The Rain Events

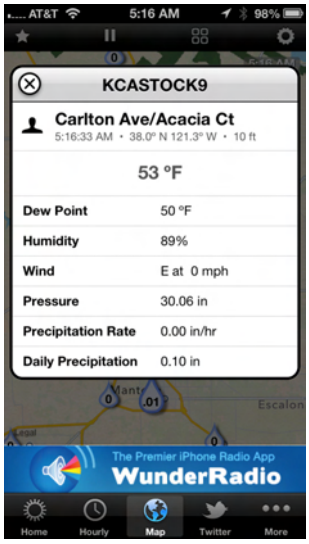
May 2013
California Edition

Total Recall…

Do you remember what you had for dinner last night? How about three nights ago? How about three Thursday's ago? If you're like me, you may remember you had great meal a few nights back but after that it may be difficult to remember the details like, what time exactly you had the meal, or what was the side dish with the your meal. If you asked me about specific details about a meal three Thursdays ago, forget it. I could probably just vaguely tell you I had a meal. This is why it is crucial to jot the details down right when it is fresh in your memory for your facility's storm water inspections and observations. If you have not been diligent in your recordkeeping, you will likely have a difficult time preparing your upcoming annual report. This may cause your report to be not as accurate when you try to recall your facility's monthly or quarterly inspections. In a previous edition of *The Rain Events* we discussed "shark attacks" (third party litigation). One of the items they seemed to key in on was poor recordkeeping. We have since seen these groups dispute rainfall times, dates, and quantities. You can avoid missing details if you log inspections, observations, and rainfall dates/totals as they occur. Detailing your details is also important. If you log it rained on April 15th, you should include as much detail as possible including: How much did it rain? When did the rain begin? When the rain stop? Was there runoff? How did you gauge the rain? If you did not collect a storm event you should log the reasoning behind why you elected not to collect a sample. This is a good practice, because it will not only generate data that will help you recall why you didn't sample if you are ever questioned, but it will also help you to be consistent in your sample collection reasoning and force you to walk through the logic of whether the storm event is qualifying or not. In this edition of *The Rain Events*, we are going to look at rain measurements. What type of rain measurement does the IGP require? What kinds of rain gauges are out there? We will also give you an update on the draft Industrial General Permit.

The Compliance Corner . . .

Measuring the Rain



How do you determine if your facility is experiencing a qualifying monitoring event? Do you simply wait until there is water running off your facility? If it is an early morning event and runoff is occurring while you arrive at your facility, do you know when runoff began? There is no specific requirement in the current Industrial General Permit Order No. 97-03-DWQ (General Permit) for rain measurement. The General Permit states:

*"facility operators shall visually observe storm water discharges from one storm event per month during the wet season (October 1-May 30). These visual observations shall occur during the **first hour of discharge** and at all discharge locations. Visual observations of stored or contained storm water shall occur at the time of release."*

The General Permit leaves the determination of the commencement of a discharge (runoff) in the facility's hands. We have seen assumptions made by third party litigators for runoff being achieved at a facility by simply referencing a regional rain gauge reading. The problem is that the regional rain gauge could be across the street, or miles away and it may not be representative of what is happening at your facility. We have encouraged facilities to, where possible, collect their own rainfall data by using an on-site rain gauge. The on-site rain gauge is used to establish whether or not a "qualifying rain event" has occurred. So if you are unsure of when the rain began or when runoff began at your facility by utilizing an on-site rain gauge you may end up reducing the number of sample events by closely tracking your facility's rainfall. The rain gauge also provides site-specific data that can be used if an agency or third party environmental group accuses you of not performing the required sampling. It is hard for them to argue against good on-site precipitation data. While the on-site rain gauge is not required by the current General Permit, the most recent draft of the permit renewal requires using an on-site rain gauge. Whether you are using an on-site rain gauge, a nearby rain gauge, or making your own determination of runoff, it is important to make sure you accurately log your observation and maintain them with your facility's storm water records.

What Kind of Rain Gauge?

Rain gauges come in all sorts of styles, features, and price ranges. You can buy a plastic cone-shaped model at the dollar store or pay more than $10,000 for a sophisticated weather station; and find almost anything in-between. But questions you should consider before making your choice include: 1) Do you have personnel to empty the gauge or do you need a self-emptying model? 2) Will someone read and record the data daily or do you need the data stored within the unit for a period of time? 3) Do you have power available for the weather station? 4) What are the chances of theft or vandalism? 5) Should there be a back-up gauge? The economics of rain measurement includes not only the device, but also labor to read, record, and maintain the gauge.

