

INDIANA COASTAL NONPOINT CONTROL PROGRAM QUICK REFERENCE

WHAT IS NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even our underground sources of drinking water. These pollutants include:

- Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas;
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and energy production;
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding streambanks;
- Salt from irrigation practices and acid drainage from abandoned mines;
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems;
- Atmospheric deposition and hydromodification are also sources of nonpoint source pollution.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency, 1994.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF THESE POLLUTANTS ON OUR WATERS?

States report that nonpoint source pollution is the leading remaining cause of water quality problems. The effects of nonpoint source pollutants on specific waters vary and may not always be fully assessed. However, we know that these pollutants have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency, 1994.

WHY IS THE LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL PROGRAM INVOLVED IN NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

In its reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act in 1990, Congress identified nonpoint source pollution as a major factor in the continuing degradation of coastal waters. Congress also recognized that effective solutions to nonpoint source pollution could be implemented at the state and local levels. Therefore, in the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA), Congress added Section 6217, which calls upon states with federally approved coastal zone management programs, such as the Lake Michigan Coastal Program, to develop and implement coastal nonpoint pollution control programs. Indiana now has such program that is managed by the Nonpoint Coordinator.

HOW IS SECTION 6217 IMPLEMENTED?

The Section 6217 program is administered jointly by Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency. The reauthorization amendments called for the EPA to develop technical guidance to the states to implement the 6217 program. The result was a document titled [“Guidance Specifying Management Measures for Sources of Nonpoint Source Pollution in Coastal Waters”](#), which addresses five major source categories of nonpoint source pollution including:

- Urban runoff
- Agriculture runoff
- Forestry runoff
- Marinas and recreational boating
- Hydromodification

EPA has also included management measures for wetlands, riparian areas, and vegetated treatment systems that apply generally to various categories of sources of nonpoint pollution.

Under each of the five source categories are management measures that should be addressed by the state nonpoint source program. It is the job of the nonpoint source pollution coordinator to ensure the achievement of each of the management measures, where applicable, within the coastal region.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION ROLE

The nonpoint source pollution coordinator cannot and should not single handedly implement the management measures identified by the Environmental Protection Agency. Instead, the measures should be accomplished not only by the action of the Coordinator but also through the actions already taking place in local government and regional and nonprofit organizations. Therefore, programs and projects taken on by the above organizations can help the Indiana Coastal Program meet its management measure objectives.

For more information contact:

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