

South Carolina NPDES Permit # SCR030000
Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (SMS4)
Annual Report

Permit Coverage #SCR030000

Reporting Period: 1/1/2023 – 12/31/2023

Permittee: Georgetown County

Program Name: Stormwater

Reporting for more than one Program:

(Prepare copies of this page for each Program and attach to this report.)

Responsible Official Information

(Enter the information of the principal executive officer, mayor, or other duly authorized employee/elected official.)

Name: Angela Christian

Title: County Administrator

Telephone Number: (843) 545-3006

E-mail Address: achristian@gtcounty.org

Mailing Address: 716 Prince St, Georgetown, SC 29440

Program Manager Information

(Enter the information of the person who is responsible for daily implementation of the program.)

Name: Robert E. Turner, IV, PE

Title: Stormwater Manager/ Chief Engineer

Telephone Number: (843) 545-3522

E-mail Address: rturner@gtcounty.org

Mailing Address: 129 Screven Street, Georgetown, SC 29440

Certification

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Responsible Official Signature: Angela Christian Date: 12/31/23
(The responsible official may authorize another person or person occupying a specific position to certify this report if this authorization is made in writing and submitted to the Department. Please attach a copy of the authorization with this report, if applicable)

Submit the annual report to:

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Bureau of Water, Water Pollution Compliance Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

Questions? Contact (803) 898-4300

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YEAR 10 NPDES ANNUAL REPORT

Enter Permit Years

Name of Permittee: Georgetown County

ENTER NAME OF MS4 PERMITTEE ABOVE

Annual Report Information

The following information is applicable to the above-referenced permittee:

§1.4 OBTAINING AUTHORITY

Sec.	Item	Yes	No	NA
1.4.8	Have there been any areas annexed into your MS4 area after you received coverage under this general permit? <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> No areas have been annexed into Georgetown County's MS4 area since receiving coverage under this general permit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1.4.8 & 4.5.4.1	If yes, has your SWMP been updated to include these areas and a schedule for BMP implementation in these areas? <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> No areas have been annexed into Georgetown County's MS4 area since receiving coverage under this general permit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

§3.1 DETERMINATION OF RECEIVING WATER CONDITIONS AND IMPACTS

Sec.	Item	Yes	No	NA
3.1.1.1	Refer to the most recent CWA §303(d) list approved by EPA to determine WQMS impairment status. Have there been any impaired stations added to the 303(d) list that your SMS4 discharges to? <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> The 2022 303(d) list was verified and 2 impaired stations have been added to which Georgetown County's MS4 contributes RT 15105 and RT18169 have been added.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.1.1	Refer to the most recent CWA §303(d) list approved by EPA to determine WQMS impairment status. Have there been any impaired stations removed from the 303(d) list that your SMS4 discharges to? <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> The 2022 303(d) list was verified and no impaired stations have been removed to which Georgetown County's MS4 contributes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.1.1.1	If there have been impaired stations added to or removed from the 303(d) list that your SMS4 discharges to, identify the pollutant(s) of concern (POC) and update POCs in the SWMP. <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> Two(2) impaired stations have been added to which Georgetown County's MS4 contributes, adding the POCs of Enterococci and Dissolved Oxygen.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.1.1.2	Have any new TMDLs been approved that your SMS4 discharges to? <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> No new TMDLs have been approved to which the Georgetown County MS4 area contributes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