Draft Industrial Permit Update…

The new Draft Industrial General Storm Water Permit (Draft IGP) was originally going to be released for review and comment back in April. In an email up date we received this month from the Water Board the following statement was issued:

"A message sent earlier this year via this email list stated there would be a State Water Board workshop for the next draft IGP on May 8, 2013. There will not be a workshop on May 8, 2013, for the next draft related to reissuance of the IGP. When staff releases the next draft there will be a new workshop date announced at that time. Thank you and apologies for any confusion out there regarding the IGP and workshop date(s)."

We will keep everyone posted as we get more information on the draft permit. Stay tuned!

We Have an April Contest Winner!

Charles Mooklar submitted the winning answers!

The question was…

In the January – February edition of the Rain Events we discussed "Types of Treatment". Can you name the three types of treatment that were discussed?

The answers are…

- Infiltration
- Drain Insert Devices
- End-of-Pipe Treatment

Charles wins $25 to Bass Pro Shops to prepare for his next fishing trip. Great job!

"To Do List" for May:

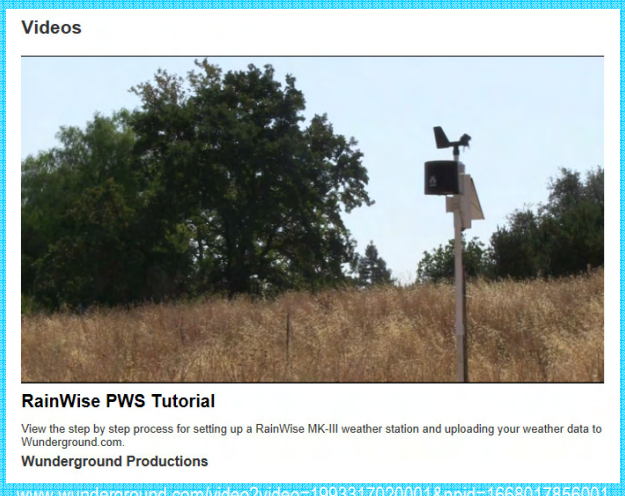
- Look for illicit discharges and do the 4th Quarter Non-Storm Water Observations (Forms 2 & 3 by June 30).
- Perform the final monthly storm water observation (Form 4).
- Perform the Annual Comprehensive Site Compliance Evaluation (Form 5).
- Get the analytical, inspection, BMP maintenance, and training records ready for the Annual Report preparation. The Annual Report is due July 1.

Your Own Online Weather Station

How would you like to have your project's rain gauge online so that you could access current or past data from the internet at anytime or in any place? That would be pretty cool … but, probably very expensive. But it is not as much as you may think! Weather Underground and RainWise have come up with an affordable option. Not only is it a fully automated weather station with online reporting, but it has other features such as solar power, wireless data transmissions up to one mile, data updates every 3 to 5 seconds, and data stored on a cloud server. That is awesome! And only costs about $1,000 (currently it is on sale!). The RainWise weather station will interface with Weather Underground, which will allow you to view not only your own station, but other nearby weather stations.
Check it out at:

www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/RainWise.asp?MR=1

Also take a look at their tutorial video:



www.wunderground.com/video?video=19933170200001&npid=1668017856001

The RainWise weather station can be moved to another location and re-registered with Underground Weather. So, it is your choice … walk out to the fence post to read, record, and empty your plastic rain gauge everyday or surf the internet inside a dry office. For more information, check out www.wunderground.com and look for *The Rain Event's* coming soon weather station.

The Rain Events May Coupon

Consulting Discount Coupon

Sign up by May 27 to have WGR prepare your Annual Report and pay only **$329**.

To redeem this coupon you must sign up with aortiz@wgr-sw.com. Reports can be either completed on SMARTS or using the State's MS Word file. Completed reports will be emailed to the designated contact person for the facility. It will be responsibility of the facility to certify and submit the report to the State. Offer does not apply to prepaid compliance programs.

May Storm Water Contest

Try it out! You can win!

By **June 7, 2013**, submit a response for the following question by email to jteravskis@wgr-sw.com.

