

**APPENDICES -- BASIC PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

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**APPENDIX A. Erosion and sedimentation control**

A person who conducts, or causes to be conducted, an activity that involves filling, displacing or exposing soil or other earthen materials shall take measures to prevent unreasonable erosion of soil or sediment beyond the project site or into a protected natural resource as defined in 38 M.R.S.A § 480-B. Erosion control measures must be in place before the activity begins. Measures must remain in place and functional until the site is permanently stabilized. Adequate and timely temporary and permanent stabilization measures must be taken.

NOTE: The site must be maintained to prevent unreasonable erosion and sedimentation. See 38 M.R.S.A § 420-C (in part). A license is required for any stormwater discharge that the department "determines to contribute to a violation of a water quality standard or is a significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the State". 06-096 CMR 521(9)(a)(1)(v)(in part).

**(1) Pollution prevention.** Minimize disturbed areas and protect natural downgradient buffer areas to the extent practicable. The discharge may not result in erosion of any open drainage channels, swales, upland, or coastal or freshwater wetlands.

Note: Buffers improve water quality by helping to filter pollutants in run-off both during and after construction. Minimizing disturbed areas through phasing limits the amount of exposed soil on the site through retention of natural cover and by retiring areas as permanently stabilized. Less exposed soil results in fewer erosion controls to install and maintain. If work within an area is not anticipated to begin within two weeks time, consider leaving the area in its naturally existing cover.

**(2) Sediment barriers.** Prior to construction, properly install sediment barriers at the edge of any downgradient disturbed area and adjacent to any drainage channels within the disturbed area. Maintain the sediment barriers until the disturbed area is permanently stabilized.

**(3) Temporary stabilization.** Stabilize with mulch, or other non-erodable cover any exposed soils that will not be worked for more than 7 days. Stabilize areas within 75 feet of a wetland or waterbody within 48 hours of the initial disturbance of the soil or prior to any storm event, whichever comes first.

NOTE: For guidance on erosion and sedimentation controls, consult *the Maine Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook for Construction -- Best Management Practices* or *the Maine Erosion and Sedimentation Control Best Management Practices*.

**(4) Removal of temporary measures.** Remove any temporary control measures, such as silt fence, within 30 days after permanent stabilization is attained. Remove any accumulated sediments and stabilize.

NOTE: It is recommended that silt fence be removed by cutting the fence materials at ground level so as to avoid additional soil disturbance.

- (5) **Permanent stabilization.** If the area will not be worked for more than one year or has been brought to final grade, then permanently stabilize the area within 7 days by planting vegetation, seeding, sod, or through the use of permanent mulch, or riprap, or road sub-base. If using vegetation for stabilization, select the proper vegetation for the light, moisture, and soil conditions; amend areas of disturbed subsoils with topsoil, compost, or fertilizers; protect seeded areas with mulch or, if necessary, erosion control blankets; and schedule sodding, planting, and seeding so to avoid die-off from summer drought and fall frosts. Newly seeded or sodded areas must be protected from vehicle traffic, excessive pedestrian traffic, and concentrated runoff until the vegetation is well-established. If necessary, areas must be reworked and restabilized if germination is sparse, plant coverage is spotty, or topsoil erosion is evident. One or more of the following may apply to a particular site.
- (a) **Seeded areas.** For seeded areas, permanent stabilization means a 90% cover of the disturbed area with mature, healthy plants with no evidence of washing or rilling of the topsoil.
  - (b) **Sodded areas.** For sodded areas, permanent stabilization means the complete binding of the sod roots into the underlying soil with no slumping of the sod or die-off.
  - (c) **Permanent Mulch.** For mulched areas, permanent mulching means total coverage of the exposed area with an approved mulch material. Erosion Control Mix may be used as mulch for permanent stabilization according to the approved application rates and limitations.
  - (d) **Riprap.** For areas stabilized with riprap, permanent stabilization means that slopes stabilized with riprap have an appropriate backing of a well-graded gravel or approved geotextile to prevent soil movement from behind the riprap. Stone must be sized appropriately. It is recommended that angular stone be used.
  - (e) **Agricultural use.** For construction projects on land used for agricultural purposes (e.g., pipelines across crop land), permanent stabilization may be accomplished by returning the disturbed land to agricultural use.
  - (f) **Paved areas.** For paved areas, permanent stabilization means the placement of the compacted gravel subbase is completed.
  - (g) **Ditches, channels, and swales.** For open channels, permanent stabilization means the channel is stabilized with mature vegetation at least three inches in height, with well-graded riprap lining, or with another non-erosive lining capable of withstanding the anticipated flow velocities and flow depths without reliance on check dams to slow flow. There must be no evidence of slumping of the lining, undercutting of the banks, or down-cutting of the channel.
- (6) **Winter Construction.** "Winter construction" is construction activity performed during the period from November 1 through April 15. If areas within the construction activity are not stabilized with temporary or permanent measures outlined above by November 15, then the site must be protected with additional stabilization measures that are specific to winter conditions. No more than one acre of the site may be without stabilization at one time.

