

NPDES Permit No. NCG01000 Construction Stormwater Guidance
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

When does this new guidance take effect?

This guidance takes effect on NCDOT projects with an erosion control plan approved after August 2, 2011.

When should NCDOT begin using the new combined Stormwater Inspection - Land Disturbing Self-Inspection Report (combined form)?

The August 3, 2011 NCG010000 permit did not require changes in the reporting form. NCDOT should continue to use form SPPPF30, effective July 2010.

If a portion of a NCDOT project has been permanently stabilized to 80% areal coverage, can monitoring of SDOs in this portion be discontinued?

No. Monitoring and documentation must continue until the entire project has been permanently stabilized to meet the 80% areal coverage standard. The only exceptions to this would be 1) Secondary road projects where small sections of the project are graded, stabilized, and paved before moving to the next section of the project, or 2) TIP projects with multiple sections (e.g., R-XXXXA, B, and C) where construction is begun on each section at different times. In this scenario, the project limits would be the limits of the individual sections, A, B, and C. Therefore, if section A is graded, drained, and permanently stabilized to meet the 80% coverage standard, no further NCG010000 monitoring would be required on the A section regardless of the construction stage of sections B and C.

When projects are completed and if vegetation has not established to 80% at final, who will be responsible for record keeping? Who should sign the combined form during those times?

It is recommended that the Resident Engineer's office follow the project until permanent vegetation is adequately established. A signature by a NCDOT Certified Level II supervisor is satisfactory.

Are the contractors responsible for completing the combined form, SPPPF30, effective July 2010?

Yes. The E&SC/SW provisions in the contract require the contractor to complete the combined form, SPPPF30, effective July 2010.

Do measures needing repair need to be noted on the combined form, SPPPF30, effective July 2010 if they were repaired immediately?

Yes. Any measure needing repair must be documented on the combined form, SPPPF30, effective July 2010.

How much off-site sediment warrants a call to the agencies?

If the amount of sediment that left the site or entered waters of the State is less than what would fit in a 5-gallon bucket, then NCDOT does not have to contact NCDWQ within 24 hours of discovery. However, the sediment loss must be documented on the combined form along with any corrective actions taken to clean up the sediment. If the amount of sediment that left the site or entered waters of the State is equal to

or greater than the amount that would fit in a 5-gallon bucket, then NCDOT must contact NCDWQ within 24 hours of discovery and document the sediment loss, corrective actions, and the date that NCDWQ was contacted on the combined form. For any loss of pollutants equal to or greater than the amount that would fit in a 5-gallon bucket to waters of the State or protected buffer areas, NCDOT must contact NCDWQ for consultation regarding clean-up techniques.

Will someone be training the contractor? Resident Offices see a problem with contractor understanding this combined form, SPPPF30, effective July 2010 and being able to complete it with any accuracy.

All contractors were given the opportunity to attend webinar training sessions conducted by Raleigh REU. The resident offices will provide re-emphasis on the details of the combined form, SPPPF30, effective July 2010. For further assistance, contact your local NCDWQ representative.

Why are we being trained on this when contractor is responsible for it? Also, why am I forced to sign SPPPF30, effective July 2010, agreeing it is accurate and completed in accordance with NCG01 permit when I didn't perform the inspection?

Although a contractor may be conducting the work on an NCDOT construction site, NCDOT is issued the permit and is ultimately responsible for the activities conducted on the construction site. By signing the form, you verify that the contractor has fulfilled the inspection requirements completely.

Is the signature block on the combined form, SPPPF30, effective July 2010, to be signed at the end of the week or after the routine weekly inspection?

The combined form, SPPPF30, effective July 2010, should be signed at the end of each week.

How does the NCDOT inspector know a contractor actually acknowledged and met the "Urgent" repair time frame if it is not signed off on every day it's conducted?

Any items listed "Urgent" by the contractor should be reported to the NCDOT inspector. Inspectors will have to document that contractors are meeting the "Urgent" corrective action timeframes by inspecting the site and initialing the correction date. The NCDOT inspector should sign off on the sheet at the end of the week if everything is correct and completed.

How far does the outlet of an erosion control device have to be from waters of State to be considered an SDO?

No specific distance from the outlet of an erosion control device to waters of the State has been prescribed. To determine what qualifies as an SDO, the inspector should consider the distance, the topography, and the vegetative conditions between the outlet and waters of the State. For example, an outlet that is 30' from waters of the State on a flat slope with heavy vegetation may not be considered an SDO whereas an outlet located 30' from waters of the State on a steep grade with sparse vegetation may be considered an SDO. The inspector should also consider the potential volume of the discharge from the outlet. High potential discharge volumes may make a discharge outlet an SDO that would not qualify as an SDO under low potential discharge volume conditions. Certain conditions may not qualify a discharge outlet to be an SDO, but the discharge outlet may have a high potential to impact waters of the State or other resources. Discharge outlets upstream and in close proximity to sensitive resources such as High Quality Waters, Water Supply watersheds, etc. or sensitive property owners may necessitate regular inspections similar to those required for an SDO. For further assistance in determining whether a discharge outlet is an SDO, contact your local NCDWQ representative.

What is the difference between temporary stabilization and temporary vegetation?

Temporary stabilization is defined in the definitions section and can include mulching, rolled erosion control products, vegetation, or other materials. Temporary stabilization is applicable to **active** projects. Temporary vegetation is required on **idle** projects and is defined as actual growing vegetation with a cover density of at least **80%**.

How many years must the NPDES records be kept?

The NCG010000 monitoring records must be kept for 3 years after completion of the project.

Do the check marks for phase of grading transfer cumulatively so that eventually it is filled up or is the current phase grading checked for that week's report?

The phases of grading do not transfer week to week. Check only the current phase(s) of grading for the project on the weekly report.

Can I use white-out on my inspection records?

It is not recommended that white-out be used on inspection records. If a mistake is made, simply mark through the mistake, initial it, and rewrite the record correctly.

Can I use computer print outs for my records?

Yes. Computer print outs can be used for records. However, pre-printed results are highly discouraged as they appear misleading to field inspectors.

Can you provide an example of good recordkeeping?

Examples of good NPDES recordkeeping can be found at the website below. Under NPDES Documentation, see "NPDES TIP Examples" and "NPDES SR Examples".
http://www.ncdot.org/doh/operations/dp_chief_eng/roadside/fieldops/downloads/