9.0 Stormwater Quality Treatment Requirements

### 9.1 Calculating Required Nutrient Load Reduction

Applicants are required to provide nutrient load reduction calculations in their application. To calculate the required stormwater nutrient load reduction for a project, the applicant should:

* Determine whether the site falls within the same HUC 12 as, and is upstream of, an OFW or impaired water, and select the corresponding performance standard from Section 8.3 of this volume.
* Determine the pre-development average annual average mass loading of the project site for both total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) through modeling or as described in Section 9.2.
* Calculate the project site’s post-development annual average mass loading without treatment for both TN and TP through modeling or as described in Section 9.2.
* Determine the percent TN and TP reduction needed as defined within Sections 8.3 and 9.3 of this volume. The greater percent load reduction will be the requirement for the project.
* Determine which BMPs will be used to meet the required TN and TP load reductions. Information on how to calculate nutrient load reduction for BMP Treatment Train is found in Section 9.5 of this volume.

### 9.2 Calculating Nutrient Loading

**9.2.1 Calculating Predevelopment and Post development Hydrology**

The applicant shall determine the pre-development and post development characteristics of the project site. If the project site encompasses multiple drainage basins or catchments, determine the predevelopment and post development characteristics for each within the project site. For the purposes of this analysis, estimates of annual runoff volumes shall be performed using the method described herein or another methodology based on modeling. If modeling is used to determine hydrology, at a minimum the applicant shall submit the program used, inputs, and outputs. The methodology to determine the hydrology of the site by hand is outlined in paragraphs a. through f. below.

a. This Handbook’s methodology provides tabular solutions to a series of calculations for determining annual runoff volumes for each of the state’s designated meteorological zones as outlined in Appendix M. Appendix M also lists the individual counties included in each meteorological zone. Use this table to determine the project’s meteorological zone first and then continue to the determination of mean annual run off associated with the project location.

b. The percent of Directly Connected Impervious Area (DCIA) should be calculated for each land use type in the project area. DCIA consists of those impervious areas that are directly connected to the stormwater conveyance system. Impervious areas also are considered to be DCIA if stormwater from the area occurs as concentrated shallow flow over a short pervious area such as grass. Non-directly connected impervious (Non-DCIA) areas include all pervious areas and portions of impervious areas that flow over at least 10 feet of undisturbed pervious areas with HSG A or B soils and over at least 20 feet of undisturbed pervious area for other soil types unless demonstrated a narrower width would provide enough infiltration to disconnect the impervious area.

c. Appendix N provides a summary of calculated mean annual runoff coefficients (“ROC value”) as a function of curve number and DCIA for each of the five designated meteorological zones. The values summarized in Appendix N reflect the average long-term ROC values for each of the five designated zones over a wide range of DCIA and curve number combinations. Determine the ROC value for each land use category in a catchment for the project area. Linear interpolation can be used to estimate annual runoff coefficients for combinations of DCIA and curve numbers that fall between the values in the Table. For “naturally occurring” undeveloped conditions, it should be assumed that the percent DCIA is equal to 0.0.

d. This method should be used for each catchment area on the site to provide the most accurate runoff volume.

e. To calculate hydrology and pollutant loading from a catchment area in the proposed project site, applicants can develop a table similar to Table 9.1 to summarize land use information.

Table 9.1 Example Land Use Categories Matrix to Calculate Loadings

| Pre-development | Total watershed area | Non-DCIA CN | DCIA percentage | Calculated ROC Value |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Low Density Residential |  |  |  |  |
| Single Family |  |  |  |  |
| Multi-Family |  |  |  |  |
| Low Intensity Commercial |  |  |  |  |
| High Intensity Commercial |  |  |  |  |
| Light Industrial |  |  |  |  |
| Highway |  |  |  |  |
| Natural Vegetated Community |  |  |  |  |

| Post-development | Total watershed area | Non-DCIA CN | DCIA percentage | Calculated C |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Low Density Residential |  |  |  |  |
| Single Family |  |  |  |  |
| Multi-Family |  |  |  |  |
| Low Intensity Commercial |  |  |  |  |
| High Intensity Commercial |  |  |  |  |
| Light Industrial |  |  |  |  |
| Highway |  |  |  |  |
| Natural Vegetated Community |  |  |  |  |

f. Determine the Annual Runoff Volume. The information contained in Table 9.1 and Appendix N is used to estimate the Annual Runoff Volume for a given catchment area under either predevelopment or post-development conditions. The Average Annual Rainfall should be obtained using the method described in Section 9.4. To calculate the Annual Runoff Volume for the site; the area of the site, average annual rainfall, and the appropriate ROC value are multiplied. This is shown in equation 9-1:

