not authorized by this section and must be covered under a separate NPDES permit or discharged to a sanitary sewer in accordance with applicable industrial pretreatment requirements.

(5) Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance Areas. The plan must describe measures that prevent or minimize contamination of the storm water runoff from all areas used for vehicle and equipment maintenance. The facility shall consider performing all maintenance activities indoors, using drip pans, maintaining an organized inventory of materials used in the shop, draining all parts of fluids prior to disposal, prohibiting the practice of hosing down the shop floor where the practice would result in the exposure of pollutants to storm water, using dry cleanup methods, collecting the storm water runoff from the maintenance area and providing treatment or recycling, or other equivalent measures.

(6) Locomotive Sanding (Loading Sand for Traction) Areas. The plan must describe measures that prevent or minimize contamination of the storm water runoff from areas used for locomotive sanding (including locomotive sanding). The facility shall consider covering sanding areas, minimizing storm water runon/runoff, appropriate sediment removal practices to minimize the offsite transport of sanding material by storm water, or other equivalent measures.

As documented earlier, these six areas are the common sources of pollutants in storm water from vehicle and equipment cleaning and maintenance activities. Based upon the information provided in part 1 of the group application process, the suggested management measures are commonly used at ground transportation facilities. EPA believes that the incorporation of management practices such as those suggested, in conjunction with the baseline requirements, will substantially reduce the potential that these activities and areas will significantly contribute to the pollution of storm water discharges. In addition, EPA believes that these requirements continue to provide the necessary flexibility to address the variable risk for pollutants in storm water discharges associated with different facilities. Further, many facilities will find that management measures that they have already incorporated into the facility's operation, such as the installation of overfill protection equipment and labelling and maintenance of used oil storage units, that are already required under existing EPA programs will meet the requirements of this section.

Under the inspection requirements of the storm water pollution prevention plan elements, this section requires that in addition to the comprehensive site evaluation required under Part XI of today's permit, qualified facility personnel shall be identified to inspect designated equipment and areas of the facility, at a minimum, on a quarterly basis. The following areas shall be included in all inspections: storage areas for vehicles and equipment awaiting maintenance, fueling areas, vehicle and equipment maintenance areas (both indoors and outdoors), material storage areas, vehicle and equipment cleaning areas, and loading and unloading areas. A set of tracking or follow-up procedures shall be used to ensure that appropriate actions are taken in response to the inspections. Records of all inspections shall be maintained.

The purpose of the inspections is to check on the implementation of the storm water pollution prevention plan. The inspections allow facility personnel to monitor the success or failure of elements of the plan on a regular basis. The discharger is encouraged to coordinate these quarterly inspections with the quarterly visual examinations of storm water discharges required under the monitoring section of the permit. The use of an inspection checklist is recommended. The checklist will ensure that all required areas are inspected, as well as help to meet the recordkeeping requirements.

Under the employee training component of the storm water pollution prevention plan requirements, the permittee is required to identify annual (once per year) dates for such training. Employee training must, at a minimum, address the following areas when applicable to a facility: used oil management; spent solvent management; spill prevention and control; fueling procedures; general good housekeeping practices; proper painting procedures; and used battery management. Unlike some industrial operations, the industrial activities associated with vehicle and equipment maintenance that may affect storm water quality require the cooperation of many employees, not just one or two people. EPÅ, therefore, is requiring that employee training take place at least once a year to serve as: (1) training for new employees that may be involved in storm water pollution prevention; (2) a refresher course for existing employees involved in storm water pollution prevention; and (3) training for all affected employees on any storm water pollution prevention techniques recently incorporated into the plan.

7. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

a. Monitoring Requirements. The regulatory modifications at 40 CFR 122.44(i)(2) established on April 2, 1992, grant permit writers the flexibility to reduce monitoring requirements in storm water discharge permits. EPA has determined that the potential for storm water discharges to contain pollutants above benchmark levels, because of the industrial activities and materials exposed to precipitation, does not support sampling at facilities in this section of today's permit. Based on a consideration of the BMPs typically used at these facilities, and generally low pollutant values from the application data, EPA believes that the pollution prevention plan with visual observations of storm water discharges will help to ensure storm water contamination is minimized. Because permittees are not required to conduct sampling, they will be able to focus their resources on developing and implementing the pollution prevention plan.

Under the Storm Water Regulations at 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14), EPA defined "storm water discharge associated with industrial activity". The focus of today's permit is to address the presence of pollutants that are associated with the industrial activities identified in this definition and that might be found in storm water discharges. Under the methodology for determining analytical monitoring requirements, described in section VI.E.1 of this fact sheet, nitrate plus nitrite nitrogen, lead and/or zinc are above the bench mark concentrations for the railroad transportation, local and highway passenger transportation, motor freight transportation and warehousing, and United States Postal services subsectors. After a review of the nature of industrial activities and the significant materials exposed to storm water described by facilities in these subsectors, EPA has determined that the higher concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite nitrogen, lead and/or zinc are not likely to be caused by the industrial activity, but may be primarily due to nonindustrial activities on-site. Today's permit does not require railroad transportation, local and highway passenger transportation, motor freight transportation and warehousing, and United States Postal services facilities to conduct analytical monitoring for these parameters.

Quarterly visual examinations of a storm water discharge from each outfall are required at ground transportation facilities. The examination must be of a