

Stormwater Glossary

Accelerated erosion.

Erosion caused by development activities that exceeds the natural processes by which the surface of the land is worn away by the action of water, wind, or chemical action.

Applicant.

A property owner or agent of a property owner who has filed an application for a permit.

Authorized enforcement agency.

The City of Miami or its designated representative.

Best management practices (BMPs).

Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, general good housekeeping practices, pollution prevention and educational practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants directly or indirectly to stormwater, receiving waters, or stormwater conveyance systems. BMPs also include treatment practices, operating procedures, and practices to control site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or water disposal, or drainage from raw materials storage.

Building.

Temporary or permanent, having walls and a roof, designed for the shelter of any person, animal, or property.

Channel.

A natural or artificial watercourse with a definite bed and banks that conducts continuously or periodically flowing water.

Clean Water Act.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), and any subsequent amendments thereto.

Clearing.

Any activity that removes the vegetative surface cover.

Construction activity.

Activities include but are not limited to clearing, grubbing, grading, regrading, landfilling, excavating, berming, and diking of land, and includes land disturbance activities for the purpose of constructing a structure at some time.

Construction site.

A site where construction activities occur.

Contaminated site.

Property or lands that, for reasons of public health and safety, are unsafe for development as a result of past human activities, particularly those activities that have left a chemical or radioactive residue. Also, a site which has been identified as a former industrial or waste disposal site, where the presence of toxic chemicals and/or gas pose an unreasonable risk of injury to health, property, and/or the environment.

Contamination.

The introduction of materials including, but not limited to pesticides, herbicides, septic leaks, or other toxic substances into a natural system.

Contractor.

Any person, firm, association, syndicate, partnership, realtor, or corporation engaged in the business of accepting orders or contracts, either as a general contractor or subcontractor, for site development or construction of industrial, institutional, commercial and/or residential dwellings.

Detention.

The temporary storage of storm runoff in a stormwater management practice with the goals of controlling peak discharge rates and providing gravity settling of pollutants.

Detention facility.

A detention basin or alternative structure designed for the purpose of temporary storage of stream flow or surface runoff and gradual release of stored water at controlled rates.

Developer.

A person who undertakes land disturbance activities.

Development.

A change in the use of any land, building, or structure for any purpose, and shall include the carrying out of building, engineering construction or other operation in, on, over or under land, or the construction, addition or alteration of any land, building or structure.

Discharge.

To cause or allow to throw, drain, release, dump, spill, empty, emit, or pour any liquids, pollutants or other materials into the municipal separate storm sewer system.

Drainage easement.

A legal right granted by a landowner to a grantee allowing the use of private land for stormwater management purposes.

Drainage way.

Any channel, ditch, swale or structure that conveys surface runoff throughout a site.

Dry weather.

A period of at least seventy-two (72) hours in which there has been no measurable rainfall.

Dry weather field screening.

Inspection and/or testing of outfalls conducted during dry weather to evaluate outfalls for pollutants.

EPA.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Erosion.

The mobilization of soil or paving material as a result of loss of vegetative cover, scouring by runoff, or associated with slope instability.

Erosion control.

A measure that mitigates or prevents erosion.

Grading.

Excavation, moving or fill of material, including the resulting conditions thereof.

Hazardous materials.

Any material, including any substance, waste, or combination thereof, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may cause, or significantly contribute to, a substantial present or potential hazard to human health, safety, property, or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

Illicit discharge.

Any direct or indirect nonstormwater discharge to the stormwater drainage system, except as exempted in section 24-171 of this chapter.

Illicit connections.

An illicit connection is defined as either of the following: any drain or conveyance, whether on the surface or subsurface, which allows an illicit discharge to enter the stormwater discharge system including but not limited to any conveyances which allow any nonstormwater discharge including sewage, industrial waste, process wastewater, and wash water to enter the stormwater discharge system and any connections to the stormwater discharge system from indoor drains and sinks, regardless of whether said drain or connection had been previously allowed, permitted, or approved by an authorized enforcement agency or, any drain or conveyance connected from an industrial, institutional, commercial or industrial land use to the

stormwater drainage system which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records and approved by an authorized enforcement agency.