§3.2 TMDL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Sec.	Item	Yes	No	NA
3.2.1.2.1.d	<p>Does your SMS4 discharge to TMDL waters?</p> <p>ANSWER / COMMENT</p> <p>Georgetown County's MS4 area drains to Murrells Inlet Estuary, which has a TMDL for Fecal Coliform with an effective date of July 9, 2005.</p> <p>Georgetown County's SMS4 area also discharges to the AIWW-Waccamaw River TMDL watershed, impaired for dissolved oxygen. This TMDL states that available data and modeling indicates that stormwater and nonpoint sources do not contribute to the DO depression, and are thus not assigned a WLA.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.1.2.1.d	<p>If yes, include the resulting data in SWMP.</p> <p>ANSWER / COMMENT</p> <p>The general permit requirements for the Murrells Inlet TMDL Monitoring and Assessment have been previously completed. As stated in a letter to SCDHEC, dated February 27, 2015, Horry and Georgetown Counties previously summarized and evaluated monitoring data for the development of the Murrell's Inlet Watershed Plan, which was completed in 2014 and is included as Appendix C of the SWMP. This Plan meets the requirements of Section 3.2, TMDL Monitoring and Assessment, of the general permit.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.2.1.2.2.c	<p>Have updates to the TMDL Monitoring and Assessment Plans been made?</p> <p>ANSWER / COMMENT</p> <p>The Murrells Inlet Watershed Plan, which includes the requirements of a TMDL Monitoring and Assessment Plan, was previously completed in 2014. Monitoring efforts in the Murrells Inlet Watershed have been ongoing and were recently enhanced to include the fecal coliform analysis of storm-based sampling by an SCDHEC certified lab, as stated in a letter to SCDHEC, dated February 27, 2015. Coastal Carolina University (CCU) supports the monitoring of flow into the Inlet at strategic outfalls located in both Georgetown and Horry County, funded by both counties. Georgetown County uses this information to address any immediate threats to the Inlet related to the TMDL.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2.1.2.2.d and 3.3.6	<p>Provide a brief narrative on the progress of the TMDL Monitoring and Assessment Plan.</p> <p>ANSWER / COMMENT</p> <p>As stated above, the Murrells Inlet TMDL Monitoring and Assessment Plan has been completed and is included as Appendix C of the SWMP.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Appendix B	<p>Provide a brief narrative identifying the water quality improvements or degradation.</p> <p>ANSWER / COMMENT</p> <p>The Murrells Inlet Watershed Plan presents a fecal coliform trend analysis using data from DHEC and the Volunteer Monitoring Program, as well as other local sources.</p> <p>Georgetown County, in partnership with Horry County and other interested parties, are implementing various BMPs and measures identified in the Watershed Plan. Continued monitoring efforts will evaluate the watershed scale effectiveness of the BMP implementation. CCU supports monitoring of outfalls located in the watershed to help understand the quality of water flowing into the Inlet.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

§3.3 TMDL IMPLEMENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Sec.	Item	Yes	No	NA
3.3.2	<p>Was your SMS4 required to submit a TMDL Implementation Plan?</p> <p>ANSWER / COMMENT</p> <p>The Murrells Inlet Watershed Plan completed in 2014 contains the requirements for the TMDL Implementation Plan, as indicated in a letter to SCDHEC dated June 3, 2015.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3.6	<p>Provide a brief narrative on the progress of the TMDL Implementation and Analysis Plan.</p> <p>ANSWER / COMMENT</p> <p>Georgetown County, in partnership with Horry County and other interested parties, are implementing various BMPs and measures identified in the Watershed Plan. Georgetown County has installed Filtrexx tubes in two locations within the County, installed floating wetlands in a community pond, and designed and installed a constructed wetland to intercept first flush runoff from stormwater prior to its discharge into Murrells Inlet Estuary in Georgetown County. CCU assists the Counties in monitoring the quality of water at these outfalls.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

