

STORMWATER UPDATE

In This Issue

- ❖ Consent Decree Effective
- ❖ Training Update
- ❖ Oversight Inspections
- ❖ Common Compliance Issues
- ❖ Specification Spotlight

EIT / EMT Training Upcoming Dates

Wichita, KS
April 7-8
April 9-10
May 19-20
May 21-22

<http://citksu.com>

INSPECTION REPORTING

Remember, all completed inspection reports must be submitted to the responsible Area Engineer and the contractor's WPCM within 24 hours of each inspection. The reports should be signed within 3 calendar days by the responsible Area Engineer and submitted to stormwaterinspection@ksdot.org. Failure to complete inspection reports and submit them on time will result in penalties.

Consent Decree Effective September 5, 2013

KDOT has agreed to pay a \$477,500 civil penalty to settle alleged violations of the Clean Water Act at three road construction sites that are located near Lawrence, Manhattan, and Pleasanton.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspected the U.S. Highway 69 project near Pleasanton in November 2008, the U.S. Highway 59 project near Lawrence in August 2010, and the Kansas Highway 18 project near Manhattan in May 2012. Violations included the failure to install or implement adequate stormwater control measures, including the failure to timely stabilize disturbed soils, the failure to properly maintain stormwater controls, the failure to develop an adequate stormwater pollution prevention plan and update the plan as appropriate, and the failure to maintain the plan and other records on site.

As a part of this settlement, KDOT has also agreed to a variety of compliance program enhancements. The consent decree requires KDOT to designate a stormwater compliance manager to oversee stormwater compliance statewide and to designate an Area Engineer as the stormwater compliance manager for each project site. The consent decree also requires third-party oversight inspections which require a consultant or KDOT inspector not affiliated with the project to conduct additional inspections at projects which disturb five or more acres of soil.

The consent decree was approved on September 5, 2013 by the Kansas federal district court. The full text of the decree can be found online at <http://www.ksdot.org/burconsmain/Connections/swppp.asp>



Environmental Inspector and Manger Training

Environmental Inspector Training (EIT) and Environmental Manager Training (EMT) courses have been scheduled for this coming spring. All individuals performing SWPPP inspections on KDOT projects are required to maintain the EIT certification. Area Engineers and contractor personnel designated as Water Pollution Control Managers (WPCM) are required to maintain the EMT certification. WPCMs are required to have completed the EMT training within the 12 months prior to beginning work on a project.

Training dates may be added once the scheduled classes have been filled. Specific course information and registration is available now through K-State's CIT website at <http://citksu.com>



Oversight Inspections

Third party oversight inspections are in progress around the state. Headquarters staff, Area Engineers and consultants have been instructed to begin inspection of their assigned projects. Oversight inspections are required on all projects which disturb 5 acres or more of ground. The oversight inspector assignments are made based on the project size and potential environmental impact. Oversight inspectors will review each project for compliance with the permit and the project SWPPP. Reports are to be submitted to the Area Engineer, Contractor's WPCM and the Stormwater Compliance Engineer within 24 hours of the inspection.



Common Compliance Issues

The most common compliance issues continue to be related to stabilization. Remember the permit requirement is to initiate stabilization immediately once work has ceased and will not resume within the next 14 days. Not stabilizing inactive work areas in a timely fashion greatly increases the erosion potential and the risk of additional violations. Prompt stabilization limits erosion, allows earlier vegetation establishment, reduces the need for sediment control measures and cuts down on re-grading.

Particular attention should be paid to stabilization around pipe and box culvert ends. These areas are prone to significant erosion and often require special treatment. Placement of erosion control blankets around these end sections and wingwalls is highly recommended. Where permanent erosion control features such as aggregate ditch lining or riprap are specified, those features should be installed as soon as the drainage structure is complete.



Specification Spotlight

In order to give our seeding efforts the best chance of success it is very important to properly prepare the seedbed. A properly prepared seedbed will allow good seed to soil contact and retain moisture required for germination. The requirements for seedbed preparation are in standard specification section 903. Section 903.3.b requires the use of tillage implements that shall penetrate 2 to 3 inches to prepare a firm, friable and weed-free seedbed. If the use of disks and harrows is impracticable, prepare the seedbed using hand methods. Special provision 07-09004 requires the seeding to be completed within 24 hours of the seedbed preparation. Grass seeds should be drilled no more than ½” deep. If hydroseeding or broadcast seeding is allowed, the seeded areas should be hand raked.

