

Eastex Environmental Laboratory

June 2015 Newsletter

Providing superior service and quality analysis for engineering firms, municipalities, school districts, government agencies, industrial facilities and individuals in Southeast Texas since 1986.

If you would like EEL to complete your **DMR'S online**, please contact Brian at 1-800-525-0508

Log in to Client Connect to check your results from any where, any time!

Call Susan or Ruth to get set up with an account.



Laboratory Excellence Award April 2015 recipient — Paul Hughes, Eastex Environmental Laboratory

Stormwater vs. Wastewater A growing number of wastewater agencies are assuming stormwater management responsibilities. Ten reasons managing stormwater is different from wastewater

#1 - Stormwater is tied intimately to land use. The ability to actually predict stormwater flow volumes and quality from land use is an imprecise art, while the effects of such flows are precisely experienced.

#2 - Stormwater is a provisional system. In wastewater, a major pipe burst is fixed promptly – day or night. Stormwater systems work flawlessly when it is not raining. A clogged channel may go for years without attention.

#3 - Stormwater has unlimited peak flow. While the absolute peak flow within a wastewater system is fairly easy to predict, stormwater is flashy, rare, and extreme.

#4 - Based on land ownership not system ownership. In the utility paradigm, ownership and operation of a system is key. Land ownership typically is not a barrier to operations. Stormwater “systems” are a mishmash of ditches, pipes, driveway culverts, streams (both ephemeral and perennial), ponds, inlets, and other miscellaneous structures.

#5 - Stormwater is based on MEP. On Dec. 8, 1999, The U.S. Congress included stormwater discharges under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. On that date, stormwater became a strange bedfellow with wastewater. In wastewater, numeric effluent quality is the goal. And there are set ways of attaining those goals. However, in stormwater — because at this point in time there are few places that have numeric stormwater wet weather standards — what we do becomes the measure of compliance and only indirectly what we attain.

#6 - Stormwater is characterized by episodic discharges of nonpoint pollution. Part of the problem with stormwater is that it has thousands of nonpoint sources with point delivery mechanisms. This is different from wastewater where contained point sources are understood

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Mystery Bug Of The Month



Can you guess what this is? Hint: Easy to distinguish when identifying organisms. They have a tubular pharynx, an eyespot, claws, and intestine. They resemble teddy bears with six legs. Tardigrades usually indicate low food to mass ratios and good BOD degradation.



Sludge Year Ends July

31st 2015. Please make sure you have up to date **TCLP, PCB, Paint Filter and Land Apps**. Call or email Eastex Lab if you need to get one done.

Eastex Lab accepts **Total Coliforms** samples everyday. Bring them to Eastex Environmental Laboratory or call **US** to schedule a pick up.



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and happen every day in generally predictable ways. There are limited entry points to the closed system and these can be better controlled. And, there is the ultimate stopper: the treatment plant.

#7 - Stormwater has no ultimate end of pipe treatment. To protect the whole natural system, the goal is to treat stormwater as near to the source as we can get.

#8 - Mobile boundaries open to the air. Perhaps the strangest thing about stormwater from the wastewater operator's standpoint is the fact that much of the system is defined by a series of ditches and streams — not pipes.

#9 - Ecology and habitat are key. The goal in wastewater is to have plenty of mesophilic bacteria to "digest" the effluent. The best habitat is the one where this is maximized. At discharge, the normal interest is compliance. In natural stormwater systems, the goal is to try to maintain a natural habitat to ensure the survival and propagation of all manner of organisms from the lower niches of the food web to the upper. Biocriteria are used to measure stream health.

#10 - People can interact with and enjoy the flow. In wastewater treatment the primary human interactions are flushing and paying bills. People tend to avoid all things wastewater and the last thing they want is to be located next to a treatment plant or even a buried interceptor. Stormwater can be totally different — especially when it comes to well-planned and administered streamside land use. Greenway and riverfront systems in urban settings create centerpieces for community involvement and recreation.

Source for article WEF.org

Why All the Fuss? Uncontrolled stormwater runoff has many negative impacts on humans and the environment. Including:

Floods - Damage to public and private property, including infrastructure

Eroded Streambanks - Sediment-clogged waterways, filled lakes, reservoirs

Widened Stream Channels - Loss of valuable property

Damaged Aesthetics - Dirty water, increased trash and debris, foul odors

Damaged Fish and Aquatic Life - Impairment/destruction

Impaired Recreational Uses - Decreased opportunities for swimming, fishing, boating, and other water sports

Threatened Public Health - Contamination of drinking water, fish/shellfish, increased exposure to harmful pollutants.

Threatened Public Safety - Increased exposure to drownings in flood waters

Economic Impacts - Fisheries, shellfish, tourism, recreation related businesses

Increased Cost of Water and Wastewater Treatment - increased raw water treatment costs and reduced assimilative capacity of waterbodies.

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2015 AWBD

Annual Conference

June 18—20

Corpus Christi, Texas

Visit us at our booth # 509

Lead and Copper Testing for Cycle 6m1 Deadline June 30 2015

Utilize the TCEQ website for guidance, schedules and sites. Lookup your system ID. Follow these 4 easy steps:

1. Fill out form 201467 for site Selection
2. Send it in to get approval of sites selection
3. Collect your samples.
4. Send it to Eastex Lab with form 20680.

Eastex Lab will help do your reporting. Call Daniel at Eastex Lab if you have questions. You can also email Laurie Gehlsen at laurie.gehlsen@tceq.texas.gov

