Elephant Po-Boys: Illicit Discharge Detection & Enforcement in the swamp

Presented by:
John Gutierrez, Jr., MS4 Coordinator – St. Charles Parish Department of Public Works
Sitting down for the buffet...

○ Elephant Po-boys?

○ Take ownership of your domain

○ Become the voice for the voiceless

○ Choose your utensils wisely
  • Ordinance
  • Enforcement policy
Ordinance highlights

- §25-5(C) Exemptions can be disqualified at discretion of MS4
- §25-5(M) St. Charles parish can require response or invoice directly for services rendered
- §25-6(B) No grandfathering for illegal sewer connections
- §25-16(F) Denying inspector access is a violation itself
- §25-19(A) Parish may withdraw all issued permits to force compliance
- §25-17(D) Parish *may* require payment for response
- §25-20 Penalties may be avoided by immediate voluntary compliance
The first bites...

- Be the water you defend
  - Everywhere and Nowhere
  - Residents, Coworkers, Law Enforcement, and..prior offenders?
  - Integration with local Emergency Operations

- 2015 vs 2019: Then and now
○ Violation discovery
  • Notification to MS4
  • MS4 Site visit & documentation
  • written notification (1st)

○ Violator contact
  • resolution & additional requirements
  • additional notifications
DATE: 6/11/2018

Address: [Blank]

Notice: [Blank]

This property may be in violation of the
St. Charles Parish Chapter 25
Stormwater Ordinance #14-1-1-12
and/or Louisiana environmental
Regulations LAC 331:Chapter IX.

Please contact the St. Charles Parish Dept. of Public Works
during normal business hours
to discuss this matter.

MS4 Coordinator
St. Charles Parish Public Works
100 River Oaks Drive
Destrehan, LA 70047
985-783-5102
Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Inspector: J. Gutierrez

Violations:
Air worker witnessed
tile/mortar wash waters discharged
to ditch on Friday, 6/8/2018
(Ord. 14-1-1-12 sec. 25-5(A))

Comments:
Concrete wash waters
must be discharged 50' from
any Parish drainage conveyance
at minimum.
The stuffing

- Violator follow-up
  - Be reasonable with deadlines
  - Environmental considerations

- No Contact after 1st notification?

- Escalation & Police Involvement
Almost done..

- Paperwork & Documentation
  - K.I.S.S.
    - A pile of paperwork means you fight from the high ground
  - They’ll say you did, but a photo does not lie
The last bit..

- Follow-up
  - Documentation (yours and theirs)
  - Final Site Visit
Cleaning up!

- A strong ordinance is key
- Written enforcement policy prevents accusations
- Ownership
- Talk to everyone – they are your eyes and ears
- Pictures, reports, documents will protect you
- Be fair, be firm, be final.
- Big Brother is there to help
- Following up and final assessment
The next po-boy..

Questions?
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- Chapter 25 Storm Water Ordinance
  *https://library.municode.com/la/st_charles_parish/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIPACO_CH25STMAERSECO
  *https://tinyurl.com/y34jg8c7

- Enforcement Policy
  *https://www.dropbox.com/s/yf7wo4rg2kbamtk/MS4%20Enforcement%20Policy.docx?dl=0
  *https://tinyurl.com/y4nlxs6j