

Conservation & You

A publication of the
Southeast Pennsylvania
Association of Conservation Districts

Bucks
Chester
Delaware
Montgomery



Summer 2008

Notice of Intent, Section C, PCSM Plan Information

There are many questions and interpretations for completing the PCSM information portion of the Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under the NPDES Permit for stormwater discharges associated with construction activity. A recently released DEP/PennDoT document (*Publication 13M (DM-2) SOL 432-07-07 "Attachment A", December 2007*) provides an understandable interpretation of this item. It clarifies that Act 167 stormwater management plans provide a model set of ordinances to municipalities for regulating stormwater discharges based on the characteristics of the watershed and that PCSM plans should be in compliance with any Act 167 plans in place. Furthermore, it provides an explanation that consistency with an Act 167 plan does not necessarily mean that the PCSM plan will meet the requirements of the NPDES Permit. The same holds true for MS4 designed plans. The most restrictive criteria should be addressed in the plan design. If rate control requirements in the Act 167 plan are more restrictive than those in the NPDES Permit, the plans should then address the rate control guidelines of the Act 167 plan. When designing for volume and water quality, however, it will usually be the NPDES permit that is the more restrictive.

On the NOI form, the design engineer should check the boxes that apply to the design criteria used for the PCSM plan. If the rate/volume controls were designed to meet stricter Act 167 plan or MS4 requirements, those boxes should be checked. Ultimately, the requirements of the NPDES Permit relating to stormwater rate, volume, groundwater recharge, and water quality must be met.

Jeffrey KcKenna
Montgomery Co. CD

E&S and Stormwater Management for Oil and Gas activities

The following information is the first in a series of articles explaining the new General Permit that DEP has developed for oil and gas activities. This information was taken from DEP's web site located in the Oil and Gas program: www.depwebstate.pa.us

On May 5, 2007 the Department of Environmental Protection published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin its intent to issue the Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management for Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Processing, Treatment Operations, or Transmissions Facilities General Permit (ESCGP-1). The ESCGP-1 follows the Department's plan for regulating erosion and sediment control and stormwater management for oil and gas activities.

The Department's plan to regulate erosion, sediment and stormwater runoff associated with oil and gas activities was in response to EPA's final amendment to the NPDES regulations for stormwater discharges associated with oil and gas exploration, production, processing, or treatment operations or transmission facilities published on June 12, 2006. The final amendment resulted in oil and gas activities being exempt from the requirements of the NPDES Stormwater permit. EPA acknowledged that this rule does

(continued on p.5)



This is not the usual pose and tool that conservation district staff use to get voluntary compliance in the field. Rama of the Jungle is actually Chotty Sprenkle, Chester Co. CD watershed specialist taking a break from removing invasive plants from a retrofitted SWM basin.

Workshop on Geosynthetic BMPS for Stormwater Management

– September 18, 2008 –

Warren Cohn has organized a workshop for Thursday, September 18, 2008 starting at 7:45 a.m. and lasting until 4:00 p.m. at the Concord Country Club 1601 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA. The workshop will deal with the selection and design of geosynthetic solutions for sediment control, erosion prevention, thermal pollution reduction, runoff management, and site stabilization.

Engineers, landscape architects, planners, contractors, and government officials should benefit from this training. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts has agreed to help promote this event. Geosynthetics are playing an increasingly important role in both storm water management, and erosion and sediment control. Warren will be training on both generic and manufacturer specific products.

For registration information please contact Warren Cohn at (888) 856-4505 or e-mail wcohn@acfenvironmental.com.

Ed Magargee
Delaware County CD

Pasture Management is Risk Management

That's right, a corporate world-business philosophy (Risk Management) and an agricultural philosophy (Pasture Management) being used in the same sentence.

The environmental issues related to pasturing animals across Pennsylvania are becoming increasingly evident as more people are pasturing livestock for production and pleasure. The issues that pertain to pasture management can be as complex as those that are found in any realm of the erosion and sediment control world. Coupled with nutrient management issues, poorly managed pastures can easily become a liability to the animals' health, as well as the environment and the financial bottom line.



