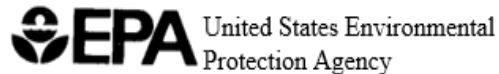




U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration



RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

To: File

From: Allison Castellan (NOAA), Shelby Butz (NOAA/CSS), Don Waye (EPA HQ), Robert Goo (EPA, HQ), Catherine Brady (EPA HQ), Patricia Taylor (EPA R6), Brian Fontenot (EPA R6)

Date: 03/29/2022

RE: Response to Public Comments Received on NOAA's and EPA's Intent to Fully Approve Louisiana's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.

On January 27, 2022, NOAA and EPA (Federal Agencies) jointly announced, in the Federal Register, a 30-day public comment period regarding the Agencies' intent to find that Louisiana has satisfied all conditions of approval on its coastal nonpoint program. Under Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA), all states participating in the National Coastal Zone Management Program need to develop coastal nonpoint programs to address nonpoint source pollution to coastal waters. NOAA and EPA approved Louisiana's coastal nonpoint program, subject to certain conditions, in 1998.

In response to the request for comments, the Federal agencies received one comment during the public comment period. On January 30, 2022, a public commenter asked about national stormwater standards for construction activities (see full comment and response below). The comment, as submitted, and a formal response is included below:

Comment 1: Per the section E. CONSTRUCTION SITE EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL AND CHEMICAL CONTROL - if the national standard was updated, would Louisiana abide by the new standard?

Response: Yes. EPA has authorized Louisiana to implement the stormwater program under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program. State permits under this program must comply with relevant federal regulations, including the NPDES Phase I and Phase II stormwater regulations, which address stormwater from construction activity directly as well as through municipal separate storm systems (MS4s). In the event that EPA updates these regulations, state-issued NPDES permits must continue to comply with these federal requirements.