Equation 9-1

**9.2.2**  **Calculation of Predevelopment and Post Development Stormwater Nutrient Loading**

a. To calculate the predevelopment and post development annual mass loadings of TN and TP , multiply the predevelopment annual runoff volume (derived in Section 9.2.1) by the land use specific runoff characterization data (event mean concentrations or EMCs) for TN and TP. EMC Values are listed in Table 9.2 for different types of land use categories. These land use categories are described in Appendix O. EMC values for the land uses must consider cover, soils, and topography and be representative of the latest assigned Florida Land Use and Cover Classification System (FLUCCS) code. Wetlands, like waterbodies, are not to be considered nutrient load contributors, however, should concentrated flows from these regions contribute to a project site and co-mingle with onsite runoff, the nutrient load from upland contributing flows, and any subsequent nutrient reduction shall be included within the nutrient load calculations. Applicants must use the most up-to-date verified EMC values available for their project region. Applicants also must comply with the applicable special basin or geographic area criteria in chapter 62-330.301(1)(k), F.A.C. including any EMC values specified in the applicable Applicant’s Handbook Volume II;

Table 9.2 Standardized Statewide Stormwater Nutrient EMC Values

| Land Use Category | Total N (mg/l) | Total P (mg/l) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Low Density Residential | 1.65 | 0.270 |
| Single Family | 2.07 | 0.327 |
| Multi-Family | 2.32 | 0.520 |
| Low Intensity Commercial | 1.13 | 0.188 |
| High Intensity Commercial | 2.40 | 0.345 |
| Light Industrial | 1.20 | 0.260 |
| Highway | 1.52 | 0.200 |
| General Natural | 1.22 | 0.213 |
| General Agricultural | 2.29 | 0.381 |
| Pasture | 3.03 | 0.593 |
| Citrus | 2.11 | 0.180 |
| Row Crops | 2.50 | 0.577 |

b. At the time of the application, an applicant may propose to use TN and TP EMC values accepted by the Agency which denote EMC values derived from regional or local government studies . Any study conducted must be submitted with the permit application for the Agency records. If EMC values from a study are to be used, data collected must follow quality assurance provisions outlined in chapter 62-160, F.A.C., and include:

* Data collected at a representative variety of rainfall depths;
* Minimum of 7 rainfall events;
* Minimum of two years of data with seasonal variation;
* Use of autosamplers to allow for runoff to be sampled for the duration of the rainfall event;
* Volume or time weighted composite samples;
* Sampling occurring at point of discharge just upstream of any stormwater treatment on site;
* Minimum of three or more sites with this land use category depending on the variability of the land use category;
* Sample locations must be representative of site conditions; and
* Data collected for all land use EMCs for the region.

Additionally, the contributing area to the sample site should represent a single land use type, and the results of the study should be reasonably consistent with other similar scientific studies and watershed plans. If this study is intended to be used for more than one site area, then this study will only be applicable for the region specified by the study area, not to exceed a HUC 8 area.

c. Determine the average annual mass loading. The average annual mass loading calculation is provided in Equation 9-2 below.

Equation 9-2

The components of Equation 9-2 are expressed in different units and require some conversion

factors, as provided below.

### 9.3 Determination of required treatment efficiency

Predevelopment and post development loadings are calculated, and subsequently compared, based on the average annual loading of TN and TP discharged. Equation 9-3 calculates the treatment efficiency needed so that the post development average annual loading of nutrients equals the predevelopment nutrient loading:

Equation 9-3: Percent reduction calculation

Compare the result from equation 9-3 to the percent reduction required in the applicable paragraph of Section 8.3. The greater load reduction (the more protective) will be the requirement for the project. Once the load reduction has been determined, use Equation 9-4 to find the required treated loading rate for TN and TP for the project.

Equation 9-4: Post development maximum load to meet % treatment required

Another method to determine the loading rate required for the project is to use the percent reduction required in Section 8.3 of this volume in Equation 9-4, where Load Reduction is the percent reduction expressed as a fraction, then compare the result to the predevelopment loading. If the resultant loading of Equation 9-4 is less than that of the predevelopment loading, then the percent reduction required in the applicable paragraph of Section 8.3 must be used in the stormwater design. If the resultant loading is greater than that of the predevelopment loading, than the applicant must treat the site to a level that would result in a post development loading equal to or less than that of the predevelopment loading.

