

## CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

### Best Management Practices (BMPs)

are measures or practices that are used to minimize the potential for stormwater pollution. Selection and implementation will be unique for each project. BMPs require constant maintenance to remain effective. Changes/repairs to BMPs need to be properly documented on the site map. The following is a list of some commonly used BMPs:

### Structural Controls -

**Retention Ponds:** Permanent structures designed to allow time for sediment to settle and water to infiltrate into the ground.

**Temporary Sediment Basins:** Structure designed to detain sediment laden runoff from disturbed areas long enough for sediment to settle out and control the release of stormwater.

**Entrance/Exit Controls:** Temporary controls, such as rock, used to stabilize the site entrances and exits to reduce the volume of soil transported by trucks and other vehicles onto the adjacent roads.

**Silt Fencing:** A temporary erosion and sediment control, used to prevent sediment from entering waterways, before bare soil is stabilized by vegetation.

**Berms:** A temporary erosion and sediment control, that physically prevents runoff from entering nearby waterways.

### Non-Structural Controls -

**Stabilization:** Techniques such as seeding, sodding, mulching, or stone cover which reduce the erosion of exposed soils and steep grades.

**Phased Construction:** Scheduling construction to occur in different time frames to minimize the total area cleared or disturbed at any one time.

**Good Housekeeping:** Techniques such as oil and fuel containment, spill prevention and clean up, routine trash pick up, and street sweeping which help prevent the contamination of stormwater runoff.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPING A SWPPP (use your internet search engine to find these sites)

TPDES Construction Storm Water Permit Home Page

USEPA Compliance Assurance  
and Enforcement- Region 6

North Central Texas Council of Governments  
site for Construction Runoff



Those who have a construction project, which disturbs at least one acre, and where the storm water discharge flows into unincorporated Tarrant County, must mail a copy of their Construction Site Notice or Notice of Intent to:

**Tarrant County Engineering Services**  
**Attention:**  
**Maria C. Moreno**  
**200 Taylor Street, Suite 305**  
**Fort Worth, TX 76196**

If you have any questions about the TCEQ Storm Water Program, please visit the TCEQ website at [www.tceq.state.tx.us](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us). If you have any questions regarding the new rules and regulations as they pertain to unincorporated Tarrant County properties, please contact:

**Maria C. Moreno at 817-884-2634 or at**  
**[mcmoreno2@tarrantcountytx.gov](mailto:mcmoreno2@tarrantcountytx.gov)**

# ATTENTION!

- **CONTRACTORS**
- **BUILDERS**
- **DEVELOPERS**



The TPDES Construction General Permit regulates construction activities that disturb one or more acres of land. Less than one acre also is included if the activity is part of a larger common plan of development or sale that will meet or exceed the one acre threshold.

### Construction activities include but are not limited to:

- **GRADING**
- **EXCAVATION**
- **PAVING**
- **CLEARING**
- **BACKFILLING**
- **UTILITY INSTALLATION**
- **SITE DEVELOPMENT**
- **BUILDING CONSTRUCTION**
- **STOCKPILING FILL MATERIAL**
- **DEMOLITION WORK**



## REGULATIONS AFFECTING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN UNINCORPORATED TARRANT COUNTY

On March 5, 2013, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) issued a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Construction General Permit Number TXR150000. This permit applies to construction activities and construction sites that disturb one acre or more of land and discharge stormwater to surface waters of Texas.

The TPDES permit separates construction sites into two categories: large construction sites that will disturb (by itself or as part of a common plan of development) 5 or more acres of land; and small construction sites that will disturb (alone or as part of a common plan of development) between 1 and 5 acres of land. Construction is defined as the exposure of soil resulting from activities such as clearing, grading, and excavating.

To apply for the permit, large construction sites:

- **MUST** submit to the TCEQ a Notice of Intent (NOI), together with a \$325 application fee, at least 7 days prior to commencing construction activities. Online ePermits are \$225. Effective immediately.
- **MUST** develop and implement a **Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)** for the construction site before submitting the NOI;
- **MUST** post a copy of the Large Construction Site Notice at the construction site for public viewing and;
- **MUST** provide a copy of the NOI and Large Construction Site Notice to the County, at least 2 days prior to commencing construction activities.
- **MUST** provide copies of any Notice of Change (NOC) and the Notice of termination (NOT) to the county.

To obtain permit coverage, **small construction sites:**

- **MUST** develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP);
- **MUST** post a signed copy of the TCEQ Small Construction Site Notice at the construction site for public viewing and;
- **MUST** provide a copy of the signed Small Construction Site Notice to the County, at least 2 days prior to commencing construction activities.
- Small construction sites are not required to submit a NOI nor pay the fee.

The **SWPPP** must identify and address all potential sources of pollution at the site, and describe and ensure implementation practices that will be used to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges from the site.

The new TPDES permit defines two types of operators:

**Primary operators, (mandatory)** have day-to-day operational control to ensure compliance with the Construction General Permit.

**Secondary operators (optional)** have operational control limited to the employment of others or to the ability to approve or disapprove changes to plans and specifications. A secondary operator becomes the primary operator in the absence of a primary operator on site.

### EROSION AND POLLUTION CONTROLS

Control measures such as silt fences, inlet protection, etc., must be working properly. Not all devices will work everywhere; the operator is responsible for cleaning and replacing any device as necessary. Inlet protection must be inspected regularly and cleaned when sediment has covered the fabric. Silt fences that have fallen or are damaged in any other way must be replaced immediately. Using only qualified personnel to install your control measures will save you troubles in the long run.



**The operator is responsible** for all the waste generated at the construction site. All waste must be placed in a trash container at all times. If waste is deposited or blown into a creek or any other area outside your site, it is the operator's responsibility for cleaning it immediately.

Both onsite and offsite material storage areas and appropriate housekeeping practices must be included in the SWPPP. If the operator is using a nearby lot for storage of materials, it is the responsibility of that operator for maintaining the sediment controls on that lot, even if the lot is not owned by the operator.

Existing vegetation should be preserved when possible, and must stabilize any disturbed area where construction activity has temporarily or permanently ceased. The stabilization must take place within 14 days of the end of activities unless construction will resume within 21 days. There are several options to accomplish temporary stabilization to include: revegetation, sod stabilization, mulching, geotextile fabric and others. Each site may require a different stabilization method.

### STABILIZATION IS NOT THE MERE APPLICATION OF GRASS SEED!

**The operator is required** to minimize off site vehicle tracking of sediments and the generation of dust, including those caused by subcontractors and suppliers.

**The operator is required** to inspect the site and erosion and sediment controls at a frequency specified by the permit. The SWPPP must be modified based on the results of inspections.

**The SWPPP is a LIVING DOCUMENT** and must reflect the changes at the site. Any modifications in the site must be documented in the SWPPP. Changes may warrant a NOC and must be submitted to TCEQ and to Tarrant County.