

# THE TEMPEST

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## IDDE Regulation Demystified

One of the requirements of the Town's current Storm Water Permit is to implement an Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Regulation (IDDE). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) defines an illicit discharge as "*any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer system or to the waters of the United States that does not consist entirely of stormwater or allowable non-stormwater discharges.*"

The purpose of this regulation is to detect, eliminate and prevent these non-stormwater discharges from polluting our public waters. Common conditions or activities that could produce, or lead to, illicit discharges include: improper disposal of auto fluids and household hazardous materials, illegal dumping practices, failed or malfunctioning subsurface waste disposal systems, swimming pool discharges (chlorine), road maintenance, outdoor material storage, accidental spills and vehicle fueling. Illicit connections may be intentional or unknown to the landowner. The effect of an illicit discharge is the release of untreated, contaminated wastewater into the local storm drain system or directly into surface waters and wetlands. The IDDE Regulation is designed to prevent contamination of ground and surface water through active monitoring, inspection and elimination of these discharges.



Suspected Illicit Discharge  
After inspection this connection was determined to be from a basement sump pump

Hollis does not have a municipal sewer system. Homes in Hollis depend upon subsurface sewage disposal systems for waste disposal. When properly designed, installed and maintained, these systems provide treatment of wastewater on site. Failed subsurface sewage disposal systems are the most common cause of illicit discharges in residential areas.

Not all non-stormwater discharges are prohibited by the IDDE Regulation. The Regulation includes a list of discharges that are not considered to be significant sources of pollution and are permitted. Following is a short-listing of allowed discharges.

- Waterline flushing
- Flows from potable water sources
- Springs
- Natural flows from riparian habitats and wetlands
- Rising groundwater
- Uncontaminated groundwater or pumped groundwater
- Uncontaminated groundwater discharge from a sump pump
- Discharge from landscape irrigation or lawn watering
- Water from individual residential car washing
- Water from exterior foundation drains

The key to any good regulation is implementation and enforcement. Because of the potential threats to human health and the environment from illicit discharges, the IDDE Regulation will be administered and enforced by the Selectmen and/or its designees. Designees may include the Health Officer, the Town's Septic Inspector and the Code Enforcement Officer. Members of the Stormwater Management Committee will also be monitoring the Town's MS4 Regulated Area for potential pollution sources.

Prior to adoption of any regulation, the Selectmen hold a hearing to obtain public input. This is the public's chance to voice concerns and ask questions about a proposed regulation. The public hearing for the IDDE Regulation is scheduled for **Monday December 14<sup>th</sup> at approximately 7PM in the Town Hall Community Room**. Copies of the proposed IDDE Regulation will be posted on the Town website at [www.hollis.nh.us](http://www.hollis.nh.us) and will be available in hard copy at the Hollis Town Hall.

The Stormwater Management Committee sincerely hopes that the public will support this effort to protect our Town's water supply.