that, based on a consideration of industrial activity, significant materials, and management practices and activities within the area drained by the outfall, the permittee reasonably believes discharge substantially identical effluents, the permittee may test the effluent of one of such outfalls and report that the quantitative data also applies to the substantially identical outfalls provided that the permittee includes in the storm water pollution prevention plan a description of the location of the outfalls and explaining in detail why the outfalls are expected to discharge substantially identical effluent. In addition, for each outfall that the permittee believes is representative, an estimate of the size of the drainage area (in square feet) and an estimate of the runoff coefficient of the drainage area (e.g., low (under 40 percent), medium (40 to 65 percent) or high (above 65 percent)) shall be provided in the plan. Facilities that select and sample a representative discharge are prohibited from changing the selected discharge in future monitoring periods unless the selected discharge ceases to be representative or is eliminated. Permittees do not need EPA approval to claim discharges are representative, provided they have documented their rationale within the storm water pollution prevention plan. However, the Director may determine the discharges are not representative and require sampling of all nonidentical outfalls.

The representative discharge provision in the permit is available to almost all facilities subject to the analytical monitoring requirements (not including compliance monitoring for effluent guideline limit compliance purposes) and to facilities subject to visual examination requirements.

The representative discharge provisions described above are consistent with Section 5.2 of NPDES Storm Water Sampling Guidance Document (EPA 833–B–92–001, July 1992).

## 7. Sampling Waiver

a. Adverse Weather Conditions. The permit allows for temporary waivers from sampling based on adverse climatic conditions. This temporary sampling waiver is only intended to apply to insurmountable weather conditions such as drought or dangerous conditions such as lightning, flash flooding, or hurricanes. These events tend to be isolated incidents and should not be used as an excuse for not conducting sampling under more favorable conditions associated with other storm events. The sampling

waiver is not intended to apply to difficult logistical conditions, such as remote facilities with few employees or discharge locations which are difficult to access. When a discharger is unable to collect samples within a specified sampling period due to adverse climatic conditions, the discharger shall collect a substitute sample from a separate qualifying event in the next sampling period as well as a sample for the routine monitoring required in that period. Both samples should be analyzed separately and the results of that analysis submitted to EPA. Permittees are not required to obtain advance approval for sampling waivers.

b. Unstaffed and Inactive Sites Chemical Waiver. The permit allows for a waiver from sampling for facilities that are both inactive and unstaffed. This waiver is only intended to apply to these types of facilities when the ability to conduct sampling would be severely hindered and result in the inability to meet the time and representative rainfall sampling specifications. This sampling waiver is not intended to apply to remote facilities that are active and staffed, or typical difficult logistical conditions. When a discharger is unable to collect samples as specified in this permit, the discharger shall certify to the Director in the DMR that the facility is unstaffed and inactive and the ability to conduct samples within the specifications is not possible. Permittees are not required to obtain advance approval for this waiver.

c. Unstaffed and Inactive Sites— Visual Waiver. The permit allows for a waiver from sampling for facilities that are both inactive and unstaffed. This waiver is only intended to apply to these types of facilities when the ability to conduct visual examinations would be severely hindered and result in the inability to meet the time and representative rainfall sampling specifications. This sampling waiver is not intended to apply to remote facilities that are active and staffed, or typical difficult logistical conditions. When a discharger is unable to perform visual examinations as specified in this permit, the discharger shall maintain on site with the pollution prevention plan a certification stating that the facility is unstaffed and inactive and the ability to perform visual examinations within the specifications is not possible. Permittees are not required to obtain advance approval for visual examination waivers.

## 8. Quarterly Visual Examination of Storm Water Quality

In order to provide a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of the

pollution prevention plan, the permit requires the majority of industries covered under today's permit to perform quarterly visual examinations of storm water discharges. EPA believes these visual examinations will assist with the evaluation of the pollution prevention plan. This section provides a general description of the monitoring and reporting requirements under today's permit. The visual examination provides a simple, low cost means of assessing the quality of storm water discharge with immediate feedback. Most facilities covered under today's permit are required to conduct a quarterly visual examination of storm water discharges associated with industrial activity from each outfall, except discharges exempted under the representative discharge provision. The visual examination of storm water outfalls should include any observations of color, odor, clarity, floating solids, settled solids, suspended solids, foam, oil sheen, or other obvious indicators of storm water pollution. No analytical tests are required to be performed on these samples.

The examination of the sample must be made in well lit areas. The visual examination is not required if there is insufficient rainfall or snow-melt to runoff or if hazardous conditions prevent sampling. Whenever practicable the same individual should carry out the collection and examination of discharges throughout the life of the permit to ensure the greatest degree of consistency possible in recording observations. Grab samples for the examination shall be collected within the first 30 minutes (or as soon thereafter as practical, but not to exceed 1 hour) of when the runoff begins discharging. Reports of the visual examination include: the examination date and time, examination personnel, visual quality of the storm water discharge, and probable sources of any observed storm water contamination. The visual examination reports must be maintained on site with the pollution prevention plan.

When conducting a storm water visual examination, the pollution prevention team, or team member, should attempt to relate the results of the examination to potential sources of storm water contamination on the site. For example, if the visual examination reveals an oil sheen, the facility personnel (preferably members of the pollution prevention team) should conduct an inspection of the area of the site draining to the examined discharge to look for obvious sources of spilled oil, leaks, etc. If a source can be located, then this information allows the facility