> Question: Assuming that a business has had permit coverage for the last 10 years, at minimum, how many annual reports should the business have in their files?

All persons submitting the correct answer will be placed in a drawing. The winner will receive a $25 gift card to Chili's.

Please contact us if you have any questions …

Rain Events Newsletter Editor:

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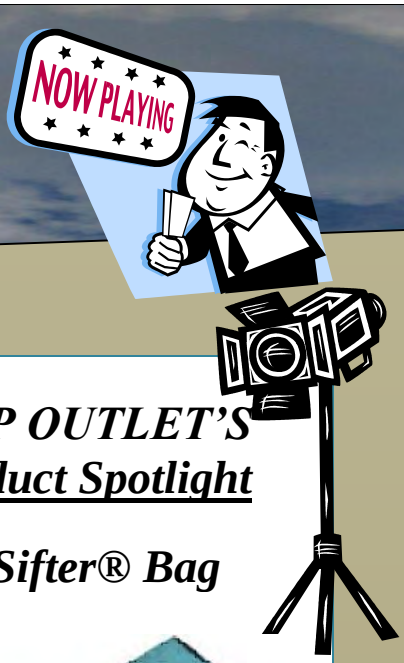
(209) 334-5363 ext. 110

Technical Questions about Storm Water Compliance? Call …

Aaron Ortiz, aortiz@wgr-sw.com, (209) 810-5151
Steve Teravskis, steravskis@wgr-sw.com, (209) 642-5020
John Ripley, jripley@wgr-sw.com, (310) 629-5259



May Special

$105.00 Oakton® Waterproof pHTestr™ 30 Pocket pH Tester

Versatile, compact design works in a field or laboratory setting

- ±0.01 pH accuracy along with dual pH and selectable °C or °F temperature display
- A complete meter with key features at an economical price
- Replaceable, double-junction electrode sensors save time and money
- IP67-rated housing sits flat on the table and floats in water

Meter includes: protective plastic storage case, lanyard, and batteries.

Wireless Rain Gauge with Indoor/Outdoor Thermometer

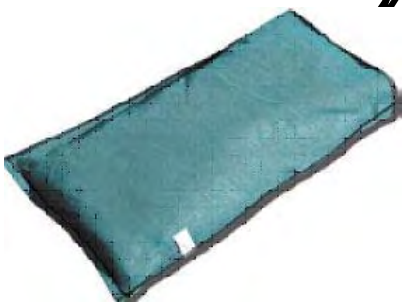
$99.95

Special Features:
Automatic self-emptying rain collector.
Measures daily and cumulative rainfall.
Nine day rainfall history.
Long range compatibility allows the canister and sensor to be placed up to 300-ft from the main unit.
Displays indoor and outdoor temperature
High daily rainfall alarm
Alkaline batteries included: 2 AA (main unit); 2 AA (raincup); 2 AAA(sensor).

Contents:
RGR126 Wireless Rain Gauge
Self-emptying raincup
THN122N temperature sensor
User manual
4 AA batteries
2 AAA batteries

BMP OUTLET'S Product Spotlight

Silt Sifter® Bag



Silt Sifter® is the ultimate solution! The patented dual-component, bag-within-a-bag design, Silt Sifter® Bag is the original cushioned sediment control device incorporating materials specifically chosen for both 'filtration' and 'high-flow' performance. Squared on one end to better hug the curb, the Silt Sifter® Bag comes either pre-filled with 30 pounds of 1" natural rock or empty. The sewn-in Heavy Duty 2" Velcro enclosure makes it a snap to fill and provides a solid barrier to prevent any rock from escaping making for a cleaner and tidier job site.

Product Specifications:

- Outer Material High density polyethylene - Poly thread (4) lock stitching
- Filtering Media Pine Wood Excelsior*
- Rock Bag High density polyethylene - Poly thread (4) lock stitching
- Stabilization 1" rock (filled)
- UV Rating 85% with 364° flammability point
- Dimensions 30"L x 16"W x 6"H
- Weight (Dry) Approximately 30 lbs. (filled)
- Durability 500 lb. burst strength
- Maintenance Clean with power wash or strong hose

*Pine wood excelsior acts as a filter for capturing silt, sediment and soils. Also a cushioning agent to substantially reduce product damage under normal conditions.
*****This product ships empty (No rock)******* Available filled for local pick up only.