

# Q: What is NPDES?

**A:** The federal government implemented the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations for storm water discharges to address the national problem associated with polluted runoff.

These regulations require all large U.S. cities, including Honolulu, to keep their storm drains and sewers as free of pollutants as possible. There are specific requirements for monitoring and evaluating lakes, streams, and shoreline waters. Local governments are required to educate residents and business on ways to keep waters clean.



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