

Storm Water Regulations and the Construction Industry



Preventing Storm Water Pollution at the Source

Construction activities disturbing one or more acres of land require an NPDES permit and the development and implementation of a SWPPP.

STORM WATER DISCHARGES

The Iowa construction industry is a critical participant in protecting lakes, streams, and rivers through the use of proper erosion and sediment control practices.

As storm water flows through construction sites it washes soil, chemicals, and debris into our water resources. This results in degraded water quality.

Excessive soil erosion can have a high price tag on a construction project. It is costly to replace poorly installed sediment control practices, to clean storm drains, and to repair damage to neighboring properties and natural resources.



Lack of erosion and sediment controls during home construction threatens natural resources.

CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

If construction project activities disturb one or more acres of land, construction site owners and operators are required to:

- 1. Develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and follow it.** The SWPPP is a plan for controlling runoff and pollutants from ground disturbance until final site stabilization. Good planning is the key to a successful project.
- 2. Obtain a Storm Water General Permit once a SWPPP is prepared.** Assistance about permit requirements can be obtained from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. See the DNR website for more detailed information.
- 3. Certify under penalty of law to follow the SWPPP.** Site owners and contractors must sign a statement that they agree to comply with the terms and conditions of the SWPPP.
- 4. Have a qualified professional perform inspections weekly and after ½ inch of rain and keep records for compliance with water quality standards and the SWPPP.**
- 5. Maintain erosion and sediment control practices and update the SWPPP regularly during the construction process.**
- 6. Install permanent storm water management practices as required and in accordance with standards.**
- 7. Keep current SWPPP and inspection records in a log book at the construction site.**

IOWA STORM WATER PROGRAM

In Iowa, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is authorized by the EPA to administer the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) program and issue permits for storm water discharges subject to permit requirements.

While property ownership may change during development, compliance is required until all construction is completed. However, the permit and SWPPP responsibility can be transferred to the new owners through a signed contract.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Storm Water Program
Joe Griffin | 515.281.7017

www.iowadnr.com/water/stormwater/index

www.iowastormwater.org



Mud tracked onto streets from construction sites will be transported to surface water via storm drains.

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

Minimize the area of exposed soil on site:

- Plan the project in stages to minimize the area of exposed soils.
- Seed and mulch disturbed areas with permanent or temporary groundcover.

Protect channels from erosive storm flows:

- Use stabilization measures such as sod, geotextile, filter strips, or rip-rap to reduce erosion through channels.

Reduce the velocity of storm water:

- Use vegetated buffers and check dams to slow down storm water.



Keep sediment on-site:

- Use temporary sediment traps and properly designed basins to retain sediment.
- Maintain a rocked construction entrance at access points.
- Remove sediment and debris from streets to keep pollutants out of storm drains.

Divert clean water from disturbed soils:

- Use diversion structures to divert flow around exposed areas of the site to undisturbed or grassed areas.

Maintain all practices to ensure effectiveness:

- Inspect all controls for maintenance issues.
- Routinely maintain sediment control practices such as silt fences, berms, or traps, as they collect sediment.

Brochure created by the Iowa StormWater Education Program.



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