

# What is PA DEP's MS4 Program

- The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program is one of the Clean Water Act programs designed to fix pollution problems in our local rivers and streams.
- It was developed to address the pollution in runoff coming from roads, driveways, parking lots and rooftops (impervious cover) in more developed areas. This pollution is causing water quality problems in local rivers and streams.



# Clean Water Act Permits

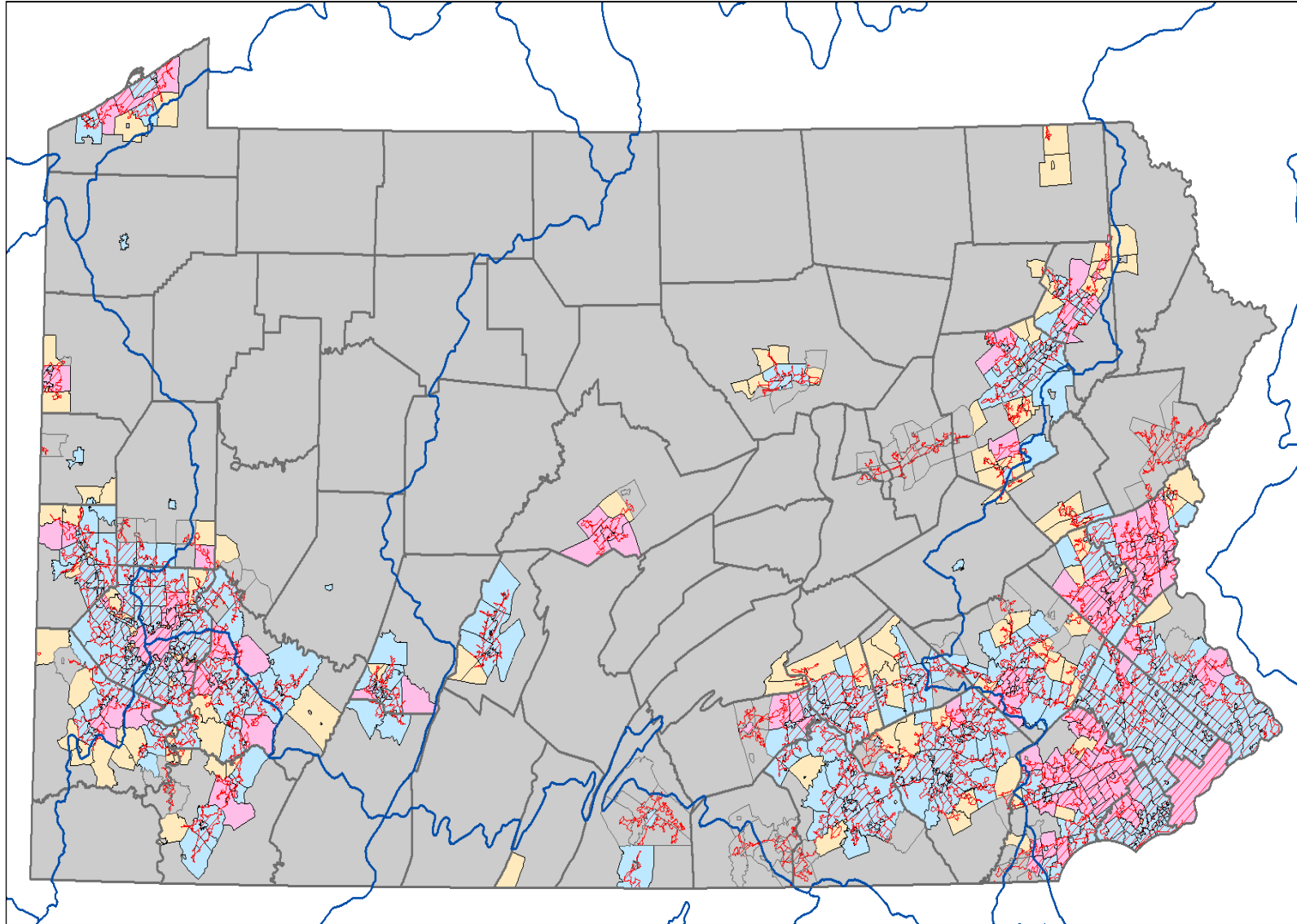
- The first round of Clean Water Act permits addressed pollution coming from industrial sites through pipes and discharging directly into local rivers and streams.
- In many parts of the country, these permits made a huge difference in fixing water quality problems.
- In urban and more developed areas, there were still pollution problems.
- Next step was addressing combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in big cities. Fixing CSOs is very challenging both in terms of logistics and costs.



# MS4 Permits

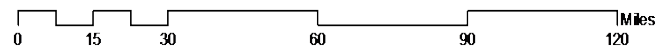
- Despite these fixes, water quality problems persisted in many urban or more developed areas.
- The MS4 program was developed to address stormwater runoff generally in highly urbanized areas (known as Phase I communities).
- It focused on municipalities (cities, townships, counties) because municipalities make land use decisions about the amount of impervious cover in a community through their ordinances.
- In 1999, smaller communities were included through Phase II of the MS4 program. Both Phase I and Phase II communities include about 4% of land in United States but 80% of where people live.
- Communities in watersheds that have specific water quality problems or that have TMDLs (total maximum daily loads) for specific pollutants need individual permits.

# PA MS4 Communities



MS4 Municipalities / 2010 Urbanized Area

- Permit Status as of May 2012
- General
  - Individual
  - Waiver
- Municipalities
- County Boundaries
  - Major Watershed Boundary





# PA DEP MS4 Permit

All MS4 communities must address 6 minimum control measures.

1. Public education and outreach on stormwater impacts
2. Public involvement/participation
3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination
4. Construction site stormwater runoff control (soil erosion control permit)
5. Post-construction stormwater management (i.e. stormwater management required in ordinances and voluntary BMP implementation)
6. Pollution prevention/good housekeeping



# Selected MCM implementation collaborations

- Eastern Delaware County Stormwater Collaborative
  - Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership
  - Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy
  - Lycoming County MS4 Collaboration
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- All collaborate on MCMs 1 and 2; some collaborated on MS4 permit planning
  - Each provides a coordinator and annual reporting documentation for these MCMs

