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October 22, 2012

#37



Honorable Charles R. Hoppin
Board Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 25th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Review of the General Permit for Storm Water Discharge Associated with Industrial Activities,
Proposed Order No. NPDES No. CAS000001

Dear Chair Hoppin,

1 Our concerns are directed to Section IX and the Item 1 in the Findings; our position is that no professional should be exempted from receiving the training on the new NPDES regulation and procedures that are to be developed as part of the QISP program.

Section IX states that a "California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologist licensed professional civil engineer, registered geologist, and certified licensed professional civil engineer, registered geologist and a certified engineering geologist(Licensee) is a QISP(level 1,11,111) and does not need to complete a State Water Board-sponsored or approved QISP training course." If you are going to exempt professions from the training process shouldn't professionals with specific training in water quality like Chemical Engineers, Environmental Engineers, Industrial Engineers and Certified Professional in Storm Water Quality be exempted as well?

It is not believed that any of these individuals should be exempted from taking a state approved training course that addresses instruction in the new regulations and the role of the QISP. Experience over the last 2 years with the Construction General Permit QSP/QSD training program has shown time and time again that many of the professionals listed above lacked the basic understanding of the regulations and procedures, needed in the implementation of the NPDES permit. By requiring all individuals to attend a training program approved for their level of certification, it insures that they have had some exposure to the new regulation and the requirements needed to be met by the Dischargers. Assuming that the above professionals would have this knowledge is an incorrect judgment.

Under Findings item I. Training. This section tries to justify that the professionals identified in section 47 and 53 are licensed in California and are under the California Board of Professional Engineers who has the staff and resources dedicated to investigate and take appropriate enforcement action. California's current budget constraints and slow economy puts doubt on how effective this system is on enforcing non- compliance and enforcement on violations.

Professional organizations and certification programs put similar constraints on their members through the use of peer pressure and the use of ethics code. But none of this takes away from the need for the individuals doing this work, to have up to date training on the current regulations and procedures.

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Conclusion:

This Order should not allow any individual to be exempt from the training requirements placed on the QISP. A reevaluation of what professional licenses and certification qualify as a QISP should occur, if you are going to allow these exemptions to the training program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David H. Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David H. Ward, CESSWI, CPESC
Executive Director
EnviroCert International, Inc.