In particular, equine operations are quickly becoming as numerous as WaWa stores in southeast PA (SEPA). At a recent conservation plan training course in State College it was stated that Pennsylvania will likely surpass Kentucky this year as the number one equine production state in the country. It is also known that with the increased promotion of horse racing in the state, financial incentives in the form of larger payouts for horses that were PA born and bred are the proverbial carrot on the stick for equine operations to establish themselves in our state.

While those of us who live in Southeast PA have known that certain areas in this region have always been horse country, we are now seeing the conversion of "traditional" agricultural operations into equine breeding, boarding and training facilities. Unlike "traditional" agricultural operations and production, horses must have the ability to graze and exercise on pasture for mental and physical health reasons; today many people contend that all animals should be afforded that opportunity. Accordingly, pasturing is making its comeback as people are becoming more vigilant about how their food is produced.

While there are no clear cut regulations on pastures in the Chapter 102 manual, clean stream laws apply to every citizen and square mile of our state. As with all sites involving earth disturbance and bare earth, proper stormwater management often solves many of a site's soil loss and pollution concerns. In the case of pasture management, stormwater management is even more critical for the prevention of nutrient laden run off water entering our water bodies. The good news is that establishing and maintaining a healthy stand of grasses in a pasture can be the best stormwater management practice in pasture management. In order to have a healthy stand of grasses in a pasture there must be effective management of the grazing animal as well. These management practices commonly consist of properly sized and located pastures, respective setbacks to sensitive areas, rotational grazing of animals with consideration given to growth periods of pasture forages, seasonal wetness, properly located watering and feeding facilities and properly situated, year round exercise areas or "sacrifice areas".

Although equine operations generally do not consist of "plowing and tilling" and therefore do not require a conservation plan, a pasture management plan should be developed to address resource concerns and clean stream law requirements. As well, on October 1, 2008 equine operations that meet the threshold numbers for a

Concentrated Animal Operation will be required to have an approved Act 38 - Nutrient Management Plan.

All the information needed for good pasture management and regulatory requirements would fill this newsletter and then some. The information presented in this article may have you asking more questions than it has provided answers, and I suppose that was half of my intent. Townships, contractors and equine enthusiasts can call their local Conservation District or PSU Extension Office for assistance and information on protecting our resources for future generations

while keeping our agricultural future bright.

The take home point is this — manure on a farm can be an asset or a liability; it simply depends how you choose to manage that resource. The same applies to pasture management; pastures can provide food, exercise and happiness for an animal when properly managed, or they can cost a community increased agricultural regulation, poor public perception, and the use of employees (tax dollars) at differing levels of government to deal with the environmental issues related to poor pasture management and land stewardship.

*Gustave C. Meyer IV
Montgomery County CD*

Demolition Before Permit Issuance

When a project is required to obtain an NPDES Permit and has buildings to be demolished, the permit should be acquired before demolition begins. Even though major earthwork may not have occurred yet, the removal of building pads or foundations leaves the ground disturbed. The heavy machinery and equipment needed for the demolition will also result in ground disturbance. An additional problem to consider is that an erosion and sediment control plan is normally developed prior to demolition. Demolition of items such as curbing or large buildings could require a new plan to be developed. Also, operating without an approved erosion and sediment control plan would be a violation of Chapter 102-Erosion Control. The construction sequence normally places the demolition part of the project after the pre-construction meeting. So right from the start you are already out of sequence. Also, ground disturbance without the permit is a violation of the permit conditions and could result in a field order requiring you to clear violations before the project can even begin. So, before you get behind that bulldozer, please make sure you have the approved erosion and sediment control plans and NPDES permit in hand.

*Michelle Ferri
Delaware Co. C.D.*

Global Warming and Erosion and Sediment Control: Is there a connection?

These excerpts from scientific and environmental journals show that those involved in earth moving activities are effected by global warming. Here in SE PA there have been several reports of properly installed silt fence being blown out by heavy spring rains causing sediment to be released into nearby waterways. It is clear that the inevitable increase in frequent severe rainstorms needs to be considered when planning and reviewing erosion control plans.

“Prepare culverts for global warming.”

Antioch College, NH: *LiveScience Staff*, 10/11/05
www.livescience.com/environment/051011_culverts.html

A PennEnvironment report shows that Pennsylvania is experiencing more frequent extreme rainstorms, consistent with scientists' predictions of what is happening as a result of global warming. "... what was once the 'storm of the decade' will soon seem like just another downpour," said Nathan Willcox of PennEnvironment.

