**Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control**

The objective of this program as required by section 2.3.5 is: The establishment of an effective construction stormwater runoff control program is to minimize or eliminate erosion and maintain sediment on construction sites so that it is not transported in stormwater and allowed to discharge to a water of the United States through the permitted MS4.

This document forwards a maintenance program that provides for the operation and maintenance of Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) and the inspection of BMPs in partial compliance with Part 2.3.5 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPS) general permit for stormwater discharges from small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) permits. A stormwater Construction Site Inspection program is a program developed by municipalities to track, inspect, and enforce local stormwater requirements at construction sites.

This standard operating procedure (SOP) assumes that the municipality has legal authority (i.e., site plan regulations, a bylaw or approved ordinance) in place, per the requirements of the 2003 and 2017 New Hampshire MS4 Permits, to require sediment and erosion control at construction sites. This legal authority includes the requirement for a comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (SMP). The SMP is required to include among other things a description and a proposed Site Plan showing proposed erosion and sediment control measures, limits of disturbance, temporary and permanent soil stabilization measures in accordance with the NHDES Stormwater Manual Volume 3 (or most recent version) as well as a construction site inspection plan including phased installation of BMPs and final inspection upon completion of construction.

This document establishes a written procedure for site inspections and enforcement erosion and sediment control (ESC) practices. The construction site inspection program will include a schedule for inspection of the various BMPs that provides for inspection of all erosion and sediment control BMPs on the construction site. On a weekly basis and after each rainfall event greater than 0.25 inches in a 24-hour period, municipal personnel will inspect all active construction sites. The type of maintenance, such as cleanout, repair, replacement, regrading, restabilizing, etc. for each of the BMPs should be included on the inspection report. A general report template and inspection checklist is included as part of this program.

Minimum focus areas of appropriate sediment and erosion control measures for construction sites include local requirements to:

* Minimize the amount of disturbed area and protect natural resources;
* Stabilize sites when projects are complete or operations have temporarily ceased;
* Protect slopes on the construction site;
* Protect all storm drain inlets and armor all newly constructed outlets;
* Use perimeter controls at the site;
* Stabilize construction site entrances and exits to prevent off-site tracking; and
* Inspect stormwater controls at consistent intervals.

**Conducting Stormwater Inspections at Construction Sites**

A municipal compliance inspector has the authority to place the burden of demonstrating compliance on the site operator, or contractor, to the greatest extent possible. Activities and documentation as provided for in the attached section may be performed or completed by either the site operator’s inspector or a municipal inspector, so the general terms “construction site inspector” and “inspector” have been used.

The role of the construction site inspector is to ensure that site operations match the approved site plans and the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the project, and that all precautions are taken to prevent pollutants and sediment from the construction site from impacting local waterways. The inspector is also expected to determine the adequacy of construction site stormwater quality control measures.

The attached Construction Site Stormwater Inspection Report shall be used by the inspector during site visits. Construction site inspectors should abide by the following guidelines:

1. Inspections to monitor stormwater compliance should be performed at least once per month at

each active construction site and after each rainfall event greater than 0.5 inches in a 24-hour period, with priority placed on sites that require coverage under the USEPA 2017 CGP (i.e., that disturb one or more acres), and sites that are located in the watershed of any 303(d) water bodies.

2. The inspection shall begin at a low point and work uphill, observing all discharge points and any off-site support activities.

3. Written and photographic records shall be maintained for each site visit.

4. During the inspection, the inspector should ask questions of the contractor. Understanding the selection, implementation, and maintenance of BMPs is an important goal of the inspection process, and requires site-specific input.

5. The inspector shall always wear personal protective equipment appropriate for the site.

6. The inspector shall abide by the contractor’s site-specific safety requirements.

7. The inspector has legal authority to enter the site. However, if denied permission to enter the site, the inspector should never force entry.

8. Prior to planning a site visit, an inspector shall determine if the project is subject to USEPA’s 2017 Construction General Permit. If the site requires this coverage, the inspector shall visit the USEPA Region 1NOI website (http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/cgpenoi.cfm or http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/ noi/noisearch.cfm) to determine if the contractor filed for coverage under the 2012 and/or 2008 Construction General Permits, respectively. Print a copy of the project’s NOI.

**Attachments**

1. Construction Site Stormwater Inspection Report

NOTES:

The procedures shall clearly define who is responsible for site inspections as well as who has authority to implement enforcement procedures.

Add checklist template