### 9.4 Rainfall data

Calculations for the annual average mass loading will use the average annual rainfall data determined by National Centers for Environmental Information for the site area, as incorporated in Appendix M which displays isopleths for the average annual rainfall data. This rainfall data was developed from the a recent 30 year period of rainfall data.

### 9.5 Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Stormwater Treatment

Once the pre-development and post-development loadings have been calculated and the

required percent reduction of TN and TP have been established, the stormwater treatment

system can be designed. Stormwater treatment can be achieved in a variety of ways. Best management Practices (BMPs) are an effective tool for achieving the treatment efficiencies required by Section 8. The applicant must show that the stormwater treatment system complies with the hydraulic and hydrologic general design requirements in the applicable AH Volume II. If the applicant chooses to use a BMP that is not listed in the applicable AH Volume II, Section 9.5.2 below describes the requirements for alternative designs. Methods to determine the treatment efficiencies of traditional BMPs for stormwater treatment are described in Appendix P.

If the post development maximum load for TN and TP are met with a single BMP, the applicant shall complete the design of the stormwater treatment system. If the maximum load is not met, the applicant shall either modify the selected BMP or incorporate additional BMPs to achieve the required TN or TP load reductions.

**9.5.1** **Treatment Train Nutrient Reduction**

BMPs can be implemented in combination or in conjunction with one another in a series called a "BMP Treatment Train." If used, BMP Treatment Train efficiencies must account for the reduced loading transferred to subsequent downstream treatment devices. As stormwater pollutant concentrations are reduced in each BMP in the treatment train, the ability of a BMP Treatment Train to further reduce stormwater pollutant concentrations and loads is diminished. This is shown in Equation 9-5. This equation assumes each BMP acts independently of upstream BMPs and that upstream BMPs do not impact performance of downstream BMPs. If the BMP acts in combination with the upstream BMP, the designer will consider the use of another methodology to determine the resultant efficiency of the BMP Treatment Train.

Equation 9-5: Overall Treatment Train Efficiency for systems in series

Eff1 = efficiency of initial treatment system

Eff2 = efficiency of second treatment system

Eff3 = efficiency of third treatment system

**9.5.2 Alternative Designs**

An applicant can propose alternative BMPs not listed in the AH Volume II Handbooks. These will be considered by the Agency as alternative designs and evaluated based on engineering plans, quality assurance plans, representative monitoring data in Florida, and test results for the specific site conditions of the project. Applicants must provide reasonable assurance that their proposed alternative designs provide the level of treatment that they claim and that will achieve the required performance standards in this Volume, either by the alternative design by themself or in conjunction with other BMPs. In determining whether the alternative design provides this reasonable assurance, the Agency will consider:

* + 1. Whether the alternative BMP has been appropriately tested and reviewed by scientific methods to substantiate its treatment efficiency claim; and
    2. Whether acceptable provisions have been made to ensure that the system will be effectively operated and maintained, as described in Section 12 of this volume.

**9.5.3**  **Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Low Impact Design**

The Agencies encourage the use of Low Impact Design (LID) approaches, such as Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI), which can be used to supplement or replace traditional stormwater infrastructure for managing the impacts of rain and stormwater runoff. GSI and LID reduce pollution and treat stormwater by detaining or retaining rainfall near its source instead of directing. When applied early in the design process, low impact design techniques can reduce stormwater runoff volume and pollutants generated from project sites. Thus, the use of GSI and LID may reduce stormwater treatment BMP size requirements. GSI and LID, depending on the technology, can also treat stormwater in a manner similar to a traditional BMP by treating TN and TP. Typical GSI and LID features are described in the Applicant’s Handbook Volume IIs and BMP library.

**9.5.4 Airport Design**

Airport projects that cannot use the General Permit for Construction, Operation, Maintenance, Alteration, Abandonment or Removal of Airport Airside Stormwater Management Systems, 62–330.449 FAC, including landside components of airports, may be planned, analyzed, designed, built, and maintained using the data and methodologies set forth in the *Statewide Airport Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual (April 27, 2013)* published by the Florida Department of Transportation - Aviation Office, which is incorporated herein by reference. The option to use this does not preclude using the data and methodologies set forth in other sections of this rule. Also, if this option is used, it shall comply with the nutrient loading criteria contained in Section 8 of this rule and shall use the latest EMC values for landside uses published by FDEP or in the various Water Management Districts’ Applicant’s Handbook - Volume II.”

