



# NPDES Stormwater Discharge Permit for Construction Activities

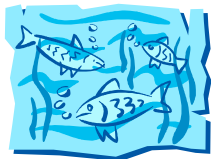
Cover Sheet for NCG010000

Last Revised 03/10/2005



## Did you know?

**In North Carolina, excess stormwater volumes and blankets of sediment covering aquatic habitat cause more streams in the state to lose their ability to support aquatic life than any other pollution problem<sup>1</sup>.**



## What is it?

This is your **Stormwater Permit**. It is separate from your Erosion and Sedimentation Control (E&SC) Plan.

Your project is subject to this permit **in addition to** the approved E&SC Plan because all construction activities disturbing 1 or more acres of land are subject to stormwater permitting requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). You have been given a copy of **General Permit No. NCG010000** (attached) and granted coverage under this General Stormwater Permit.

## Why is this permit required, and why is it important?

Federal regulations adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and North Carolina Division of Water Quality (DWQ) require an NPDES permit for your project. The EPA has delegated DWQ the authority to administer the NPDES program in North Carolina.

You must comply with the applicable terms and conditions of this Stormwater Permit, and you are subject to enforcement by the Division of Water Quality for any violations.

**In just one rain event, poor erosion & sediment control practices can contribute nearly a ton of sediment per acre to a**



Sediment-filled creek downstream of a construction site.

**stream<sup>2</sup>. That can cause long-term devastation to receiving waters!**

So remember, compliance with this permit helps protect our lakes, streams, rivers, and coastal waters.

<sup>2</sup>From *Pollutant Export from Various Land Uses in the Upper Neuse River Basin* (Line, Daniel E. et al.) and DWQ staff communication with authors about the study.

## What does this permit require me to do?

You should read and become familiar with the provisions and conditions of this permit. Here are some highlights:

### Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plan

You must implement the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan approved for your project by the N.C. Division of Land Resources (DLR) or by an approved local program. Adherence to that E&SC Plan is an enforceable component of the Stormwater Permit.

### Monitoring - BMP & Outfall Inspections

- You must inspect all erosion and sedimentation control facilities **at least once a week**. If you discharge to certain impaired waters, you must inspect these facilities **twice a week** (see permit). Impaired waters on the latest EPA approved 303(d) list as a result of construction-related parameters can be found here: <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/construction303d>
- You must inspect all E&SC facilities within 24 hours **after any**

**storm event greater than a half inch** (during a 24-hr period).

- You must observe runoff at your stormwater outfalls just as often as above for characteristics listed in the permit (clarity, solids, etc.).
- You must keep records of these inspections.

### Operation & Maintenance (O&M)

You must provide the operation and maintenance (O&M) necessary to maintain optimal performance of stormwater controls. This means you must **take corrective action if**

<sup>1</sup>From the *Draft North Carolina Water Quality Assessment and Impaired Waters List* (2004 Integrated 305(b) and 303(d) Report).

## What does this permit require me to do? (cont.)

E&SC facilities are not operating properly! O&M includes things like:

- ✓ Regularly cleaning out sedimentation basins
- ✓ Stabilizing eroded banks or spillway structures
- ✓ Repairing/clearing out inlets and outlets
- ✓ Repairing piping, seepage, mechanical damage
- ✓ Repairing silt fence damage



Silt fence maintenance

fuels, coolants, hydraulic fluids, etc.

- You must follow federal guidelines and label restrictions when using herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers.
- You must properly dispose of demolition debris and other building material.
- You must properly manage disposal of litter and sanitary waste.

### Reporting

Regular inspections are a good chance to check impacts to nearby waters. **If you observe significant amounts of sediment in the stream, notify the DWQ regional office** within 24 hours and provide written notice within 5 days (See

Part II, Section E of the Permit). Please copy correspondence to DLR.

### *It's not just Erosion & Sedimentation Control!*

- You must prevent stormwater contamination from the equipment used during construction. This includes preventing spills of oil,

### Non-Compliance and Fines

Take compliance seriously! Projects that violate Stormwater Permit conditions and/or have unauthorized water quality impacts are subject to fines. **Civil penalties** of up to \$25,000.00 per day for each violation may be assessed.

## What do I need to keep on site?

- ✓ Copy of the approved E&SC Plan, including any revisions
- ✓ A rain gauge
- ✓ Records of rainfall amounts and dates
- ✓ Records of E&SC facility/Best Management Practice (BMP) inspections
- ✓ Records of stormwater discharge outfall and stream inspections/observations. (See attached example log sheet).

## Who inspects me for what?

DWQ coordinates with the Division of Land Resources' Land Quality Section to ensure compliance with NC Rules and Regulations regarding construction activities and their impact on water quality. That means your operation is subject to enforcement by both Divisions.

In general, DLR staff will be inspecting your site on a regular basis. However, DWQ staff may per-

form inspections as well. These inspections may be routine in nature, or the result of public complaints or problems reported by DLR.

- ✓ NC DLR (or a delegated local program) will inspect the site for compliance with your approved E&SC Plan.
- ✓ NC DWQ investigates complaints and inspects for adverse impacts to water quality and stream standard violations (such as sediment in the stream).
- ✓ NC DWQ may inspect the site for compliance with this Stormwater Permit.

## Do I need to file a Notice of Intent (NOI)?

No. Once your E&SC Plan is approved, you are automatically covered under NCG010000, and you do not need to file an NOI for a Certificate of Coverage (COC) from DWQ. However, if you do not wish to be covered by this General Permit, you must apply to DWQ for an individual NPDES Stormwater Permit.

## Who can help me with questions?

Questions about Stormwater Permit requirements can be addressed to the Division of Water Quality Regional Offices:

Asheville Office.....	(828) 296-4500	Washington Office.....	(252) 946-6481
Fayetteville Office.....	(910) 486-1541	Wilmington Office.....	(910) 395-3900
Mooresville Office.....	(704) 663-1699	Winston-Salem Office....	(336) 771-4600
Raleigh Office.....	(919) 571-4700	Central Office.....	(919) 733-5083



For more information about the Programs of the Division of Water Quality's Stormwater Permitting Unit, see our home page at:  
<http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/su/stormwater.html>