



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

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STORMWATER 101” SESSION PLANNED

Dec. 09, 2011 **For more information Contact David Allen @ 766-1421**

PORTSMOUTH – With the federal government imposing tighter restrictions on how the City of Portsmouth deals with stormwater or rain water flowing off public and private streets, driveways, roofs, yards and open spaces, City officials will hold a “Stormwater 101” information session for the public next Wednesday (Dec. 14).

The session, which begins at 7 p.m. in the Library’s Levenson Room, will address Portsmouth’s ongoing stormwater program, future options to reduce pollution, and possible ways to finance them.

More than one-quarter of Portsmouth is covered by surfaces impervious to rainwater, such as parking lots, roads and driveways. Studies have found that percentages above 10% can contribute to degradation of the quality of surrounding water bodies due to a lack of natural soil filtration or groundwater recharge.

“The Environmental Protection Agency is imposing more regulations on how we deal with our stormwater runoff,” said Dave Allen, deputy Department of Public Works director and head of the City’s water and sewer division. “This session will address the complexity and what needs to get done from the viewpoint of our capital and operational needs for our stormwater system in order to meet these tighter standards.”

After providing background on the definitions of stormwater, the session will focus on the federal government’s Clean Water Act Phase I and Phase II Regulations. This will include permit requirements, Portsmouth’s efforts to meet them -- such as its recent stormwater study; the City’s long-term control plan; and how to fund improvements.

The City has been working with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to develop future plans for its stormwater system. “Clean water is a vital resource to Portsmouth’s way of life, economy, property values and tourism. This session will provide information about the city’s critical stormwater infrastructure and ways to keep it functioning to protect water quality. This is a great opportunity for local residents and businesses to have input into how their water resources are preserved,” said Barbara McMillan, DES Watershed Outreach Coordinator.