- (a) **Site Stabilization.** For winter stabilization, hay mulch is applied at twice the standard temporary stabilization rate. At the end of each construction day, areas that have been brought to final grade must be stabilized. Mulch may not be spread on top of snow.
- (b) **Sediment Barriers.** All areas within 75 feet of a protected natural resource must be protected with a double row of sediment barriers.
- (c) **Ditch.** All vegetated ditch lines that have not been stabilized by November 1, or will be worked during the winter construction period, must be stabilized with an appropriate stone lining backed by an appropriate gravel bed or geotextile unless specifically released from this standard by the department.
- (d) **Slopes.** Mulch netting must be used to anchor mulch on all slopes greater than 8% unless erosion control blankets or erosion control mix is being used on these slopes.

NOTE: For guidance on winter construction standards, see the "Maine Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs", Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

- (7) **Stormwater channels.** Ditches, swales, and other open stormwater channels must be designed, constructed, and stabilized using measures that achieve long-term erosion control. Ditches, swales and other open stormwater channels must be sized to handle, at a minimum, the expected volume run-off. Each channel should be constructed in sections so that the section's grading, shaping, and installation of the permanent lining can be completed the same day. If the channel's final grading or lining installation must be delayed, then diversion berms must be used to divert stormwater away from the channel, properly-spaced check dams must be installed in the channel to slow the water velocity, and a temporary lining installed along the channel to prevent scouring. Permanent stabilization for channels is addressed under Appendix A(5)(g) above.

NOTE: (1) The channel should receive adequate routine maintenance to maintain capacity and prevent or correct any erosion of the channel's bottom or side slopes. (2) When the watershed draining to a ditch or swale is less than 1 acre of total drainage and less than ¼ acre of impervious area, diversion of runoff to adjacent wooded or otherwise vegetated buffer areas is encouraged where the opportunity exists.

- (8) **Roads.** Gravel and paved roads must be designed and constructed with crowns or other measures, such as water bars, to ensure that stormwater is delivered immediately to adjacent stable ditches, vegetated buffer areas, catch basin inlets, or street gutters.

NOTE: (1) Gravel and paved roads should be maintained so that they continue to conform to this standard in order to prevent erosion problems. (2) The department recommends that impervious surfaces, including roads, be designed and constructed so that stormwater is distributed in sheet flow to natural vegetated buffer areas wherever such areas are available. Road ditches should be designed so that stormwater is frequently (at least every 100 to 200 feet) discharged via ditch turnouts in sheet flow to adjacent natural buffer areas wherever possible.

- (9) **Culverts.** Culverts must be sized to avoid unintended flooding of upstream areas or frequent overtopping of roadways. Culvert inlets must be protected with appropriate materials for the

expected entrance velocity, and protection must extend at least as high as the expected maximum elevation of storage behind the culvert. Culvert outlet design must incorporate measures, such as aprons or plunge pools, to prevent scour of the stream channel. Outlet protection measures must be designed to stay within the channel limits. The design must take account of tailwater depth.

**(10) Parking areas.** Parking areas must be constructed to ensure runoff is delivered to adjacent swales, catch basins, curb gutters, or buffer areas without eroding areas downslope. The parking area's subbase compaction and grading must be done to ensure runoff is evenly distributed to adjacent buffers or side slopes. Catch basins must be located and set to provide enough storage depth at the inlet so to allow inflow of peak runoff rates without by-pass of runoff to other areas.

**(11) Additional requirements.** Additional requirements may be applied on a site-specific basis.

## **APPENDIX B. Inspection and maintenance**

**(1) Inspection and maintenance.** Inspect disturbed and impervious areas, and erosion and stormwater control measures, areas used for storage that are exposed to precipitation, and locations where vehicles enter or exit the site. Inspect these areas at least once a week as well as and before and after a storm event, and prior to completion of permanent stabilization measures. A person with knowledge of erosion and stormwater control, including the standards in this permit and any departmental companion document to this permit, must conduct the inspection. This person must be identified in the inspection log. If best management practices (BMPs) need to be modified or if additional BMPs are necessary, implementation must be completed within 7 calendar days and prior to any storm event (rainfall). All measures must be maintained in effective operating condition until areas are permanently stabilized.

**(2) Inspection log (report).** A log (report) must be kept summarizing the scope of the inspection, name(s) and qualifications of the personnel making the inspection, the date(s) of the inspection, and major observations relating to operation of erosion and sedimentation controls and pollution prevention measures. Major observations must include BMPs that need maintenance, BMPs that failed to operate as designed or proved inadequate for a particular location, and location(s) where additional BMPs are needed. For each BMP requiring maintenance, BMP needing replacement, and location needing additional BMPs, note in the log the corrective action taken and when it was taken. The log must be made accessible to department staff and a copy must be provided upon request. The permittee shall retain a copy of the log for a period of at least three years from the completion of permanent stabilization.

## **APPENDIX C. Housekeeping**

These performance standards apply to all sites.

**(1) Spill prevention.** Controls must be used to prevent pollutants from construction and waste materials stored on-site, including storage practices to minimize exposure of the materials to

stormwater, and appropriate spill prevention, containment, and response planning and implementation.

- (2) **Groundwater protection.** During construction, liquid petroleum products and other hazardous materials with the potential to contaminate groundwater may not be stored or handled in areas of the site draining to an infiltration area. An "infiltration area" is any area of the site that by design or as a result of soils, topography and other relevant factors accumulates runoff that infiltrates into the soil. Dikes, berms, sumps, and other forms of secondary containment that prevent discharge to groundwater may be used to isolate portions of the site for the purposes of storage and handling of these materials.

NOTE: Lack of appropriate pollutant removal best management practices (BMPs) may result in violations of the groundwater quality standard established by 38 M.R.S.A. §465-C(1). Any project proposing infiltration of stormwater must provide adequate pre-treatment of stormwater prior to discharge of stormwater to the infiltration area, or provide for treatment within the infiltration area, in order to prevent the accumulation of fines, reduction in infiltration rate, and consequent flooding and destabilization.

- (3) **Fugitive sediment and dust.** Actions must be taken to ensure that activities do not result in noticeable erosion of soils or fugitive dust emissions during or after construction. Oil may not be used for dust control.

Examples of BMPS -- Operations during wet months, that experience tracking of mud off the construction site onto public roads, should provide for sweeping of road areas at least once a week and prior to significant storm events. Where chronic mud tracking occurs, a stabilized construction entrance should be provided. Operations during dry months, that experience fugitive dust problems, should wet down the access roads once a week or more frequently if needed.

NOTE: Dewatering a stream without a permit from the department violates state water quality standards and the Natural Resources Protection Act.

- (4) **Debris and other materials.** Litter, construction debris, and construction chemicals exposed to stormwater must be prevented from becoming a pollutant source.

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NOTE: To prevent these materials from becoming a source of pollutants, construction activities related to a project may be required to comply with applicable provision of rules related to solid, universal, and hazardous waste, including, but not limited to, the Maine solid waste and hazardous waste management rules; Maine hazardous waste management rules; Maine oil conveyance and storage rules; and Maine pesticide requirements.

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- (5) **Trench or foundation de-watering.** Trench de-watering is the removal of water from trenches, foundations, coffer dams, ponds, and other areas within the construction area that retain water after excavation. In most cases the collected water is heavily silted and hinders correct and safe construction practices. The collected water removed from the ponded area, either through gravity or pumping, must be spread through natural wooded buffers or removed to areas that are specifically designed to collect the maximum amount of sediment possible, like a cofferdam sedimentation basin. Avoid allowing the water to flow over disturbed areas of the site.

NOTE: For guidance on de-watering controls, consult the Maine Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs", Maine Department of Environmental Protection."

**(6) Non-stormwater discharges.** Identify and prevent contamination by non-stormwater discharges. Where allowed non-stormwater discharges exist, they must be identified and steps should be taken to ensure the implementation of appropriate pollution prevention measures for the non-stormwater component(s) of the discharge. Authorized non-stormwater discharges are:

- (i) Discharges from firefighting activity;
- (ii) Fire hydrant flushings;<sup>1</sup>
- (iii) Vehicle washwater if detergents are not used and washing is limited to the exterior of vehicles (engine, undercarriage and transmission washing is prohibited);
- (iv) Dust control runoff in accordance with permit conditions and Appendix (C)(3);
- (v) Routine external building washdown, not including surface paint removal, that does not involve detergents;
- (vi) Pavement washwater (where spills/leaks of toxic or hazardous materials have not occurred, unless all spilled material had been removed) if detergents are not used;
- (vii) Uncontaminated air conditioning or compressor condensate;
- (viii) Uncontaminated groundwater or spring water;
- (ix) Foundation or footer drain-water where flows are not contaminated; and
- (x) Uncontaminated excavation dewatering (see requirements in Appendix C(5)).
- (vi) Potable water sources including waterline flushings.<sup>2</sup>

Allowable non-stormwater discharges cannot be authorized under this permit unless they are directly related to and originate from a construction site or dedicated support activity (e.g., a pressure washing company cannot broadly use this general permit for their business operations, because general vehicle washing is not associated with a construction site). It is not necessary to list these sources of non-stormwater in the NOI.

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<sup>1</sup> This non-stormwater discharge is authorized under this general permit until the Department issues a separate general permit containing requirements specific to this type of discharge, which would replace this authorization.

<sup>2</sup> See previous footnote.