PennEnvironment Summer Report 2008
www.pennenvironment.org/newsletter/summer08

“Water erosion occurs when rain, run-off, or floodwater carry soil particles away. The extent of water erosion depends on the amount of soil cover and texture, the length and grade of the slope, the amount and timing of heavy rainfall. Soil movement by rainfall is usually greatest ... during short-duration, high-intensity storms.”

www.courses.psu.edu/c_e/c_e433_bas124/erosion.html#Home



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Stormwater Best Management Practices Tour

Bucks County Conservation District, with funding provided by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, Water Resources Education Network (WREN), recently co-hosted, with the Bucks County Planning Commission, a tour for municipal officials and engineers on innovative stormwater controls. On April 16th approximately 50 people boarded a bus at the Bucks County Planning Commission for the day-long excursion.

Our first stop was the Buckingham Township Building and the redesigned stormwater basin. Backing up to the Buckingham Elementary School, this site not only controls stormwater runoff but acts as an educational wetland site. Ray Hendrick of Bucks County Birders, has identified over 140 different species of animals now inhabiting this restored wetland.

Located adjacent to the wetland area at the township building and school, the next stop was None Such Farms. Tour participants toured the numerous conservation and stormwater practices at this working farm which include terraces, cover crops and stream bank fencing installed with the help of Ducks Unlimited.

Moving just slightly west of None Such Farm, the next stop on our tour was a Buckingham Township spray irrigation site. A series of wastewater lagoons allow wastewater to be treated and disinfected before being used as irrigation water.

Lunch provided by Pickering, Corts and Summerson, Inc. was enjoyed after a brief tour of Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve.

The afternoon was no less busy with the first stop at Pennswood Village, a retirement community built in the 1980's and guided by Quaker values. A wetland stormwater system was constructed and runs throughout the community. A series of wetland areas designed to resemble a natural riparian corridor has successfully handled stormwater since installation.

Finally, our tour headed to the Churchville Nature Center, one of Bucks County's three centers run by the Parks Department. Churchville's director discussed the use of grey water and native plants to help decrease stormwater runoff and the green building campaign which calls for geo-thermal heating and cooling, solar panels, a green roof and LEED certification for the planned new building.

Look for information on these and more innovative stormwater sites on the Bucks County Conservation District website.

Mary Ellen Noonan, Bucks County CD

Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants, Inc.

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Deficiencies causing administratively incomplete applications

I have found there are some common deficiencies deeming a General NPDES Permit Application incomplete administratively. In many cases these deficiencies cause avoidable delays.

On the Notice of Intent, please ensure that all the questions have been answered and that the information provided is consistent throughout the documentation. These types of errors can cause delays administratively or during the technical review.

There is a tendency to not provide a response to the thermal impact analysis. This analysis is applicable to all projects.

The checklist for General Permit Applications is an essential tool when putting together the narratives and the plans. It is crucial to ensure that the page numbers are consistent with the documentation. This provides checks and balances for both the applicant and the entity reviewing the documentation.

The E & S narrative often lacks a soils map with the project location delineated and an adequate analysis of the impact that runoff from the site will have on existing downstream watercourses resistance to erosion. The soils map may be obtained from the County Soil Survey or from several online sources such as the Web Soil Survey (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>) or The Penn State Soils website (soilmp.psu.edu). The analysis of the impact may either be as simple as a statement that the requirements of CG-1 are being met, and therefore no downstream impacts are anticipated, or as involved as a pre- and post-construction channel stability analysis. In any case, the point is to demonstrate that the receiving watercourse will not be degraded due to the proposed construction activities.

The locations of waters which may receive runoff and the Chapter 93 Classification and the soil use limitations with resolutions are frequently omitted the E & S Plans. The NPDES Permit Boundary and the Limits of Disturbance both need to be delineated on the plans. If they are the same it should be documented accordingly and clearly.

If infiltration is being proposed, a Geotechnical report and soil test pit information must be included in the PCSM narrative and the locations of the test pits with depths be delineated on the PCSM plans. Not having the appropriate soils work done prior to submitting an application, can cause extended delays.

If infiltration is not being proposed and CG-1 is not being met, you must document reasons for not infiltrating.

