

Fall Colors



What a show! This is the time of year when temperatures begin to drop and the world explodes in a variety of colors; green leaves start turning to various shades of yellow, orange, red, and brown.

It can be quite a spectacular thing to behold, especially the further north up the west coast you head; however, while seeing colors in the landscape may be a thing of beauty, it is not so in storm water and non-storm water discharges.

As Fall and Winter storm events occur, and you scramble to collect your storm water samples, your facility's Best Management Practices (BMPs) should have reduced or eliminate pollutants in your facility's storm water discharges. However, color in your storm water discharge may mean you need to do more to prevent pollutants from coming into contact with storm water.

In this edition of Rain Events, we will be discussing what to look for while performing storm water observations.



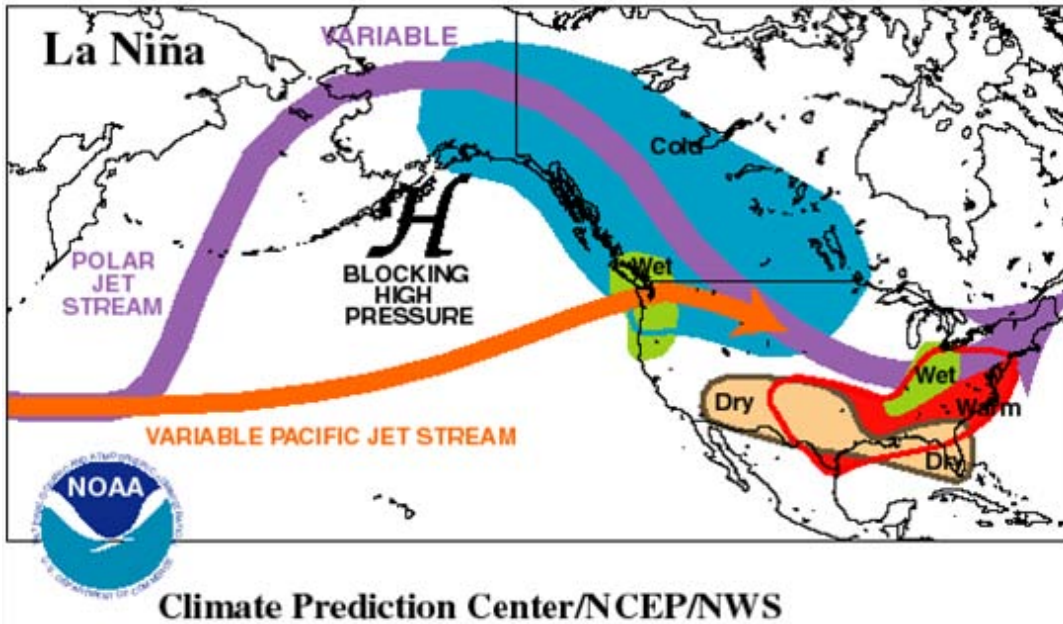
“TO DO LIST” FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER:

- Monthly Storm Water Observations (Form 4)
- Storm Water Sampling (if first or second events happen)
- Quarterly Non-Storm Water Observations sometime between now and Dec. 31 (Forms 2 & 3)
- If you haven't yet, before the first storm event, sweep yard areas, and check on good housekeeping measures, clean storm drains, and get the place ready for rain. Perform facility maintenance. Clean out drain inlets and filter bags; sweep paved surfaces; clean up any spills, oil spots, or other contaminants; cover stock piles, bins, and dumpsters; and stabilize any areas prone to erosion.



La Niña is Expected to Last at Least Until Spring 2011.

La Niña continued during September 2010 as reflected by the large expanse of below-average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across most of the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

