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VIA E-FILING @ www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment

Department of Environmental Protection
Policy Office
Rachel Carson State Office Building
P.O. Box 2063
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063

**Re: Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General
Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate
Storm Sewer Systems (PAG-13)**

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association ("PMAA") appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to DEP regarding the above-referenced Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (PAG-13).

By way of background, PMAA is an association that represents the interests of over 700 municipal authorities in Pennsylvania, and these PMAA member municipal authorities collectively provide water, sewer, stormwater, waste management and other services to over five million Pennsylvania citizens. Founded in 1941, the mission of PMAA is to assist authorities in providing services that protect and enhance the environment, promote economic vitality, and further the general welfare of the Commonwealth and its citizens. PMAA and its member municipal authorities, who are stewards of the environment, strive to provide the highest quality services to their customers and ratepayers.

PMAA recognizes that the Draft PAG-13 General Permit is directed primarily at municipalities; nevertheless, PMAA has several comments specifically relating to municipal authorities that it respectfully would like to convey to DEP.

1. Given the increasing number of municipal authorities that address or are responsible for stormwater management within a municipality or municipalities, what is

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DEP's position with respect to the applicability of the Draft PAG-13 General Permit to such entities?

2. Specifically with respect to the prior comment, under what scenario would DEP view a municipal authority that addresses stormwater management within a municipality or municipalities as a permittee or joint/co-permittee for purposes of the Draft PAG-13 General Permit?

3. Given the regulatory definition of MS4, is it DEP's position that the Draft PAG-13 General Permit applies or does not apply to a municipal authority that manages stormwater within a specific municipality or municipalities, if the municipal authority does not own any of the MS4 infrastructure? Conversely, what is DEP's position if the municipal authority has an ownership interest in the MS4 infrastructure?

4. The concept of "Maximum Extent Practicable" ("MEP") raises certain issues within the context of the Draft PAG-13 General Permit. One such issue involves a municipal authority that provides stormwater management services on a regional basis (which services benefit more than one municipality). Under such scenario, how will the MEP Calculator Spreadsheet account for this regional approach?

5. Please explain the rationale for including "bodies of water" within the definition of "impervious surface."

6. How can a permittee ensure that credits applicable under the current PAG-13 will be retained under the Draft PAG-13 General Permit?

7. Regarding credits, the development of a new PAG-13 seems like the opportune time to revisit the trading of credits between municipal entities (e.g. MS4s and POTWs) and/or the EPA-driven Integrated Planning for Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater.

PMAA appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to DEP. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

HAMBURG, RUBIN, MULLIN,
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By: _____

STEVEN A. HANN

SAH:ll