Ensuring that all necessary worksheets are submitted is very important. Worksheets #1 through #5 are required for all submissions. When CG-1 is not being met, ensure Worksheets #11, #12 and #13 are completed. If CG-1 is being met, complete Worksheet #10.

All projects need a PCSM narrative, which must be separate from the E & S narrative and contain, at a minimum, the items located in the application checklist numbers 7.a.i through 7.a.vii. Quite often these narratives are consolidated. As indicated in the checklist, they need to be separate.

In my opinion, the best way to expedite the administrative review so that the technical review may begin is to answer all the questions in the NOI, be consistent, utilize the checklist and make certain that all of the requested information is provided and that the information and page numbers are accurate.

Kristina Henderson, Montgomery County CD

Oil & Gas *(continued from front page)*

not prohibit states from regulating oil and gas earth disturbance activities under state authority. Hence, the Department published its plan for regulating oil and gas earth disturbance activities under the new ESCGP-1.

Briefly, the ESCGP-1 requires a Notice of Intent (NOI) for earth disturbance activities with oil and gas that disturb five (5) or more acres at one time over the life of the project. County Conservation Districts or the DEP Regional Office will be responsible for issuing this permit. The following information will be required with the NOI submittal: an erosion and sediment control plan, PNDI review, Act 14 Notice, and a Cultural Resource Notice (for over 10 acres disturbed). It is important to note that as part of the erosion control plan submittal a Post Construction Stormwater Management will be required.

This summer the Bureau of Oil and Gas Management is providing training workshops. The new permit requirements will be discussed as well as other topics related to oil and gas activities. This has become quite a hot topic due to the renewed interest in oil and gas exploration and recovery. Future articles in this newsletter will address landowners and oil and gas leases, impacts on the state's dirt and gravel roads and exploration in special protection watersheds. Stay tuned!

Lisa Ishimuro, Bucks County CD

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2008-2009 REAP Guidelines, Applications now available on line

Southeastern Pennsylvania farmers now have a second opportunity to apply for a tax credit program that rewards them for conservation practices that reduce erosion and sedimentation.

This is a wonderful incentive for Pennsylvania's farmers to implement best management practices from their conservation plan or to begin the process of developing a conservation plan.

REAP is administered by the State Conservation Commission and encourages farmers to use conservation best management practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation impacting Pennsylvania's streams and watersheds.

Applications will be accepted by the Commission, beginning August 4, on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications post-marked July 30 or later will be accepted.

Farmers can receive tax credits of up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation for 50 or 75 percent of the total cost of a conservation project, depending on the best management practice implemented. Farmers may qualify for a 50 percent tax credit to purchase no-till planting equipment.


Applicants are encouraged to work with their local County Conservation District to ensure that eligibility criteria for the program are met. This includes conservation, agricultural erosion and sedimentation control, and nutrient management plans, if required for a farming operation.

At their May 14th meeting, the Bucks County Conservation District's Board of Directors approved an administrative fee of \$50 for applications requesting up to \$49,999 in credit, and \$100 for applications requesting from \$50,000 to \$150,000 in credit. Delaware, Chester, and Montgomery County Conservation Districts have not adopted a fee schedule for applications, but do prioritize those applicants with a Conservation Plan.

Priority is given to farmers who have a conservation plan implemented and their district has direct knowledge of the farm operation. Second priority is given to farmers who have a conservation plan, but are in the process of implementing it. This may require a site visit.

Guidelines and applications for the 2008-09 REAP program are available at www.agriculture.state.pa.us/REAP. For those without Internet access, the Commission can mail an application. For more information about the program, contact your local County Conservation District, or REAP Program Administrator Mary Bender at 717-787-8821 or via mabender@state.pa.us.

Gretchen Schatschneider, Bucks County CD

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Project Oversight: Who's going to be there when the silt goes down?

When the rain falls it becomes the most crucial time on a construction site. It becomes a time when swift action might determine whether sediment stays on your site or ends up in the stream. This is the reason why I cannot stress enough the importance of project oversight.

What do I mean by project oversight? Well, it's a person designated to have control over the implementation of the E&S plan. Which is simply put, someone who will be there when there's a sediment pollution event occurring. Also, someone who can answer a technician's questions when conflicts with the sequence arise.


