# Q1: What is the BIMS SWMPA?

# The BIMS SWMPA is an online tool that permitted MS4s can use to submit annual reporting information directly to DEQ. Using the BIMS SWMPA tool meets the annual reporting requirement unless the MS4 is making changes to the permitted Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP).

# Q2: How does the MS4 use the BIMS SWMPA and make changes to the permitted SWMP?

# Adding or amending BMPs in the permitted SWMP requires an additional separate submittal to describe and justify the proposed changes. This submittal is a narrative document submitted via mail to DEQ (See Part III.B of the permit). An MS4 may not change the permitted SWMP without written DEQ approval.

# Q3: How do I log in to the BIMS SWMPA Portal?

# The BIMS SWMPA portal can be accessed on the NC DEQ: NPDES MS4 Permitting web page or by entering <https://bimsportal.ncdenr.org/swmpa/login.do> in your web browser. If the MS4 has never logged in before or needs a password reset, email [Jeanette.Powell@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Jeanette.Powell@ncdenr.gov) to have the account reset. A temporary password will be provided to the MS4 or its official designee in approximately 1-3 business days.

# Q4: How do I use the BIMS SWMPA tool?

If the MS4 has filled out a BIMS SWMPA online before, then it is simple to edit/update the existing report and submit it for this year. You can save your data entry at the end of each page, but you must click “submit” at the end or else the report will not be received by DEQ.

# Q5: Do I have to answer every question in the SWMPA?

The list of SWMPA questions is available on the MS4 web page. Not every question applies to every MS4. However, the SWMPA tool will not allow you to advance to the next page without completing each question. Enter “0”, NA or UNK for unknown data.

# Q6: Why is BIMS locking up and/or not allowing me to advance to the next screen?

Any symbols entered for answers may cause issues with BIMS. Note the required response type in the Comprehensive List of SWMPA Questions and make sure the values are entered correctly.

# Q7: What does “Do you plan to add/amend BMPs” mean?

The questions under SW101050-101080 are for requesting a change to the permitted Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP), which contains the permitted Best Management Practices (BMPs). To add or amend BMPs in the MS4s permitted SWMP, see Q2 above.

# Q8: I have other questions about the BIMS SWMPA, who can help me?

Technical assistance is available upon request by contacting:

Jeanette Powell, CPSWQ, CPESC

MS4 Program Coordinator

[*Jeanette.Powell@ncdenr.gov*](mailto:Jeanette.Powell@ncdenr.gov)