

Appendix H – 2-Year, 24-Hour Storm Frequencies

Part 2.1.3.2 of the permit indicates that if you install a sediment basin, one of the design requirements is to provide storage for either (1) the calculated volume of runoff from a 2-year, 24-hour storm, or (2) 3,600 cubic feet per acre drained. This appendix is intended to provide a guide to permittees to determine the volume of precipitation associated with their local 2-year, 24-hour storm event.

The permittee should start out by determining their local 2-year, 24-hour storm volume. The rainfall frequency atlases, technical papers, and the Precipitation Frequency Data Server (PFDS) developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) serve as national standards for rainfall intensity at specified frequencies and durations in the United States. Operators of construction projects subject to the numeric effluent limits can use these standards to determine their local 2-year, 24-hour storm. Table H-1 identifies methods for determining precipitation frequency based on permit area. EPA notes that permittees may also use alternative peer-reviewed data sources not listed in Table H - 1 to determine the 2-year, 24-hour storm for their site.

Table H - 1 – Method to Determine Precipitation Frequency Based on Permit Area

PERMIT AREA	METHOD TO DETERMINE PRECIPITATION FREQUENCY
District of Columbia	PFDS; NOAA Atlas 14, Vol. 2
Idaho	NOAA Atlas 2, Vol. 5; Technical Paper 40
Massachusetts	Technical Paper 40
New Hampshire	Technical Paper 40
New Mexico	PFDS; Technical Paper 40
Selected Pacific Islands	PFDS; Technical Paper 40
Puerto Rico and the U.S Virgin Islands	PFDS; Technical Paper 40
Other	PFDS; Technical Paper 40; NOAA Atlas 2 or 14

How to Determine Your Local 2-year, 24-hour Storm Size

Projects located in the **District of Columbia, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, or Pacific Islands** can use the PFDS at <http://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/index.html> or use NOAA's Atlas 14 Volumes 2, 3, and 5, respectively at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hdsc/currentpf.htm> to determine their precipitation frequency.

The PFDS is an easy to use, point-and-click interface to official U.S. precipitation frequency estimates and intensities. The opening PFDS screen is a clickable map of the United States. Upon clicking on a state, a state-specific interface appears. From this page the user selects the following:

- A location: Either via clicking on the map or manually entering a longitude/latitude coordinate;
- Type of output: Depth-Duration Frequency (DDF) or Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF)
- Units: millimeters or inches; and
- Type of estimate: Point or areal.

Additionally, PFDS also serves as a tool for providing references and other information for other current precipitation frequency standards that are not yet updated.

Projects located in the **District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, or Pacific Islands** can use NOAA's Atlas 14 Volumes 2, 3, and 5, respectively at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hdsc/currentpf.htm> or access the PFDS at <http://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/index.html> to determine their precipitation frequency.

Projects located in **Massachusetts and New Hampshire**, or other areas not covered by the PFDS or NOAA Atlases will need to use TP-40 to identify the precipitation frequency. TP-40 provides a map of the continental U.S. for the 2-year, 24-hour rainfall. TP40 can be accessed at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hdsc/PF_documents/TechnicalPaper_No40.pdf. (See also attached map of TP-40)

Projects located in **Idaho** can use the NOAA Atlas 2, Vol. 5 to determine their precipitation frequency. NOTE: Precipitation Frequencies on the NOAA Atlas 2, Vol. 5 are in tenths of an inch and will have to be converted to inches to determine precipitation frequency. NOAA Atlas 2, Vol. 5 can be accessed at http://www.nws.noaa.gov/oh/hdsc/PF_documents/Atlas2_Volume5.pdf. (See also attached map of NOAA Atlas 2, Vol. 5)