In my travels, I have come across far too many sites where it is obvious that there is no one keeping track of the day-to-day operations at the site. It's kind of a big deal, for instance, when EPA came to a site and the normal site rep was away and I knew more about the site than his replacement. Granted, some of these sites may be dormant or construction has temporarily ceased. That's why you should be sure to stay in contact with your conservation district and keep them astride of your NPDES permitted site.

In conclusion, here are a few things to remember as contractors: Make sure that the site representative is clearly defined at the pre-construction meeting. Inform the District who this person is and make sure that they know their duty. Make sure that all pertinent contact information is provided: phone, email and trailer location. When we need to do an inspection this is the first person that we will locate if we need answers about the site. Make sure you become as familiar as possible with the E&S plan and the sequence, so when the rain does come, you'll be ready.

Kevin Boyle

Delaware County Conservation District


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As Gas costs go up, so do Conservation District Fees

Due to the increased costs to provide services, two districts in SEPA have approved revisions to District Fee Schedules.

The Bucks County Conservation District has revised its application and fee schedule for Erosion and Sedimentation Plan reviews effective February 15, 2008. The new 2008 application and fee schedule has been distributed to all municipalities, engineering firms and contractors on file and is available at www.bucksccd.org.

Chester County Conservation District increased and changed formulas for the District Fee for Services. Changes include a base fee schedule and a "Tier Two Fee". Projects that have environmental constraints or do not provide specific BMPs will require an additional fee of \$1000.00. The criteria developed for the Tier Two fee was based on estimates of increased cost for review, inspection and other services for projects of a similar nature. Chester County is the first conservation district in the PA to institute a fee based on environmental site issues. The Chester/Delaware Homebuilders Association provided input to the CD on the changes.

CCCD hired an additional Urban Resource Conservationist to ensure and continue timely services in the Chapter 102 and NPDES Permit Program. CCCD is the first district to sign a new delegation agreement with PADEP to provide assistance and review of Post Construction Stormwater Management Plans associated with the NPDES program.

At the current time, Montgomery and Delaware County District fee schedules have not changed.

For information on Southeast Pennsylvania Conservation Districts, including application forms and fee schedules, visit their websites, shown on the back of this newsletter.

*Camille Peters, Bucks County CD
& Dan Greig, Chester County CD*

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Envirothon Competitions

Delaware County:

The 16th Annual Delaware County Envirothon was held April 29th at Ridley Creek State Park. The Penncrest High School - Gold Team set a new record high score for our local event. The Penncrest High School - Red Team finished in Second Place, and Strath Haven High School - White Sucker Team was the Third Place winner. In Delaware County each high school is permitted to enter two teams. Our Combined Team awards were as follows: First Place - Penncrest, Second Place - Strath Haven, and Third Place - Haverford.

The Penncrest Gold Team then traveled to State College to compete in the State Envirothon competition held May 19-20. Team advisors Mark Samilenko and Chrissa Kuntz, and team members Alex Senko, Elizabeth Freeburg, Katie Davis, Katie Ferguson and Jennifer Walker finished in first place. They are now eligible to participate at the 21st Canon Envirothon North American competition to be held July 28-Aug. 3 at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Ariz. Penncrest HS has competed in this event several times twice and finished in first place.

Chester County:

Great Valley HS Team A won the 2008 Chester County Envirothon by a slim margin over Downingtown East! The championship was the 16th win out of the last 17 years for Great Valley HS and coach Laurie Buechle, Great Valley HS science and biology teacher, who coached the team. This year was especially gratifying for science teacher, Laurie Buechle, as it is her final year as coach.

At the Senior Level, Great Valley A won the overall title with top scores in Wildlife and Forestry while Downingtown East compiled the high scores in soils and the 2008 Current Issue: *Recreational Impacts on the Natural Environment*. Malvern Prep posted the highest score in Aquatics. Great Valley A represented Chester County in the 2008 Pennsylvania Envirothon in May.

Chester County opens the event to first through 12th graders thanks to our generous sponsors. We would like to thank our Champion Sponsors of the Envirothon: Cedar Knoll Builders, Iacobucci Homes, and Pennsylvania-American Water Company. With their support, our Envirothon was able to host 440 students from 40 different schools. Many thanks to our volunteers, sponsors, coaches, and students for another successful Envirothon!