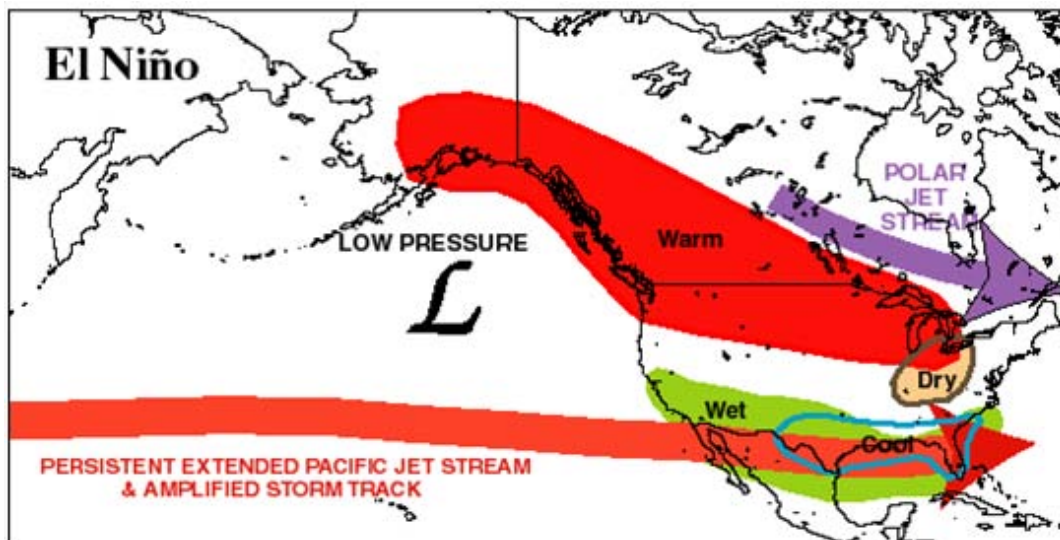


A Winter, a La Niña episode (see top map) features a very wave-like jet stream flow over the United States and Canada, with colder and stormier than average conditions across the North, and warmer and less stormy conditions across the South. Whereas an El Niño episode (see bottom map) features a strong jet stream and storm track across the southern part of the United States, and less storminess and milder-than-average conditions across the North.

Source: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.html

Last summer, the La Niña pattern made for an overall milder, cooler summer. Both northern California and southern California experienced below average temperatures.

Source: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox/archive/2010_cool_summer2.pdf



Source: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensocycle/nawinter.shtml



Storm Water Observations

The Industrial General Storm Water Permit (General Permit) states in Section B. 4 c. the following concerning storm water visual observations:

c. Visual observations shall document the presence of any floating and suspended material, oil and grease, discolorations, turbidity, odor, and source of any pollutants. Records shall be maintained of observation dates, locations observed, observations, and response taken to reduce or prevent pollutants in storm water discharges. The SWPPP shall be revised, as necessary, and implemented in accordance with Section A of this General Permit.

For many industrial facilities, storm water runoff is observed to not be as perfectly clear as a crystal spring, and past storm water samples that were slightly cloudy had all analytical results below benchmark levels. Often the question arises; when is storm water considered to contain pollutants?

A general rule of thumb is, if you can easily see through the storm water discharge and there is no oil sheen, floating material other than an occasional leaf or floating particle, odor or distinct discoloration; you could mark the storm water as having no pollutants observed.

Please note as part of maintaining compliance with the General Permit you must also document the date, time and location of your storm water observations (Form 4).

Should you observe a pollutant such as an oil sheen; not only should you document your observations on Form 4, you should also describe the corrective action taken as seen in the example below.

Form 4 Side A

Observation Date: October ____ Observers Name: _____ Title: _____ Signature: _____	Drainage Location Description	#1 Outfall 1	#2 Outfall 2	#3	#4
	Observation Time				
	Time Discharge Began				
	Were Pollutants Observed (If yes, complete reverse side)	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Form 4 Side B

DATE/TIME OF OBSERVATION (From Reverse Side)	DRAINAGE AREA DESCRIPTION	DESCRIBE STORM WATER DISCHARGE CHARACTERISTICS	IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE SOURCE(S) OF POLLUTANTS	DESCRIBE ANY REVISED OR NEW BMPs AND THEIR DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION
	EXAMPLE: Discharge from material storage Area #2	Indicate whether storm water discharge is clear, cloudy, or discolored; causing staining; containing floating objects or an oil sheen, has odors, etc.	EXAMPLE: Oil sheen caused by oil dripped by trucks in vehicle maintenance area.	
Date/Time	Outfall 1	Sheen	Oil sheen caused by oil dripped spot on terminal yard from leaking truck.	Placed oil absorbent sock around drain Tracked sheen back to oil spot on the terminal yard cleaned it up with absorbent material Placed drip pan under truck and had the truck leak repaired.

We Have a Winner !!!

George Alvarez submitted the winning answer!

How long must storm water training records be maintained?

George submitted a correct answer “five years.” He will receive a \$25 eGiftCard to



Need a BMP?

The Sediment Hog Filtration Basin Insert

- Like the Plug N Pull, the Sediment Hog is designed to give you the option of impounding your facility's water or releasing it
- Excellent for preventing illicit discharges
- Settles out solids
- Acts as an oil/water separator
- Customized to fit almost any drain
- Interchangeable filter cartridges
- Analytical sample tube (Optional)
- Permanently installed
- Low maintenance
- For more information go to www.bmpoutlet.com or contact sales@bmpoutlet.com.



Pictured left: bmpoutlet.com's Sediment Hog drain insert installed at a Stockton CA market. The market's grease trap had overflowed and was heading toward a storm drain which just one week prior had been unprotected.

NOVEMBER STORM WATER CONTEST



Are you ready for the contest question?

By December 1st, submit a response for the following.

How much oil can be spilled to the storm drainage system before it needs to be reported to the State?

All persons submitting correct answers will be placed in a drawing. The winner will receive a \$25 eGiftCard to Walmart.

Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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