

# Public Works Department News

## EFFECTIVE EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL MUST BE PART OF EVERY CONSTRUCTION JOB

Below are the KEY permit requirements that the people who sign the permit and the SRF must meet (see complete permit details at: [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html)).

- Sediment control practices must minimize sediment from entering surface waters, including curb and gutter systems and storm sewer inlets.
- Sediment controls must be established on all down gradient perimeters before any upgradient land disturbing activities begin & shall remain in place until final stabilization has been established.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) must be installed properly, inspected regularly, and correctly maintained.
- All storm drain inlets must be protected by appropriate BMPs during construction until all sources with potential for discharging to the inlet have been stabilized.
- Temporary soil stockpiles must have silt fence or other effective sediment controls, and cannot be placed in surface waters, including storm water conveyances such as curb and gutter systems, conduits and ditches, or drainage easements.
- Temporary vehicle tracking of sediment from the construction site must be minimized by BMPs such as stone pads, concrete or steel wash racks, or equivalent systems. Street sweeping must be used if such BMPs are not adequate to prevent sediment from being tracked onto the street.

Erosion and sediment control provisions need to be bid appropriately. An inadequate budget does not excuse you from meeting the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency construction storm water permit requirements.

- Site-specific erosion and sediment control (ESC) needs must be clearly understood.
- The people who sign the permit MUST insure that everyone who accesses their site abides by the permit requirements.
- Specifications and bid packages must provide for:
  - Basic ESC materials
  - Time for installation, inspection and maintenance
  - Extra materials to replace damaged BMPs or to enhance inadequate BMPs
- Plan for more costly ESC during winter construction:
  - Most ESC BMPs can't be installed in the traditional manner – that doesn't mean you don't have to install them
  - Stabilized vehicle entrances become clogged more quickly and require more maintenance
  - More scraping and street sweeping are necessary
  - Inlet protection becomes more labor intensive because it must be uninstalled prior to snowstorms to accommodate snowplowing and reinstalled during dry periods

When corners are cut to save a buck on the front end, we all pay the price on the back end. Within Rochester, MPCA has identified 7 water bodies that do not meet state water quality standards. Five of these “impairments” are due to excessive sediment in the water. For each impaired water body, the MPCA must now identify the pollution sources and develop a plan to eliminate the pollution and restore water quality. All of the parties that contribute pollution will pay their share to restore water quality.

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