§4.1 PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

Sec.	Item	Yes	No	NA
4.1.6.1, 5.3.1,	<p>Has your SWMP been reviewed and updated to include the status of your compliance with permit conditions, an assessment of the appropriateness of the identified BMP, progress towards achieving the statutory goal of reducing the discharge of pollutants to the MEP, and the measurable goals for each of the minimum control measures.</p> <p><small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> Georgetown County's SWMP has been reviewed and updated. The Minimum Measure Permit Requirements tables were appropriate and accurately represent progress. The BMP Minimum Measures Tables are completed with measurable goal updates to show progress for each program component. The BMPs in the SWMP have been developed with the intent of reducing the discharge of pollutants to the MEP. Progress made towards implementing these BMPs indicates progress towards reducing the discharge of pollutants.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.6.2	<p>Have your proposed changes to the stormwater management programs that are established as permit conditions been updated in your SWMP?</p> <p><small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> The Georgetown County SWMP has been updated to record the progress made towards implementing the stormwater management programs established as permit conditions.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.6.3	<p>Include/revise an assessment of controls and the fiscal analysis. In this, include a description of staff resources necessary to meet the requirements of this permit.</p> <p><small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> Georgetown County executes a stormwater utility fee to fund its Stormwater Program. This fund is used for staff and overhead expenditures to enable the County to comply with federal regulations as well as protect the community through improved drainage and protection of local waters.</p> <p>Georgetown County understands the importance of the requirements of the permit as a legal obligation as well as a responsibility to protect Georgetown County's water quality. Georgetown County currently has a staff of six (6) employees to assist with the implementation of its Stormwater Program.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.1.6.4, 5.3.2	<p>Has a summary of data, including monitoring data, that has been accumulated been added to the appendix?</p> <p><small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> As discussed in the TMDL Monitoring and Assessment section above, Georgetown County has completed the monitoring and assessment of the Murrells Inlet Watershed required for Section 3.2, TMDL Monitoring and Assessment, of the general permit. Georgetown County, along with Horry County, is currently working to enhance their monitoring efforts to continue monitoring the impacts on water quality.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.1.6.5	<p>Include a summary describing the number and nature of enforcement actions.</p> <p><small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> The County has developed an Enforcement Response Plan (ERP), located in Appendix F of the SWMP, to provide guidance in identifying specific violation types and defining appropriate responses for construction/permitting violations, illicit discharge/illegal connection/improper waste disposal, failure to comply with permanent stormwater management requirements, failure to comply with a permit, and failure to comply with a County request. Enforcement actions taken during the reporting period are described here.</p> <p>Georgetown County actively monitors their SMS4 area to protect its receiving waters. During the reporting period, Georgetown County recorded 58 enforcement actions, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 53 Correction Notices were issued on construction sites. • 5 Stop Work Order issued on a construction sites that either did not make corrections or had material leaving the site. 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All corrective actions were followed up on and resolved.

4.1.6.5	<p>Include a summary describing the number and nature of inspections <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>ANSWER / COMMENT</p> <p>All inspections and follow up inspections are documented as necessary and kept on record. The following inspections have been conducted in 2023:</p> <p><u>Construction:</u> The County performed 1019 construction inspections during 2023. These inspections are documented and filed for each construction project.</p> <p><u>Post-Construction:</u> The County performed 24 post-construction BMP inspections during the reporting period. These inspections are conducted within 30 days of construction completion. No post-construction inspections to verify maintenance were performed during year 8.</p> <p><u>Municipal Facilities:</u> The County performed annual inspections on the 12 high priority facilities during the reporting period.</p> <p><u>Illicit Discharges:</u> The County investigated 4 potential illicit discharges. These discharges were determined to be illicit discharges; the County reached out to the property owners and the discharges were removed and properly addressed. No further corrective actions were required.</p>
4.1.6.5	<p>Include a summary describing the number and nature of public education programs. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>ANSWER / COMMENT</p> <p>Georgetown County maintains a contract with the Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium (CWSEC) to manage the Public Education and Outreach (MCM#1) and Public Involvement/Participation (MCM#2) program components.</p> <p>The CWSEC webpage includes the CWSEC annual reports for calendar year 2023.</p> <p>It is important to note that CWSEC includes several communities: City of North Myrtle Beach; City of Myrtle Beach; Town of Atlantic Beach; Town of Briarcliffe Acres; Town of Surfside Beach; City of Conway; Horry County; and Georgetown County.</p> <p>The CWSEC annual reports can be found at this website: Archives College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences Clemson University, South Carolina</p> <p>Georgetown County has participated in seven (7) Public Education and Outreach events with local education institutions. The seven events totaled in approximately 9,000 students. The County has also distributed 30,000 pet waste bags, hosted a Tax Payer academy, hosted Stormwater Awareness week via social media, and participated in Household Hazardous Waste events in regard to Public Involvement and Participation.</p> <p>In addition, the County has a comprehensive stormwater website with educational information. There were approximately 7,000 of hits for 2023.</p>
4.2.3.2.7.b	<p>Include an assessment of the effectiveness of the Field Screening component of the IDDE program to determine if the level of effort is <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>

