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 is above the bench mark concentrations for the leather tanning and finishing sector. After a review of the nature of industrial activities and the significant materials exposed to storm water described by facilities in this sector, EPA has determined that the higher concentrations of nitrate plus nitrite nitrogen 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 leather tanning and finishing 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 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.

b. Quarterly Visual Examination of Storm Water Quality. Quarterly visual examinations of a storm water discharge from each outfall are required for leather tanning and finishing facilities. The examination must be of a grab sample collected from each storm water outfall. The examination of storm water grab samples shall include any observations of color, odor, clarity, floating solids, settled solids, suspended solids, foam, oil sheen, or 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 these samples.

The examination must be made at least once in each of the following threemonth periods: January through March; April through June; July through September; and October through December during daylight unless there is insufficient rainfall or snow-melt to runoff. EPA expects that, 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. Grab samples 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 onsite with the pollution prevention plan.

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. Adverse weather conditions which 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.).

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 allow the permittee to approximate 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 provide meaningful results upon which the facility may act quickly. The frequency of this visual examination will also allow for timely adjustments to be made to the plan. If BMPs are performing ineffectively, corrective action must be implemented. A set of tracking or follow-up procedures must be used to ensure that appropriate actions are taken in response to the examinations. The visual examination is intended to be performed by members of the pollution prevention team. This hands-on examination will enhance the staff's understanding of the storm water problems on that site and the effects of the management practices that are included in the plan.

AA. Storm Water Discharges Associated With Industrial Activity From Fabricated Metal Products Industry

1. Discharges Covered Under this Section

On November 16, 1990 [55 Federal Register (FR) 47990], the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated the regulatory definition of "storm water discharges associated with industrial activity." This section of today's final permit covers storm water discharges associated with industrial activities from metal fabrication processes and operations. Fabricated metal and processing facilities eligible for coverage under this section include the following types of operations: fabricated metal products, except machinery and transportation equipment (Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes 3429, 3441, 3442, 3443, 3444, 3451, 3452, 3462, 3471, 3479, 3494, 3496 and 3449); and jewelry, silverware, and plated ware (SIC code 391).

This section covers establishments engaged in fabricating ferrous and nonferrous metal products, such as metal cans, tinware, general hardware, automotive parts, tanks, road mesh, structural metal products, nonelectrical equipment, and a variety of metal and wire products from purchased iron or steel rods, bars, or wire materials. This section does not cover discharges from establishments engaged in manufacturing and rolling of ferrous and nonferrous metals, forgings or stampings, electrolytic or other processes for refining copper from ore. These establishments are addressed in a separate section of today's final permit.

When an industrial facility, described by the above coverage provisions of this section, has industrial activities being conducted onsite that meet the description(s) of industrial activities in another section(s), that industrial facility shall comply with any and all applicable monitoring and pollution prevention plan requirements of the other section(s) in addition to all applicable requirements in this section. The monitoring and pollution prevention plan terms and conditions of this multi-sector permit are additive for industrial activities being conducted at the same industrial facility (co-located industrial activities). The operator of the facility shall determine which other monitoring and pollution prevention plan section(s) of this permit (if any) are applicable to the facility.

Impacts caused by storm water discharges from fabricating operations will vary from one facility to the next. Several factors influence to what extent