

If your construction project disturbs 1 or more acres of land through clearing, grading, excavating, or stockpiling of fill material then you are required to have a permit for stormwater discharges from the site. (You must count the acreage of the entire project, even if you are responsible for a small portion.)

<http://www.adem.state.al.us/programs/water/constructionstormwater.cnt>

The Clean Water Act and Federal regulations require construction site operators to obtain NPDES permit coverage for regulated land disturbances and associated discharges of stormwater runoff to State waters.

Effective April 1, 2011, ADEM established General NPDES Permit No. ALR100000 for discharges associated with regulated construction activity that will result in land disturbance equal to or greater than one acre or from construction activities involving less than one acre and which are part of a common plan of development or sale equal to or greater than one acre.

Construction site operators / owners seeking coverage under this general permit must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) in accordance with the permit requirements.

Operators / owners of all regulated construction sites must implement and maintain effective erosion and sediment controls in accordance a Construction Best Management Practices Plan (CBMPP) prepared and certified by a Qualified Credentialed Professional (QCP). For priority construction sites, which include any site that discharges to (1) a waterbody which is listed on the most recently EPA approved 303(d) list of impaired waters for turbidity, siltation, or sedimentation, (2) any waterbody for which a TMDL has been finalized or approved by EPA for turbidity, siltation, or sedimentation, (3) any waterbody assigned the Outstanding Alabama Water use classification in accordance with ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-6-10-.09, and (4) any waterbody assigned a special designation in accordance with ADEM Admin. Code r. 335-6-10-.10, the CBMPP must be submitted to ADEM for review along with the NOI.

A QCP or Qualified Credentialed Inspector (QCI) must conduct regular inspections of regulated construction activities to ensure effective erosion and sediment controls are being maintained. In certain circumstances, the QCI or QCP must also monitor construction site discharges for turbidity.

On December 1, 2009, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published effluent limit guidelines (ELGs) and new source performance standards (NSPS) for regulated construction sites. The regulation was effective on February 1, 2010. After this date, all permits issued by EPA or states must incorporate the final rule requirements. Although certain parts of the rule were since stayed, ADEM's general permit incorporates those non-numeric effluent limits promulgated by EPA and which remain in effect.

EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL

Sediment is the number one pollutant of streams and waterways in Alabama. The result of improper BMP installation on construction sites can lead to the release of sediment into these waterways. Sediment can adversely affect our water quality by destroying aquatic habitats, decreasing ability for recreational water activities, and increasing flooding.

The City of Oxford is required to regulate construction sites to ensure that sediment stays on-site and erosion control measures are being completed. This regulation is mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and is enforced in the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance.

Sediment, debris, trash, and chemicals are common examples of the types of pollutants associated with stormwater runoff from construction sites. A variety of Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be employed that reduce soil erosion, reduce sediment loss from the site, manage construction-generated waste, and manage construction-related hazardous materials

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) FOR CONSTRUCTION SITES

The use of properly installed BMPs can aid in keeping the sediment on the construction site. The following are helpful BMPs for construction sites.

Silt Fences

Silt fence is the most commonly used BMP to trap sediment and intercept runoff. Filter fabric should be installed correctly by placing a portion of it in the ground and placing stakes downhill. Maintain silt fences until permanent vegetation is established. Do not use silt fence on a steep slope or concentrated flow area. Use the applicable type silt fence for the application.

Inlet Protection

All inlets must have some form of protection. Install inlet protection before any sediment is moved onto the site. The inlets must be inspected and maintained regularly.

Outlet Protection

Outlets are protected to cut down on bank erosion in streams and used on concentrated flows to dissipate energy. Install oversized stone as shown in BMP design. Install geotextile fabric under stone.

Construction Exit and Entry Pads

This prevents tracking soil and debris into roadways. The pad requires 6" aggregate or more if needed. The pad should be installed during the clearing and grubbing stage and should be maintained throughout construction. A geotextile should also be installed under the entrance.

Stockpile Placement

Build stockpiles away from streams, drainage ways, wetlands, and storm water inlets. Temporary seeding or mulching must be completed if stockpile is to remain for more than 4 working days.

Sediment Cleanup and Good Housekeeping

Clean up the construction site after each workday by sweeping or scraping soil on the roads. Inspect all BMPs and repair as necessary after each storm event. Do not allow sediment to build up on silt fences.

Revegetation/Run-off Protection

Stabilize all exposed surfaces from erosion. Seed or sod final graded surface. Seed all swales, rights-of-way, curb inlets, and buffers along streams and wetlands. Mulching can be used where approved.