MS4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The MS4 Permit issued to the Borough of Parkesburg is for the five year period March 2003 to March 2008. The Borough of Parkesburg has the opportunity to apply for a renewal of the permit effective March 2008. The MS4 program is part of a comprehensive stormwater management program mandated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The program is designed to protect water quality of surface waters by reducing both water pollutants and flood water volume. Surface waters within the Borough of Parkesburg include Little Buck Run, the Minch Tributary and the Knoll Tributary. Typically, all municipalities must apply for and obtain a permit under the MS4 program.

As authorized by the Phase II National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) of the federal Clean Water Act, water pollution is controlled by regulating the "point sources" where there is potential for the discharge of pollutants into surface waters. "Point sources" can be pipes or man-made ditches that carry stormwater from the street level to the nearest stream. These "point sources" are known as outfalls. All but one of the outfalls within the Borough discharge into Little Buck Run or one of the two tributaries of Little Buck Run.

The stormwater systems within the Borough connect to the outfalls, and any water pollutants entering a street stormwater inlet will eventually discharge from an outfall into the surface waters of the United States (including Little Buck Run, Minch Tributary, and Knoll Tributary). As such, it is necessary to assure that water pollutants do not enter the stormwater systems within the Borough. The efforts to minimize pollution of the surface waters embrace two approaches.

The first approach is public participation and awareness, including edification of Borough property owners, residents, businesses, developers, and contractors.

The second approach is the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) to effectively filter pollutants and reduce peak stormwater volumes.

It is important for those living and working in the Borough to understand that increased stormwater pollution and stormwater volume can occur from any number of different sources and can result in a variety of problems.

Concentrated development in urbanized areas substantially increases impervious surfaces, such as streets, driveways and parking lots. These surfaces are the primary collector of pollutants until a rain washes them into nearest stormwater inlet.

Common pollutants include pesticides, fertilizers, oils, salt, litter, and erosion sediment. Stormwater inlets are not piped to treatment plants. The stormwater inlets convey directly to the surfaces waters, including Little Buck Run.

When left uncontrolled, the discharge of pollutants can result in the destruction of aquatic life, deterioration of wildlife habitats, and contamination of drinking water. Poor stormwater management practices can result in excess sediment from yard debris and construction sites, stream bank erosion, deterioration of vegetation, and flooding.

It is recognized that individual actions will multiply the impacts on water quality.