Stormwater Management in Alabama: Penny Wise, Pound Foolish and Violating the Public Trust

Alabama’s storm water management efforts are anemic. A decade after USEPA Phase II stormwater regulations were put in place many Alabama MS4s still have not put programs in place that meet the basic requirements of their Phase II MS4 permits. Increasingly advocacy groups are taking action under the Clean Water Act to address these permit violations. Additionally, many smaller towns and cities not under the Phase II stormwater permit program have substantial growth that may be taking place without good stormwater practices. As a result of these regulatory failures and all too frequently the lack of up to date stormwater engineering practices, serious impacts are occurring that not only damage water quality and aquatic ecosystems but also public infrastructure and private property.

This presentation gives examples of stormwater management failures in both construction stormwater and post-construction stormwater management and provides suggestions for better stormwater management in Alabama.

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