

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Permits

Some earth moving projects may require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for storm water discharges from construction activities. This permit is required for all projects involving one (1) acre or more of disturbance over the life of the project.

There are two types of NPDES permits for storm water discharges from construction activities. Individual Permits are required for those projects that will occur in Special Protection Watersheds, such as streams classified in Chapter 93 or on the DEP Existing Use classification as High Quality (HQ) or Exceptional Value (EV). Exceptional Value wetlands and streams classified as "Class A Wild Trout" by the PA Fish & Boat Commission may also be considered as Special Protection Watersheds. A significant history of non-compliance by an applicant and/or other special circumstances at the discretion of DEP may also result in the Individual Permit requirements. General NPDES Permits are required for all other projects that meet the NPDES permit criteria but do not fall under the Individual Permit guidelines.

The following is a list of requirements for NPDES permit applications:

- Notice of Intent (NOI) or Application Form
- General Information Form (GIF) (* only required for Individual Permits)
- Cultural Resource Notice (* only required for Individual Permits disturbing 10 acres or more)
- Permit Filing Fee (\$500 for General Permits, \$1500 for Individual Permits). Checks made payable to the *Warren County Conservation District Clean Water Fund*
- Disturbed Acre Fee (\$100.00 per disturbed acre). Checks made payable to the *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Clean Water Fund*
- Warren County Conservation District Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control Plan Review Fees (see Application Fee Schedule Form)
- Location Maps
- Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control Plan
- County and Municipal Notices
- Proof of Receipt of County and Municipal Notices
- Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) search results and clearances
- Post-Construction Stormwater Management Plans
- Consistency letter from County or Municipal engineer (* if applicable)
- Appendix B Land Use Questions
- Completed Worksheets 1 through 5

In Warren County, General Permits are issued by the Conservation District. The Conservation District performs an administrative review of the Individual Permit applications, but the PA Department of Environmental Protection's North West Regional Office is responsible for final permit issuance for Individual Permits. It is a Pennsylvania requirement that a pre-application meeting be scheduled for all NPDES Permits. Please contact the Conservation District to schedule a meeting to discuss your project prior to submitting the permit application.

Periodically, workshops are held for earth moving contractors, developers, municipal officials, and others to explain the Rules and Regulations relating to the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law and PA Code, Title 25, Chapter 102. If you have questions about these rules and regulations or about how to control accelerated erosion, please call the Conservation District at (814) 726-1441.

Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control Plans

An erosion and sediment pollution control plan is a site specific plan identifying best management practices or ways in which accelerated erosion and sediment pollution will be minimized. The erosion and sediment pollution control plan should be developed by an individual who has been trained or has experience in erosion and sediment control methods and techniques. A plan typically includes a plan narrative and plan drawings. The plan should be developed and approved prior to any earth disturbance activities at the site.

At a minimum, the plan should contain the following information:

- Identification of existing topographic features at the site and immediate surrounding area. Includes a location map identifying the site location.
- Soils information including the soil types, depths, slopes, locations, characteristics, and limitations of the soils present at the site.
- Characteristics of the earth disturbance activity including the past, present and proposed land uses, as well as, a description of the proposed alteration to the project site.
- The amount (volume and rate) of runoff from the project and the upstream watershed area.
- Location of Waters of the Commonwealth which may receive discharges from the project. The Chapter 93 and/or Existing Use water quality classification of the receiving waters should also be identified.
- The type of perimeter and on-site best management practices that will be used to minimize soil erosion and sediment pollution should be identified.
- A sequence of construction identifying the installation of erosion and sediment pollution control devices and facilities, schedule of earth disturbance activities, temporary and permanent stabilization, and removal of temporary erosion and sediment pollution control devices upon final stabilization.
- Supporting calculations.
- Plan drawings depicting existing and proposed site features, slope of land, Waters of the Commonwealth, locations of erosion and sediment control devices and facilities, existing and proposed stormwater conveyance systems and other necessary information.
- A maintenance plan which provides for inspection of erosion and sediment pollution control devices and facilities on a weekly basis and following precipitation events, as well as,

maintenance, replacement or repairs to inadequate or damaged controls and devices to ensure effective and efficient operation.

- Procedures which identify proper measures for recycling and disposal of construction wastes from the project site.
- Identification of naturally occurring geologic formations or soil conditions that may potentially cause pollution during earth moving activities and include measures to avoid or minimize the impacts.
- Identification of potential thermal impacts to surface waters of the Commonwealth and include methods or devices to avoid, minimize, or mitigate those thermal impacts.
- The erosion and sediment control plan must be designed to be consistent with the post-construction storm water management plan.
- Identification of existing and proposed riparian buffers.

The erosion and sediment pollution control plan should be kept at the site throughout the duration of the earth moving activities. Inspectors from the Warren County Conservation District and/or PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) may visit the site and request to see the plan.

The Warren County Conservation District has Level II delegation from the PA Department of Environmental Protection to administer the erosion and sediment pollution control program. Level II duties include education, technical assistance, site inspection, plan review, and voluntary compliance. The Conservation District works with the PA Department of Environmental Protection on all enforcement matters. Please contact the Warren County Conservation District if you have erosion and sediment control questions or concerns.