	adequate in attaining the effective prohibition of non-stormwater discharges into the MS4. <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> The field screening measures included in the IDDE program have been included in the <i>Standard Operating Procedure for Use in Field Investigations for Illicit Discharges</i> and have been used to effectively investigate reported IDDEs. Any confirmed IDDE's have been removed indicating the Field Screening component is working as intended.			
4.2.3.2.7.b	Were there any updates found to be necessary to the Field Screening component? <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> A <i>Standard Operating Procedure for Use in Field Investigations for Illicit Discharges</i> has been completed and no updates have been needed. Any confirmed IDDE's have been removed indicating the Field Screening component is working as intended.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.2.3.2.7.e	Include any corrective actions taken/resulting enforcement actions to eliminate illicit discharges. <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> Georgetown County observed 2 illicit discharges within their SMS4 area during the reporting period. The County reached out to the property owners and the discharges were removed and properly addressed. No corrective actions were required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

§4.5 REVIEWING AND UPDATING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLANS

Sec.	Item	Yes	No	NA
4.5.1, 5.3.4	Have you reviewed and updated your SWMP, including changes to any BMP or any identified measureable goals that apply to the program elements? <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> Georgetown County's SWMP has been reviewed and updated. The Minimum Measure Permit Requirements tables accurately represent progress and the BMP Minimum Measures Tables were appended with measurable goal updates to show progress for each program component.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3.3	Has a summary of the stormwater activities you plan to undertake during the next reporting cycle been developed and updated? <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> Georgetown County's SWMP has been updated to reflect a current schedule of stormwater activities the County plans to undertake to continue compliance with the existing, expired permit. The County will continue the ongoing activities until the release of a new permit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3.5	Is your SMS4 relying on another entity to satisfy some of your permit obligations? <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> Georgetown County relies on Clemson University's Carolina Clear Education Program and the Coastal Waccamaw Stormwater Education Consortium (CWSEC), to ensure compliance with the permit for MCM #1 (Public Education and Outreach) and MCM #2 (Public Involvement/ Participation). Georgetown County relies on Coastal Carolina University (CCU) to ensure compliance with the permit for MCM #1 (Public Education and Outreach), MCM #2 (Public Involvement/ Participation), and MCM #3 (Illicit Discharge, Detection and Elimination). CCU conducts various water quality testing for Georgetown County. Georgetown County's contract with Clemson University and Coastal Carolina University is Appendix G of their SWMP. Also, Georgetown County relies on Woolpert, Inc. to ensure compliance with the permit for MCM # 4 (Construction Site Runoff Control). Woolpert, Inc. provides plan review services for the County.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Provide annual expenditures and proposed budget, including legal restrictions in the use of such funds for the following year. <small>ANSWER / COMMENT</small> Georgetown County executes a stormwater utility fee to fund its Stormwater Program. This fund is used for staff and overhead expenditures to enable the County to comply with federal regulations as well as protect the community through improved drainage and protection of local waters. The annual budget is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FY2023(actual): \$1,527,000.00 FY2024(Projected): \$1,600,00.00 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>