Bucks County:

On April 24th students from 4 high schools attended the Bucks County Envirothon. With its disc golf course, canoe rental and walking, biking and horseback riding trails, this year's venue, Tyler State Park, was the perfect spot to hold the event.

Commissioner Diane Marseglia spoke to the students about the Sierra Club's Cool Counties Initiative. Pennsylvania's Bucks County now joins the ranks of counties across America pledging to reduce global warming emissions 80 percent by 2050, and becomes the first county in Pennsylvania to make that pledge.

The winners, announced Marseglia were: First Place - Neshaminy HS Team #1; Second Place - Central Bucks East HS Team C; Third Place - Neshaminy HS Team #2.

In addition to District staff and Education Committee members the following agencies were represented. PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, US Army Corps of Engineers, DCNR State Parks and Bureau of Forestry, Heritage Conservancy, Bucks County Health Department and PA DEP.

New District Employees

Daniel Oskiera, Montgomery County CD – Erosion & Sediment Control Technician

Daniel Oskiera is was hired by the Montgomery County Conservation District in April as an Erosion and Sediment Control Technician. Daniel will focus primarily on erosion and sedimentation plan review at the district. His previous experience includes work at both the Montgomery County Health Department as an Environmental Health Specialist, and an internship with the PA Department of Agriculture Region 7. Daniel graduated in 2005 from Shippensburg University with a B.S. in Geoenvironmental Studies and a GIS certification. To contact Daniel, call (610) 489-4506 or email doskiera@montgomeryconservation.org.



Meghan Rogalus, Bucks County CD – Watershed Specialist

Meghan Rogalus was raised in Upper Makefield Township and is delighted to return to her roots in Bucks County to join the Bucks County Conservation District as their new Watershed Specialist. Meghan attended Colby College in Waterville, Maine where she completed her B.A. in Biology with a concentration in Environmental Science in 2002. After graduation, she served as an AmeriCorps Watershed Educator with the Maine DEP. During her year of service, and conducted statewide educational programs on water quality and aquatic habitat protection. She then earned an M.S. in Water Resources at the University of Vermont (UVM) in 2006. Since then, she worked as Assistant to the Director of UVM's Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory To contact Meghan, call 215.345.7577 x107 or email her at MeghanRogalus@BucksCCD.org.




Joe Sofranko, Chester County CD – Urban Resource Conservationist

Two and a half years ago, Joe Sofranko, Urban Resource Conservationist, left the Chester County Conservation District to work in the private sector as a municipal inspector. As an inspector, he was involved in several aspects of municipal government including: zoning enforcement, building inspections, MS4 reporting, construction site inspections and general consulting. It became apparent to Joe that, although he found the private sector challenging and provided professional and personal growth, his internal compass was pointing him in the direction of conservation implementation.

In spring 2008, the District created a new Urban Resource Conservationist position for which Joe applied, interviewed, was offered and accepted. He says, "Through my experience in the private sector I learned much about the workings of local government and learned much about myself. I am thrilled to be back and am looking forward to getting back in the swing of Conservation District life and to bring back anything I can from my previous employment." Joe can be contacted at jsofranko@chesco.org 610-925-4920 X 107.





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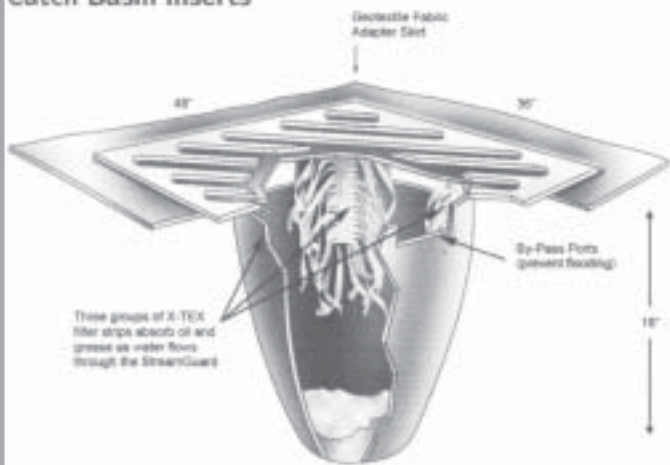
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