

Storm Water Management at Federal Facilities and on Federal Lands Executive Summary

Executive Order (EO) 13508 calls for the development and implementation of a coordinated Federal strategy to expand and bring greater accountability for efforts toward the Chesapeake Bay's recovery. As such, the federal government commits to lead by example and implement a new paradigm for storm water management on all federal facilities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Federal agencies have a variety of facilities in the Bay watershed ranging from highly industrial sites to rural sites. Although federal agencies only own 7.8% of the land, the federal government is the largest single landowner within the watershed. Federal agencies own both developed and undeveloped lands. The federal government owns more undeveloped land but also has substantial pollutant contributions from storm water discharges from urban/suburban lands.

Storm water sources fall into three major categories: storm water discharges from new development and redevelopment projects; storm water discharges from existing facilities and developed lands; and runoff from undeveloped lands. Although a full range of options are currently under consideration, some of the key recommendations that would demonstrate leadership in strengthening federal agencies storm water management practices are provided below.

- **Adopt agency-specific policies** that defines the administrative and management controls needed to comply with the storm water requirements in Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act;
- **Employ Environmentally Sensitive Design techniques for site selection and layout** to facilitate the use of practices that maintain or restore natural hydrology;
- **Upgrade existing storm water management practices and install new practices on existing developed facilities** where technically and economically feasible;
- **Install best management practices to control storm water runoff from existing paved roads;**
- **Institute practices to prevent and control erosion from unpaved roads;**
- **Expand use of land conservation easement programs** to preserve forest land and install storm water management practices; and
- **Improve GIS data on federal land ownership and land use** to allow more effective management of federal lands within the context of the Bay program and aid in implementation of the Bay total maximum daily load.