highly encouraged. The checklist will ensure that all required areas are inspected, as well as help to meet the record keeping requirements.

The permittee is required to identify at least annual dates for employee training. EPA requires that facilities conduct training annually at a minimum. However, more frequent training may be necessary at facilities with high turnover of employees or where employee participation is essential to the storm water pollution prevention plan. Employee training must, at a minimum, address the following areas when applicable to a facility: use of reused/recycled waters; solvents management; proper disposal of dyes; proper disposal of petroleum products and spent lubricants; spill prevention and control; fueling procedures; and general good housekeeping practices. Employees, independent contractors, and customers must be informed about BMPs and be required to perform in accordance with these practices. Copies of BMPs and any specific management plans, including emergency phone numbers, shall be posted in the work areas. EPA, therefore, is requiring that employee training take place at least once a year to serve as: (1) Training for new employees; (2) a refresher course for existing employees; and (3) training for all employees on any storm water pollution prevention techniques recently incorporated into the plan.

6. 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 covered by this section of today's permit. 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, zinc is above the bench mark concentrations for the textile mills subsector. After a review of the nature of industrial activities and

the significant materials exposed to storm water described by facilities in this subsector, EPA has determined that the higher concentrations of zinc are not likely to be caused by the industrial activity, but may be primarily due to non-industrial activities on-site. Today's permit does not require textile mills facilities to conduct analytical monitoring for this parameter. 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 examinations of storm water discharges (see below) will help to ensure storm water contamination is minimized. Because permittees are not required to conduct analytical monitoring, they will be able to focus their resources on developing and implementing the pollution prevention plan.

b. Quarterly Visual Examination of Storm Water Quality. Textile mills, apparel, and other fabric product facilities shall perform and document a visual examination of a storm water discharge associated with industrial activity from each outfall, except discharges exempted under paragraph (3) below. The examination(s) must be made at least once in each of the following 3-month periods: January through March, April through June, July through September, and October through December. The examination shall be made during daylight hours unless there is insufficient rainfall or snow melt to produce a runoff event.

(1) Examinations shall be made of grab samples collected within the first 30 minutes (or as soon thereafter as practical, but not to exceed 1 hour) of when the runoff or snowmelt begins discharging. The examinations shall document observations of color, odor, clarity, floating solids, settled solids, suspended solids, foam, oil sheen, and other obvious indicators of storm water pollution. The examination must be conducted in a well lit area. No analytical tests are required to be performed on the samples. All such samples shall be collected from the discharge resulting from a storm event that is greater than 0.1 inches in magnitude and that occurs at least 72 hours from the previously measurable (greater than 0.1 inch rainfall) storm event. Where practicable, the same individual should carry out the collection and examination of discharges for entire permit term.

(2) Visual examination reports must be maintained onsite in the pollution prevention plan. The report shall include the examination date and time, examination personnel, the nature of the discharge (i.e., runoff or snow melt), visual quality of the storm water discharge (including observations of color, odor, clarity, floating solids, settled solids, suspended solids, foam, oil sheen, and other obvious indicators of storm water pollution), and probable sources of any observed storm water contamination.

(3) When a facility has two or more outfalls 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 collect a sample of effluent of one of such outfalls and report that the observation data also applies to the substantially identical outfall(s) provided that the permittee includes in the storm water pollution prevention plan a description of the location of the outfalls and explains in detail why the outfalls are expected to discharge substantially identical effluents. 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.

(4) When a discharger is unable to collect samples over the course of the visual examination period as a result of adverse climatic conditions, the discharger must document the reason for not performing the visual examination and retain this documentation onsite with the records of the visual examinations. Adverse weather conditions that may prohibit the collection of samples include weather conditions that create dangerous conditions for personnel (such as local flooding, high winds, hurricane, tornadoes, electrical storms, etc.) or otherwise make the collection of a sample impracticable (drought, extended frozen conditions, etc.).

(5) EPA realizes that if a facility is inactive and unstaffed it may be difficult to collect storm water discharge samples when a qualifying event occurs. Today's final permit has been revised so that inactive, unstaffed facilities can exercise a waiver of the requirement to conduct quarterly visual examination.

EPA believes that this quick and simple assessment will help the permittee to determine the effectiveness of his/her plan on a regular basis at very little cost. Although the visual examination cannot assess the chemical properties of the storm water discharged from the site, the examination will