

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

A Survey Regarding The Qualified Local Program (QLP) Option Of the Stormwater Construction General Permit

**Conducted by
The University of Tennessee
Institute for Public Service
Municipal Technical Advisory Service**

**For
The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation**

Please complete this short survey to the best of your ability. Should you have any questions about the survey, please contact John Chlarson, UT-MTAS. In order to complete this survey, you will need access to your records on construction permits with a stormwater component for the fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009, or the equivalent reporting periods within those timeframes. Copies of your MS4 Annual Report may also be of assistance. For the purposes of this survey, you will remain anonymous. MTAS will only transmit the information collected from the surveys for each question in aggregate, with no identification for individual respondents. This survey will be used to gauge the effectiveness of TDEC's efforts to provide outreach and involve stakeholders in the development of effective QLP program in Tennessee. This will allow for a more effective QLP outreach program in the future in Tennessee, as well as, possibly, other states.

Under CFR 122.44(s), TDEC can formally recognize an MS4 as a Qualified Local Program (QLP) that has been shown to meet or exceed the provisions of the construction general permit, in this case: which has an Erosion and Sediment Control Program that meets QLP minimum requirements. An effective QLP program is expected to offer multiple benefits including: the creation of a streamlined and more efficient process for managing construction stormwater activities by eliminating duplication of the effort between MS4s and TDEC; the lessening of confusion and burden on construction site operators by providing one set of requirements to follow; and ultimately, the improvement of water quality protection due to increased program efficiency.

An MS4 that is a QLP will have sole jurisdiction over construction permits and activities in its jurisdiction, while still having access to enforcement support from TDEC.

The EPA is committed to expanding the use of the QLP option. Participation in the QLP option is mandatory in some states. EPA and TDEC are trying, through this outreach, to find incentives and rewards for participating in the QLP option.

Your assistance in the form of completing this survey would be greatly appreciated. There are no right or wrong answers, so please answer every question as best you can.

QLP Survey

1. How would you rate your attitude toward being a Qualified Local Program (QLP)?

Negative		Neutral			Positive	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

1A. Did the outreach of the TDEC/EPA QLP Construction Initiative Process impact your attitude?

Yes

No

1B. If yes, was the impact:

Negative		Neutral			Positive	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

2. How would you rate your Mayor (for Cities) or County Executive's attitudes toward being a Qualified Local Program?

Negative		Neutral			Positive	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

2A. Their attitude was influenced by (*select all that apply*):

A) Staff:
 No Influence 1 2 3 4 5 Large Influence

B) The Development Community:
 No influence 1 2 3 4 5 Large Influence

C) The outreach of the TDEC/EPA QLP Construction Initiative process:
 No Influence 1 2 3 4 5 Large Influence

D) The attitude or response by other Mayors or County Executives:
 No Influence 1 2 3 4 5 Large Influence

E) Other: _____

3. Did any of the Incentives for Qualified Local Programs developed during the outreach of the TDEC/EPA QLP Construction Initiative Process positively impact the attitudes of you and your elected officials?

Yes

No

If yes, which of the incentives?

4. How do you think being a Qualified Local Program would impact your ability to administer the construction portion of your MS4 Permit?

Negatively

No Change

Positively

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

4A. Please list the negative or positive impacts (if any) that you think the QLP option would have on your administration of the construction portion of your MS4 Permit:

4B. How would you rate your ability to deal with problem/repeat construction offenders?

Poor

Excellent

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Briefly, explain your response:

5. How would you rate your relationship with your Development Community?

Poor Excellent
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Briefly, explain your response:

6. How would you rate your MS4's current relationship with the local TDEC field office?

Poor Excellent
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Briefly, explain your response:

6A. How do you think being a Qualified Local Program would impact your stormwater program's relationship with the local TDEC field office?

Negatively No Change Positively
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Briefly, explain your response:

7. Based on your records, how many stormwater related construction permits did you have open during the following Tennessee Fiscal Years (please refer to actual records for an accurate answer) or annual reporting periods:
- A) FY 2007
 - B) FY 2008
 - C) FY 2009
8. Based on your records, how many complaints related to stormwater related construction activities did you receive and track during the following Tennessee Fiscal Years (please refer to actual records for an accurate answer) or annual reporting periods:
- A) FY 2007
 - B) FY 2008
 - C) FY2009
9. On average, how long does your city's (county's) approval process for construction activities currently take? Please provide the typical number of days elapsed from receiving the initial application, to granting permission for activity to begin on the site?
- 9A. In your opinion, would participation in the Qualified Local Program Option:
- A) Increase the process time
 - B) Decrease the process time
 - C) No change in process time
- Briefly, please explain why: