



NPDES Stormwater Discharge Permit for Construction Activities

Cover Sheet for NCG010000

Last Revised 01/20/2010



Did you know?

In North Carolina, excess stormwater volumes and blankets of sediment covering aquatic habitat cause more streams in the state to lose their ability to support aquatic life than any other pollution problem.



What is it?

This is your **Stormwater Permit**. It is separate from your Erosion and Sedimentation Control (E&SC) Plan.

Your project is subject to this permit **in addition to** the approved E&SC Plan because all construction activities disturbing 1 or more acres of land are subject to stormwater permitting requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). You have been given a copy of **General Permit No. NCG010000** (attached) and granted coverage under this General Stormwater Permit.

Why is this permit required, and why is it important?

Federal regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and North Carolina Division of Water Quality (DWQ) require an NPDES permit for your project. The EPA has delegated DWQ authority to administer the NPDES program in North Carolina.

You must comply with the applicable terms and conditions of this Stormwater Permit, and you are subject to enforcement by the Division of Water Quality for any violations.

In just one rain event, poor erosion & sediment control practices can contribute nearly a ton of sediment per acre to a



Sediment-filled creek downstream of a construction site.

stream¹. That can cause long-term devastation to receiving waters!

So remember, compliance with this permit helps protect our lakes, streams, rivers, and coastal waters.

¹From *Pollutant Export from Various Land Uses in the Upper Neuse River Basin* (Line, Daniel E. et al.) and DWQ staff communication with authors about the study.

What does this permit require me to do?

You should read and become familiar with the provisions and conditions of this permit. Here are highlights:

Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plan

You must implement the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan approved for your project by the N.C. Division of Land Resources (DLR) or by an approved local program. Adherence to that E&SC Plan is an enforceable component of the Stormwater Permit.

Monitoring and Inspections

- You must keep a rain gauge on site.

- You must inspect all erosion and sedimentation control measures **at least once a week** and within 24 hours **after any storm event greater than a half inch** (during a 24-hr period). If any device failure is seen, immediate corrective action must be taken.
- You must inspect all outlets where stormwater runoff is leaving your site and evaluate the effect on nearby streams or wetlands. Corrective action must be taken (and recorded) if sediment is being deposited off site or in a stream or wetland, or is causing a visible increase in turbidity (cloudiness) of

any affected stream.

- If sediment is being deposited in a stream or wetland, you must contact DWQ within 24 hours. See "Reporting" on the following page.
- You must keep records of these inspections.

Operation & Maintenance (O&M)

You must provide the operation and maintenance (O&M) necessary to maintain optimal performance of stormwater controls. This means **take corrective action** if E&SC facilities are not operating properly!

What does this permit require me to do? (cont.)

O&M includes things like:

- ✓ Regularly cleaning out sedimentation basins
- ✓ Stabilizing eroded banks or spillway structures
- ✓ Repairing/clearing out inlets and outlets
- ✓ Repairing piping, seepage, mechanical damage
- ✓ Repairing silt fence damage



Silt fence maintenance

- herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers.
- You must properly dispose of demolition debris and other building material.
- You must properly manage disposal of litter and sanitary waste.

Reporting

Regular inspections are a chance to check impacts to nearby waters. If you observe significant amounts of sediment in the stream, notify the DWQ regional office within 24 hours and provide written notice within 5 days (See Part II, Section E of the Permit). Please copy correspondence to DLR.

It's not just Erosion & Sedimentation Control!

- You must prevent stormwater contamination from equipment used during construction. This includes preventing spills of oil, fuels, coolants, cement, hydraulic fluids, etc.
- You must follow federal guidelines and label restrictions when using

Non-Compliance and Fines

Take compliance seriously! Projects that violate Stormwater Permit conditions and/or have unauthorized water quality impacts are subject to fines. **Civil penalties** of up to \$25,000.00 per day for each violation may be assessed.

What records do I need to have available?

- ✓ Copy of the approved E&SC Plan, including any revisions
- ✓ Records of rainfall amounts
- ✓ Records of inspections
- ✓ Records of stormwater discharge outfall and stream inspections/observations. (See "Inspection Record" attached to permit.)

Who inspects me for what?

DWQ coordinates with the Division of Land Resources' Land Quality Section to ensure compliance with NC Rules and Regulations regarding construction activities and their impact on water quality. That means your operation is subject to enforcement by both Divisions.

In general, DLR staff will be inspecting your site on a regular basis. However, DWQ staff may per-

form inspections as well. These inspections may be routine in nature, or the result of public complaints or problems reported by DLR.

- ✓ NC DLR (or a delegated local program) will inspect the site for compliance with your approved E&SC Plan.
- ✓ NC DWQ investigates complaints and inspects for adverse impacts to water quality and stream standard violations (such as sediment in the stream).
- ✓ NC DWQ may inspect the site for compliance with this Stormwater Permit.

Do I need to file a Notice of Intent (NOI)?

No. Once your E&SC Plan is approved, you are automatically covered under NCG010000, and you do not need to file an NOI for a Certificate of Coverage (COC) from DWQ. However, if you do not wish to be covered by this General Permit, you must apply to DWQ for an individual NPDES Stormwater Permit.

Who can help me with questions?

Questions about Stormwater Permit requirements can be addressed to the Division of Water Quality Regional Offices:

Asheville Office.....	(828) 296-4500	Washington Office.....	(252) 946-6481
Fayetteville Office.....	(910) 433-3300	Wilmington Office.....	(910) 796-7215
Mooresville Office.....	(704) 663-1699	Winston-Salem Office....	(336) 771-5000
Raleigh Office.....	(919) 791-4200	Central Office	(919) 807-6300



For more information about the Construction NPDES Stormwater Permit, see <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ws/su/construction>