

KEM Commitment to Storm Water Management

Background

Increasing urbanization has led to greater awareness of storm water issues and increased regulation. Today we find ourselves in the second five year permit cycle of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) Phase II NPDES Storm Water Program. Under these regulations, numerous communities and other operators of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4), such as the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) must develop and implement a storm water management plan. As part of said plans, many operators have enacted new regulations and policies to comply with the OEPA requirements. For example, as of April, 2006 ODOT developed Supplemental Specification 832 which addresses erosion and sediment control during construction.

Commitment To Excellence

The engineers at KEM have extensive experience with OEPA and are well versed with the storm water permitting requirements of public and private improvement projects. Recognizing the increasing complexity of storm water management, KEM is committed to ensuring our staff understands current regulations and is up to date on the latest innovations. This commitment is demonstrated in our dedication to continuing education and pursuit of professional certification.

Several members of the KEM team have received storm water and erosion control training, and earned professional certification through EnviroCert International, Inc. (formerly CPESC Inc.) Two KEM project engineers are Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) and one has also earned the credential of Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality (CPSWQ). Following is a breakdown of the EnviroCert International, Inc. trained/certified personnel:

- 1 CPESC & CPSWQ certified Professional Engineer
- 1 CPESC certified Engineer Intern
- 2 CPESC trained Professional Engineers

The CPESC and CPSWQ programs are international and national programs developed in partnership with the Soil and Water Conservation Society, and the International Erosion Control Association. Additionally, they are recognized by the USEPA and USDA. These programs require documented education, experience, rigorous examination, and continuing education to achieve and maintain certification. The above noted programs are essential in KEM's pursuit to further the technical knowledge of key personnel. Said programs also help document professional competence and demonstrate KEM's commitment effective to storm water management.

The Future

In addition to furthering our knowledge and demonstrating professional competence, certification is now required by some MS4 operators. According to ODOT Supplemental Specification 832, beginning July 1, 2009 ODOT will require storm water pollution prevention plans are designed and sealed by a Professional Engineer who is also CPESC certified. Furthermore, inspections on ODOT projects must be performed and approved monthly by CPESC certified individuals.

In this era of increased regulation relating to storm water it is critical that owners hire consultants that understand how to navigate through the tough documentation process. KEM has the experienced staff that is certified to do just that.