

# MCM #4 - Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

## The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Program

*This factsheet is part of our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) series.*

*To access this series and many other educational resources, please visit: [spcwater.org](http://spcwater.org).*

Under Chapter 102 Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Control, county conservation districts and/or PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) must issue a NPDES permit for earth disturbance activities greater than or equal to 1 acre. These NPDES permits satisfy all requirements under this MCM, along with the following BMPs. It is a good practice for the permittee to have a written agreement, such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), with their county conservation district which clearly defines roles in the permitting, inspection, and enforcement of land development activities.

There are 3 Best Management Practices (BMPs) required under this MCM. Learn more about their requirements and resources to help meet these requirements below.

### BMP #1

Final approval to conduct earth disturbance activities cannot be granted unless the party proposing the earth disturbance has a valid Chapter 102 NPDES permit.

### BMP #2

A municipality or county which issues building permits must notify DEP or the county conservation district within 5 days of the receipt of an application for a permit involving earth disturbance activity of 1 acre or more.

### BMP #3

Enact, implement, and enforce an ordinance to require the implementation of erosion and sediment control BMPs, as well as sanctions for non-compliance.



Sediment is the primary pollutant of concern associated with construction site stormwater runoff. Sediment-polluted stormwater can cause physical, chemical, and biological damage to waterways. Proper installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment control best management practices is essential to protect our waterways.

### Elements of An Effective Stormwater Site Plan

A stormwater site plan is one of many essential elements necessary to minimize stormwater pollution from construction sites. 10 key elements of an effective stormwater site plan include:

Source: <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/npdes/swbmp/Construction-Phase-Plan-Review.cfm>

1. Minimize clearing and grading
2. Protect waterways
3. Phase construction to limit soil exposure
4. Immediately stabilize exposed soils
5. Protect steep slopes and cuts
6. Install perimeter controls to filter sediments
7. Employ advanced sediment settling controls
8. Certify and train contractors on stormwater site plan implementation
9. Control waste at the construction site
10. Inspect and maintain BMPs

### Sediment Pollution in Our Waterways

Sediment pollution is, by volume, the greatest contributor to pollution in PA waterways. Nationally, it is the second leading cause of pollution in impaired waterways. Sediment can cause physical, biological, and chemical harm to streams, lakes, wetlands, and rivers. According to the EPA, sediment runoff from construction sites can be 1,000 to 2,000 times greater than that of forested land, and 10 to 20 times greater than that of agricultural land. The installation and maintenance of construction site erosion and sediment controls is critical for the protection of our waterways.

\*Please note that this information is not intended to replace regulatory requirements. Actual individual and/or general permits issued by PADEP should be followed to ensure that MS4 regulatory requirements are met. This information was adapted from [PADEP's PAG-13 NPDES General Permit for Small Municipal MS4s & EPA's Stormwater Phase II Final Rule Fact Sheet Series](#).

### Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

is one of the 6 minimum control measures (MCMs) required under the small MS4 program. The goal of the Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control MCM is to protect our waterways from stormwater-related pollution that can result from construction activities.

### Pollutants Commonly Associated with Construction Sites

- Sediment
- Trash
- Sanitary Waste
- Phosphorus
- Nitrogen
- Pesticides
- Oil/Grease
- Concrete Truck Washout
- Construction Chemicals



### For more information please contact:

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