PIERCE COUNTY
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

CHAPTER 7: UNMET NEEDS

Pierce County is currently initiating a two step assessment of unmet needs relating to stormwater and water quality. Because this process is currently underway, it does not make sense to try and second-guess the conclusions that may or may not be reached as a result of this process, and therefore the list of unmet needs given in this chapter is brief, with no detail as to total costs and personnel needs. The two step process comprised of (1) a rate structure analysis and (2) an update of the SWM Storm Drainage Master Plan for capital improvements and water quality via basin analysis, will give us a better understanding of our unmet needs going into the next permit cycle. A fuller description of each of these two assessment activities is given below.

Rate structure analysis

As mentioned previously in this document, Pierce County Water Programs is currently doing a rate structure study to analyze the fiscal needs of Surface Water Management, River Improvement, and Watershed Planning. The current schedule calls for submittal of the study to the Executive and Council in July and August, respectively, of 1997. If any type of rate increase is to be implemented in 1998, the Council will need to adopt a new rate structure by November 21, 1997. Any level of increase in our program efforts will be tied to this process, and we will keep Ecology informed on its progress and outcome.

Update of SWM Storm Drainage Master Plan

Also described previously was our effort to begin an update to the original **Pierce County Storm Drainage and Surface Water Management Plan**. The ability to begin such an effort is tied to obtaining a rate increase as described above. However, presuming an adequate increase to do such an update, we believe that it will thoroughly address many of the items Ecology has stated it requires to ensure that there is an adequate process for establishing priorities, assessing adequacy of water quality programs, and having adequate information to determine impacts on receiving waters. This update to our plan will expand the original scope from strictly water quantity to water quality as well, and analyze each urbanized and urbanizing basin in detail to determine which projects and programs will be needed as we move into the next century. It will also point out and prioritize the unmet needs we will continue to have, and what it will take financially to address them. Our intent is to begin the update in 1998, and conclude it in 2000, hopefully in time to include it in our application for the next term of our permit.

Current unmet needs

Although we have not yet been able to thoroughly assess our unmet needs regarding water quality, we do have some we are able to list at this time, with the assurance of doing a more thorough analysis over the next 3 years as described above. The following list is by no means complete. We give dollar figures when available, but lack of analysis on the others would make any monetary or personnel projections pure conjecture. We have also not had the ability to prioritize these needs at this time, so please be aware that they are not in any particular order except for the first two items, which are numbers one and two, respectively, in order of importance to our overall program.

Obtain rate increase for adequate CIP program

Due to incorporations, and other responsibilities transferred to SWM, the amount for CIP has dropped from $5 million per year to $1 million per year. This is an unmet need of $4 million per year.

Conduct a thorough, site specific assessment of both CIP and water quality needs, relating to stormwater discharges, in each basin

If rate increase is approved, we will be doing this via the update of our Drainage Plan.

Implementation and funding of watershed action plans for non-point source pollution

The Lower Puyallup Plan identifies $56 million in actions. The Clover/Chambers Plan identifies $2.2 million in actions. Pierce County's portions of these plans total $1,804,000 and $670,000, respectively.

Program to collect site-specific information about the water quality impacts of stormwater discharges on receiving waters

We will begin to barely address this need under the monitoring we plan to do for the first term of the permit.

Conduct thorough assessment of unmet needs relating to stormwater quality

This should be accomplished through the planned update of our Drainage Plan.

Identification of stormwater entering the County's system from municipalities or drainage districts that are not under permit

This information is needed to determine where we need to pursue interlocal agreements.

Interagency agreements to control the contribution of pollutants from one municipal storm sewer to another

Would establish advance mutually-agreed upon framework to solve problems.

Develop the ability to maintain and coordinate databases

Water quality information needs to be readily available to all those involved in water quality issues.

Assess the need for additional structural pretreatment BMPs in vulnerable groundwater areas

Pierce County has a vulnerable sole-source drinking water aquifer

Evaluate pesticides and herbicides in stormwater, and potential receiving water impacts, and an assessment of the need for a program to control these discharges

Adequate inspection of public and private stormwater facilities

Public facilities are those deeded to the County, owned by Transportation Services, or owned by Surface Water Management. Private facilities are those owned by a person, business or entity. Routine inspection for all these categories is currently not adequate.

Adequate maintenance of public and private stormwater facilities

Public facilities are those deeded to the County, owned by Transportation Services, or owned by Surface Water Management. Private facilities are those owned by a person, business or entity. It is unknown if the current maintenance schedule is adequate for water quality protection.

Examine zoning and building standards regarding floodplains and areas of known groundwater problems

Examine policy on review of forestry conversion permits

Develop optimal maintenance schedule for O&M on stormwater facilities, and compare to what is done currently