Impervious surface.

Those surfaces including but not limited to concrete, asphalt, brick, metal, or any other material that cannot effectively infiltrate rainfall (e.g., building rooftops, pavement, sidewalks, driveways).

Industrial activity.

Activities subject to NPDES industrial permits as defined in 40 CFR, Section 122.26 (b)(14).

Industrial stormwater permit.

A national pollutant discharge elimination system permit issued to a commercial industry or group of industries which regulates the pollutant levels associated with industrial stormwater discharges or specifies on-site pollution control strategies.

Infiltration.

The process of percolating stormwater into the subsoil.

Infiltration facility.

Any structure or device designed to infiltrate retained water to the subsurface. These facilities may be above grade or below grade.

Land disturbance activity.

Activities include but are not limited to clearing, grading, digging, cutting, scraping, or excavating of soil, placement of fill materials, substantial removal of vegetation, or any activity which bares soil or rock or involves the diversion or piping of any natural or manmade watercourse. Any activity which changes the volume or peak flow discharge rate of rainfall runoff from the land surface.

Landowner.

The legal or beneficial owner of land, including those holding the right to purchase or lease the land, or any other person holding proprietary rights in the land.

Maintenance agreement.

A legally recorded document that acts as a property deed restriction, and which provides for long-term maintenance of stormwater management practices.

Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4).

A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, creeks, natural channels, manmade channels, or storm drains) that are owned or operated by the city and are designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater.

National pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) stormwater discharge permit.

A permit issued by EPA (or by a state under authority delegated pursuant to 33 USC § 1342(b)) that authorizes the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States, whether the permit is applicable on an individual, group, or general area-wide basis.

Nonpoint source pollution.

Pollution discharged over a wide land area, not from one specific location. These are forms of diffuse pollution caused by sediment, nutrients, organic and toxic substances originating from land-use activities, which are carried to lakes, rivers and streams by surface runoff.

Nonstormwater discharge.

Any discharge to the stormwater drainage system that is not composed entirely of stormwater.

ODEQ.

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

OKR10 permit.

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality General Permit OKR10 for stormwater discharges from construction activities within the State of Oklahoma.

OPDES. Oklahoma Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

Outfall.

The place where a sewer, drain, or stream discharges; the outlet or structure through which reclaimed water or treated effluent is finally discharged to a receiving water body.

Permittee.

Owner of the land or an agent of the landowner to whom a permit is issued.

Person.

Any individual, association, organization, partnership, firm, corporation or other entity recognized by law and acting as either the owner or as the owner's agent.

Phasing.

Clearing a parcel of land in distinct phases, with the stabilization of each phase completed before the clearing of the next.

Plat.

A map showing the location, boundaries and ownership of individual properties, planned and developed as a single project.

Pollutant.

Anything which causes or contributes to pollution. Pollutants may include, but are not limited to: paints, varnishes, and solvents; oil and other automotive fluids; non-hazardous liquid and solid wastes and yard wastes; refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded or abandoned objects; floatables; pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; hazardous substances and wastes; sewage; fecal coliform; pathogens; dissolved and particulate metals; animal wastes; sediment, wastes and residues that result from constructing a building or structure and/or altering premises; and noxious or offensive matter of any kind.

Pond.

A small body of standing water, naturally or artificially formed.

Premises.

Any building, lot, parcel of land, or portion of land whether improved or unimproved.

Public utility.

A private business organization, or government organization, subject to governmental regulation, that provides an essential commodity or service, such as water, electricity, transportation, or communication, to the public.

Recharge.

The replenishment of underground water reserves.

Redevelopment.

Any construction, alteration or improvement in areas where existing land use is commercial, industrial, institutional or residential.

Right-of-way.

