THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

ENERGY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT

925 BRANCH STREET
CAMPUS BOX 1855
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-1855

January 28, 2011

Dear AASHE,

As a stormwater engineer who has worked for organizations on the forefront of stormwater management, design and planning, such as the Center for Watershed Protection, I can attest to the unusually proactive approach to stormwater management taken by UNC.

Most stormwater programs are run by local governments, and many universities are covered under or co-permitted with these local government programs. UNC operates its own stormwater management program under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Phase II permit. UNC stormwater staff complete the six minimum measures of the NPDES permit plus other activities that meet regulatory, infrastructure management, and sustainability goals.

Since UNC's stormwater program is independent of the Town of Chapel Hill's program, special focus is dedicated to campus-specific situations. For example, our staff enjoys full access to buildings and tracks details such as loading dock and dumpster locations, making pollution sources somewhat easier to trace. Our in-house program also provides job-specific pollution prevention training to over 900 UNC staff members including housekeepers, painters, mechanics, athletic field workers, and public safety officers.

The University also brought focus to stormwater during our decade-long $2.5 billion capital expansion program. Rather than relegating stormwater to hidden locations, UNC built state-of-the-art, showcase stormwater treatment, including green roofs, cisterns, and permeable pavement. Because the University functions as developer, reviewer, and owner, we consider long term sustainability of stormwater treatment practices during design. In turn, UNC Grounds employees build their knowledge of landscaping and maintaining these practices.

As UNC Stormwater Staff, we continue to learn the best ways to improve downstream water quality while considering water and energy conservation and financial implications. We look forward to sharing what we learn with our colleagues at other institutions.

Sincerely,

Sally Hoyt

Sally Hoyt, P.E.
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