending person may be subject to the college's established disciplinary policies and sanctions. In the case that the non-stormwater discharge also is conveyed through the college's storm sewer system to that of the downstream locality's storm sewer system, the person may also be subject to the locality's enforcement and penalties associated with local ordinances prohibiting non-stormwater discharges.

3. Definitions

Illicit Discharges: Any discharges that are not composed entirely of stormwater. The following are examples and sources of illicit discharges:

- a. Excess Nutrients from fertilizer and animal waste
- b. Sediment from construction sites
- c. Impermeable Surfaces such as roads, parking lots and sidewalks that cause debris and pollutants to enter storm sewers
- d. Toxic Chemicals such as insecticides, pesticides, motor oil and anti-freeze
- e. Debris such as plastic bags, bottles, and cigarettes

- f. Bacteria/Pathogens such as sewage and animal waste

Pollutant: Any substance other than rainwater and snowmelt including, but not limited to, items such as trash, motor oil, gas, anti-freeze, animal waste, food waste, solvents, detergents, chemicals, cosmetics, art supplies, paint, electronics, batteries, metals, plastics, treated lumber, fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides.

4. Procedures

See [308P](#).

5. Authority

[Federal Clean Water Act](#)

[Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permits](#)