An area of land that is legally described for the provision of public access.

Riparian habitat.

Areas adjacent to rivers and streams with a differing density, diversity, and productivity of plant and animal species relative to nearby uplands.

Sediment.

The particles (such as sand, silt, clay, and gravel) and organic particulates transported by storm runoff and stream flow. Also, solid material, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, gravity or ice and has come to rest on the earth's surface either above or below water level.

Sediment and erosion control permit. A permit designed to review, evaluate, modify, or any other action necessary to ensure sediment and erosion control related to a construction site.

Sediment and erosion control plan.

A set of plans indicating the specific measures and sequencing to be used to control sediment and erosion on a construction site.

Sediment control.

Measures that prevent eroded sediment from leaving a site.

Site Plan.

A scale drawing showing the relationship between the lot lines and their uses, buildings or structures, existing or proposed on a lot, including such details as parking areas, access points, landscaped areas, building areas, setbacks from lot lines, building heights, floor areas, densities, septic tank tile fields, utility lines and currents, or a special or particular use.

Slope.

The degree of deviation of a surface from the horizontal expressed in percentage or degrees.

Stabilization.

The use of practices that prevent exposed soil from eroding.

Start of construction. The first land-disturbing activity associated with a development, including land preparation such as clearing, grading, and filling; installation of streets and walkways; excavation for basements, footings, piers, or foundations; erection of temporary forms; and installation of accessory buildings such as garages.

Stop work order.

An order issued which requires that all construction activity on a site be stopped.

Stormwater drainage system.

Publicly-owned facilities by which stormwater is collected and/or conveyed, including but not limited to any roads with drainage systems, roads, municipal streets, gutters, curbs, inlets, piped storm drains, pumping facilities, retention and detention basins, natural and human-made or altered drainage channels, reservoirs, and other drainage structures.

Stormwater.

Any surface flow, runoff, and drainage consisting entirely of water from any form of natural precipitation, and resulting from such precipitation.

Stormwater management.

The use of structural or nonstructural practices that are designed to reduce stormwater runoff pollutant loads, discharge volumes, and/or peak flow discharge rates.

Stormwater retrofit.

A stormwater management practice designed for an existing development site that previously had either no stormwater management practice in place or a practice inadequate to meet the stormwater management requirements of the site.

Stormwater runoff.

Flow on the surface of the ground, resulting from precipitation.

Structure.

Anything constructed which requires location on the ground or attachment to something located on the ground but not including pavements, curbs, walks or open air surfaced areas or moving vehicles.

Summary abatement.

Action taken by the City of Miami or its agents to abate a violation without prior notice to the property owner or other interested parties.

SWP3.

A stormwater pollution prevention plan developed in compliance with ODEQ permit requirements.

Unstable slopes.

Slopes which are or may be subject to erosion, mass movement, slumping, landslides, mudflows or rock falls. Also, slope or land which has a potential to collapse or slide if development occurs on, or adjacent to, such an area.

Variance.

A relaxation of the terms of an ordinance where such variance will not be contrary to the public interest and where, owing to conditions peculiar to the property and not the result of the actions of the applicant, a literal enforcement of the ordinance would result in unnecessary and undue hardship.

Wastewater.

Any water or other liquid, other than uncontaminated stormwater, discharged from a facility or activity.

Watercourse.

A natural or artificial channel or conduit through which water flows.

Waterway.

A channel that directs surface runoff to a watercourse or to the public storm drain.

Watershed.

The land area that drains water, sediment, dissolved materials and other matter to a common receiving body or outlet such as a stream, river or lake. The term is not restricted to surface water runoff and includes interactions with subsurface water.

Zoning.

Categorizing the use or activity of land, buildings, structures or activities permitted in delineated areas.

Zoning code.

A set of local government regulations and requirements that govern the use, placement, spacing and size of buildings and lots (as well as other types of land uses) within specific areas designated as zones primarily dedicated to certain land use types or patterns within the city limits.