



# NPDES Stormwater Discharge Permit for Construction Activities



Cover Sheet for NCG010000

Revised August 2, 2011

## What is this permit?

This is your **General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities**, developed to meet federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. It is separate from your Erosion and Sedimentation Control (E&SC) Plan, which has been a North Carolina requirement for over 35 years.

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. Two divisions of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are responsible for different parts of the federal permitting requirements.

The E&SC plan approved by the Division of Land Resources (or a delegated local program) contains the core erosion control requirements for your project. The NPDES General Permit issued by DWQ contains additional requirements related to a broader range of water quality issues. **These permits are related, but separate. Both contain conditions your project site must meet.**

## Are there new requirements in this permit?

This General Permit reflects changes made in the federal regulations effective February 1, 2010, that regulate discharges from construction sites. The federal regulations resulted from litigation decisions that mandated construction activities over a certain size must contain additional specifications to reduce the amount of wastes and sediment loading that reach the nation's waters.

The Division of Water Quality and the Division of Land Resources established the Construction General Permit Technical Advisory Group (CTAG) to guide the development of this NPDES permit. A draft permit was available for public review in May 2011, and the final permit became effective on August 3, 2011.

The most notable change in the new permit is a requirement that ground stabilization, such as wheat straw application, be applied within 14 days from the last land-disturbing activity. For steep slopes, that area must be stabilized within 7 days. Please see page 2 of this document for details.

## What does this permit require me to do?

You should read and become familiar with the provisions of this permit. Below is a list of the major requirements, with indications where those differ from the previous Construction General Permit.

### **EROSION AND**

### **SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN**

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

**Your E&SC plan will identify**

**areas where the more stringent 7 and 14 day ground stabilization requirements apply.** See "New Ground Stabilization Requirements" on page 2.

### **MONITORING & INSPECTIONS**

- ▶ You must keep a rain gauge on site.
- ▶ Dedicated demolition and other waste areas and earthen material stockpiles must be located at least 50' from storm drains or streams unless no alternative is feasible (new requirement).
- ▶ You must inspect all E&SC measures **at least once a week**

**and within 24 hours after any storm event greater than a half inch (during a 24-hour period). You must take immediate corrective action for any device failure.**

- ▶ You must inspect all outlets where stormwater runoff leaves your site and evaluate the effect on nearby streams or wetlands. Corrective action must be taken if sediment is deposited off site or into a stream or wetland, or causes a visible increase in turbidity (cloudiness) of any waterbody.
- ▶ You must keep records of these inspections and any correc-

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**Permit Requirements** (continued)

tive actions taken.

**OPERATION & MAINTENANCE**

You must provide the operation and maintenance necessary to maintain optimal performance of stormwater controls. This means **take corrective action** if erosion and sediment control facilities are not operating properly! Operation and maintenance includes, but is not limited to:

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

**REPORTING**

Regular inspections are a chance

to check impacts to nearby waters. **If you observe sediment that has deposited in a stream or wetland, you must notify the Division of Water Quality regional office** within 24 hours and provide **written notice within 5 days** (see # 3 on page 6 of the General Permit). Please send a copy of this correspondence to the Division of Land Resources (DLR).

**NON-COMPLIANCE & 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.**

**Who inspects me for what?**

DWQ coordinates with DLR's

Land Quality Section to ensure compliance with state rules and regulations governing construction activities. That means your project is subject to enforcement by both divisions. In general, Land Quality staff will inspect your site on a regular basis. DWQ staff may also do inspections. The inspections may be routine in nature, or, the result of public complaints.

**Do I need to submit a Notice of Intent to have coverage under this permit?**

No. Once your E&SC Plan is approved, your site is automatically covered under this permit. You do not need to submit a Notice of Intent for a Certificate of Coverage.

**NEW STABILIZATION TIMEFRAMES**

Site Area Description	Stabilization	Timeframe Exceptions
 Perimeter dikes, swales, ditches and slopes	7 days	None
 High Quality Water (HQW) Zones	7 days	None
 Slopes steeper than 3:1	7 days	If slopes are 10' or less in length and are not steeper than 2:1, 14 days are allowed.
 Slopes 3:1 or flatter	14 days	7 days for slopes greater than 50' in length.
 All other areas with slopes flatter than 4:1	14 days	None, except for perimeters and HQW Zones.

**Do you need more information?**



NC Stormwater Permitting

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ws/su>

NCG01 Permit Information

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ws/su/construction>

Map of Regional Offices

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/home>

**Still have questions? Call the DWQ Regional Office nearest your project's location:**

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