### 9.6 Off-site Stormwater

The volume of runoff to be treated from a site shall be determined by the minimum level of treatment set forth in Section 8 of this Volume; the type of treatment system (e.g., retention, wet detention, etc.); and the meteorological region (rainfall zone) where the project is proposed. If stormwater runoff from off-site areas is allowed to co-mingle with on-site runoff, then the effects of runoff from these off-site areas must be addressed in the load reduction calculations for the project site, unless the project is exempt from this provision under section 373.413(6), F.S.

### 9.7 Compensating Stormwater Treatment

Occasionally, applicants find that it is impractical to construct a stormwater management system to capture the runoff from a portion of the project site due to on-site conditions such as extreme physical limitations, availability of right-of-way, or maintenance access. Methods have been developed to compensate for the lack of treatment for a portion of a project. Each method is designed to furnish the same level of treatment as if the runoff from the entire project site was captured and treated in accordance with the provisions of this Volume.

The applicant is strongly encouraged to schedule a pre-application meeting with Agency staff to discuss the project if these alternatives are being considered. Other rule criteria, such as peak discharge attenuation, will still have to be met if the applicant utilizes these methods. Each alternative is described in more detail in the following sections.

**9.7.1** **Overtreatment**

Overtreatment means to treat the runoff from the project area that flows to a treatment system to a higher level than the rule requires to make up for the lack of treatment for a portion of the project area. The average treatment efficiency of the treated and untreated areas must meet the pollutant removal goals of Section 8 outlined in this Volume. To meet these goals, the area not being treated generally must be small (less than 10% of total site area or less than one acre for pervious area or half an acre for semi- impervious/impervious area, whichever is less) in relation to the area which is captured and treated. Agency staff can aid in determining the proper level of overtreatment for a particular situation.

**9.7.2** **Off-site Compensation**

Off-site Compensating Stormwater Treatment may be used when on-site treatment is not sufficient to meet the required performance standards. Off-site compensating stormwater treatment used to meet the requirements of Section 8 is ineligible for any water quality credit in the trading provisions/programs in Chapter 62-306, F.A.C.

The following criteria must be met when using off-site treatment, unless off-site treatment is explicitly allowed by section 311.106, F.S.:

* + 1. The proposed off-site area must be owned by the permittee and located within a HUC-12 subwatershed containing the proposed project. The proposed off-site area must be upstream of the proposed project and hydraulically connected to the same water waterbody as the proposed project, unless otherwise noted by the special basin criteria;
    2. The applicant shall use modeling techniques to provide reasonable assurance that the off-site treatment system provides an equivalent amount of pollutant reductions at the point of discharge for the project as if all of the treatment was performed on-site;
    3. The modeling must provide reasonable assurance that there will not be localized adverse impacts to the receiving waterbody or in downstream waters, which may require the application of adjustments based on location and,
    4. Where the operation and maintenance entity does not own the area proposed to be used for off-site treatment, easement(s) shall be granted to the operation and maintenance entity, as required in Section 12.4 of this volume, for the area to allow for perpetual operation and maintenance access to the off-site treatment area.

**9.7.3**  **Regional Stormwater Management Systems**

Regional Stormwater Systems are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to collect convey, store, absorb, inhibit, treat, use or reuse stormwater to prevent or reduce flooding, overdrainage, environmental degradation and water pollution or otherwise affect the quantity and quality of discharges from multiple parcels and projects within the drainage area served by the regional system. The term “drainage area” refers to the land or development that is served by or contributes stormwater to the regional system. This drainage area can be no larger than a HUC 12. Regional systems must be maintained in accordance with the provisions outlined in Section 12 of this volume.

1. Records of stormwater treatment allocations for parcels and projects must be recorded, per Section 12.6(d), and kept by the permit holder of the regional stormwater system in perpetuity.
2. Allocations of load reduction due to stormwater treatment must be measured in pounds or kilograms of pollutant removal.
3. The regional system shall not allocate more load reduction than its permitted design.
4. Discharges from parcels and projects within the drainage area must be connected to drainage collection facilities owned and operated by the permit holder of the regional stormwater system. These drainage collection facilities must be connected to the regional stormwater system and sized to prevent adverse impacts to adjacent properties.

**9.7.4 Reserved - Water Quality Enhancement Areas Credit Trading**