Richland County will pursue self-monitoring only in those instances where a County inspection, the County Wet Weather Monitoring Program, or a County Illicit Discharge Detection Determination indicates a significant potential for impact to storm water quality. All self-monitoring notifications will be made in writing and contain:

- A reference to the appropriate section of the County Storm Water Ordinance authorizing the self-monitoring requirement.
- A list of required sampling parameters. The self-monitoring procedure establishes minimum sample parameters that are common to all self-monitoring notifications. Additional parameters may be added based on assessment of facility specific considerations.
- The requirement for analytical laboratory (i.e., SCDHEC certified laboratory), sample type (i.e., grab), sample location (i.e., storm water outfall), and sampling start date (i.e., begin sampling within the calendar year the self-monitoring notice was received), and sampling frequency (i.e., once annually).
- The self-monitoring reporting requirements (i.e., what, where, and when).
Richland County is a medium municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) covered under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. One of the major requirements contained in the NPDES Permit is the development and implementation of an Industrial and High Risk Runoff Program. As required by the NPDES Permit, Richland County developed and began implementation of an Industrial and High Risk Runoff Program in December 2006. Under the Industrial and High Risk Runoff Program, the County must:

- Identify and locate industrial and high risk facilities;
- Conduct storm water management inspections at industrial and high risk facilities;
- Issue exception notices requiring corrective action where storm water impact is identified; and
- Require industrial and high risk facilities to implement self-monitoring as may be needed to assure compliance with the NPDES Permit.

The purpose of the Richland County Industrial and High Risk Runoff Program is to reduce pollutant loading and improve the quality of storm water runoff discharged from industrial and high risk facilities to the County MS4. For more information visit the Richland County Storm Water Management website: www.richlandonline.com/departments/publicworks/storm.asp.

Who’s Covered?

The Richland County Industrial and High Risk Runoff Program applies to all industrial and high risk facilities located within the political boundary of Richland County that are served by the Richland County MS4 to include the incorporated areas of the City of Forest Acres and the Town of Arcadia Lakes. The Richland County MS4 includes any conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains) designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water.

Richland County evaluates a facility or site for designation as an industrial and high risk facility based on:

- Eleven categories of storm water discharges associated with industrial activity defined in the SCDHEC NPDES industrial general permit
- Eleven categories of industrial and high risk facilities contained in table 2-1 of the Richland County Phase I NPDES storm water permit
- Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Code.
- Material handling and storage practices.
- Evaluation of regulatory databases.
- Illicit discharge monitoring.
- Wet weather monitoring.
- Proximity to an impaired water body.

Members of the Richland County Storm Water Management Division will conduct storm water management inspections at industrial and high risk facilities which are or may be the source of a storm water discharge associated with industrial or high risk activity to the County MS4. These inspections provide the basis for evaluating the overall effectiveness of the industrial or high risk facility’s storm water management practices. As part of the inspection, the inspector will:

- Contact the industrial or high risk facility to set a mutually agreed upon date for the inspection and discuss the inspection purpose and process
- Inspect storm water drainage areas for evidence of pollutants entering the drainage system
- Evaluate the effectiveness of measures to reduce pollutant loadings and whether additional measures are needed.
- Observe structural measures, sediment controls, and other storm water best management practices (BMPs) to ensure proper operation.
- Inspect any equipment needed to implement storm water management at the facility, such as spill response equipment
- Evaluate the adequacy of storm water management documents and records, such as storm water pollution prevention plans, in-house inspection logs/checklists, training, etc.
- Observe drainage areas and outfalls for the presence of non-storm water discharges

Industrial and High Risk Facility Inspections

- Visual evidence of poor housekeeping and BMPs (structural and nonstructural).
- Lack of or ineffective BMPs (structural and nonstructural).
- Visual evidence of an illicit discharge.
- Visual evidence of pollutants entering the storm water discharge.
- Proximity to an impaired water body.

Exceptions

Based on the inspection, a determination will be made as to whether the industrial or high risk facility’s storm water discharge may reasonably be expected to contribute a significant pollutant load to the County MS4. Criteria for assessment include, but are not limited to:

- Visual evidence of pollutants entering the storm water discharge.
- Visual evidence of an illicit discharge.
- Visual evidence of poor housekeeping and material management practices.
- Lack of or ineffective BMPs (structural and nonstructural).

If the inspection is deemed satisfactory, no further action is required. If the inspection is deemed unsatisfactory, the industrial or high risk facility will be issued a written exception notification. The exception notification identifies the applicable requirements of the County Storm Water Ordinance and requires the industrial or high risk facility to take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent the discharge of pollutants to the County MS4. The exception notification will contain a schedule for the industrial or high risk facility to respond with acknowledgment of intent to comply and provide proposed BMPs to prevent or minimize pollutants present in the storm water discharge. Additional information on corrective action and storm water discharge violations can be found in the Richland County storm water ordinance (Chapter 26-203-10-a).