Stormwater Sampling

Introduction:

Operators of industrial facilities that discharge stormwater are required to collect and analyze stormwater discharge samples as part of their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit applications. Parameters, frequency, benchmarks, monitoring periods, and reporting methods vary by state and are often determined by the facility's industrial activity. James Environmental Management, Inc. provides customized stormwater sample kits and reporting services for customers to remain compliant with specific regulations.

Discussion Points:

- Facilities Required to Conduct Stormwater Sampling
- Contents of Sample Kit
- Taking the Samples
- Packaging and Shipping

Discussion:

Industrial activities at your site are often classified by a Standard Industrial Code (SIC Code). The Industrial Stormwater General Permit requires that your facility conduct sampling of stormwater discharges on a regular schedule which will be listed in the permit for your state.

All supplies and instructions needed to perform the tests are included in the sample kit that you will receive from the laboratory. It is important that you plan for the sampling event ahead of time because the opportunity to sample during the storm may come with little advanced notice depending on the state in which your facility is located. The National Weather Service is a good source of information for upcoming storms. The samples for the test must be collected within the first 30 minutes of the start of discharge. The person who will be performing the sampling should be at the facility before the storm begins so they can setup to take the sample and document the time of the discharge. If it is not possible to take the sample within the first 30 minutes of the start of discharge, the sample must be collected as soon as possible and an explanation of this occurrence must be documented. When taking the sample be careful to grab a clean sample and avoid stirring up sediment, and do not take samples from standing water. The Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form includes the required parameters for your facility.

As always, stay safe out there!