

Date: Mon, 24 Feb 2003 18:22:01 -0400  
From: Robert McKinstry <rbm10@psu.edu>  
Subject: Re: PABIODIV: Snow and River Species

It is regulated as a point source discharge both under the Clean Water Act and the Clean Streams Law. The NPDES permit program under the CWA is administered by the Commonwealth, using its authority under the Clean Streams Law. As I understand it, emergency authorization has been granted by EPA for snow discharges. Frankly, I think that the snow dumping is less likely than run off to include pollutants, since it will be taken directly from areas where automobiles, people and pets have had limited access. With less snow to melt less of those pollutants accumulating on the land will be carried into the streams. In addition, many of our cities have combined sewer and stormsewer systems - this will keep the cleaner stormwater runoff separated from the sewage and prevent overflows of mixed sewage and stormwater.

At 09:50 AM 2/24/2003 -0500, Leonard Hess wrote:  
Are we sure that Pa. has no regulations on this issue? I was told some years ago by a borough employee that they were no longer allowed to dump snow off the streets into the river.

Len Hess  
Saltsburg, PA

-----Original Message-----

Date: Sun, 23 Feb 2003 14:32:56 -0400  
Subject: Re: PABIODIV: Snow and River Species  
From: Phil Coleman <philipy@verizon.net>

Does anyone know how much greater the dosage is for snow dumped directly compared to runoff of melted snow, such as we are having now. One good thing about this snow was that, at least in western PA, there was proportionately very little salting. Highways and towns began by plowing without salt or cinders virtually until the snow quit falling.

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Date: Fri, 21 Feb 2003 16:38:49 -0400  
From: Sue Thompson <sthomp@andrew.cmu.edu>  
Subject: PABIODIV: Snow and River Species

From Grist Magazine:

The massive storm that dumped feet of snow on the Northeast over the weekend was lovely to look at, fun to play in -- and bad news for some river species. In an effort to unbury themselves, many cities in the region dumped plowed snow directly into nearby rivers, a practice some scientists warn could harm stone flies, a delicate insect species near the bottom of the food chain. The flies, which help break down organic matter and are eaten by trout and other large fish, are just beginning to emerge at this time of year and are highly sensitive to water quality. As a result, stone fly populations could be devastated by the increased salinity resulting from the dumped snow, which contains substantial quantities of the salt used as a melting agent on roadways. Pennsylvania and West Virginia have no rules against dumping plowed snow in waterways; New Jersey and Massachusetts do, but both state suspended their rules in the aftermath of the storm.