

STORMWATER UPDATE

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EIT / EMT Training Upcoming Dates

Wichita, KS
June 15-16
June 17-18

<http://citksu.com>

WPCMs are required to have completed both the EIT and the EMT courses within the 12 months prior to beginning work on a project or being designated as WPCM for a project.

All completed inspection reports must be submitted to the responsible Area Engineer and the contractor's WPCM within 24 hours of each inspection.

The Area Engineer must sign within 3 calendar days and submit to stormwaterinspection@ksdot.org. Failure to complete and submit inspection reports on time **will** result in penalties

When it Rains it Pours

This construction season is starting off on a very wet note. During the month of May our inspectors and contractors completed 632 stormwater inspections on 101 different projects. For comparison, in May 2014 our 103 projects required only 349 inspections. On average this means that each project required approximately 3 more inspections than this same time period one year ago.

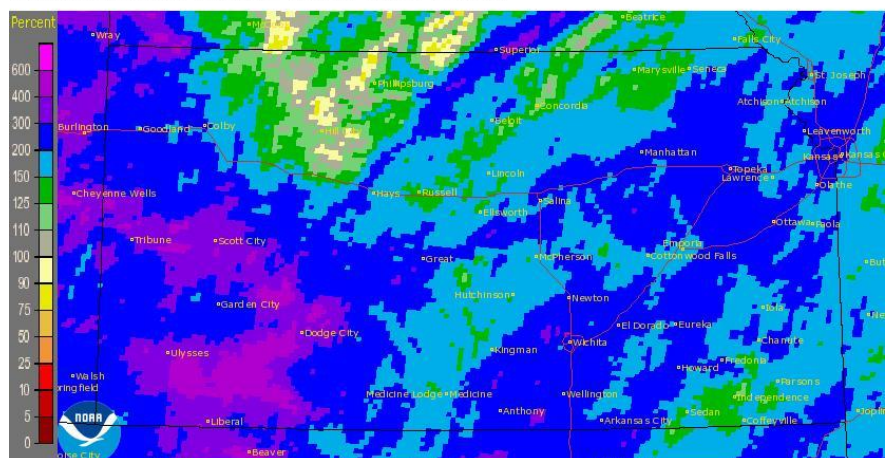
The graphic below was obtained from the National Weather Service (NWS) and shows the "Percent of Normal Precipitation" observed during the month of May. It should be no surprise that the precipitation totals were significantly higher than normal almost everywhere in the state. The long-range forecasts suggest that this trend will continue with above normal precipitation and below normal temperatures for the next three months.

This cool, wet weather creates a number of challenges for us during construction. Wet areas of the project can be slow to dry out. Access in and out of the construction site can be very difficult. Overall progress towards project completion can be significantly hindered when these types of conditions prevail. In spite of all of these difficulties, we are expected to maintain compliance with all of the stormwater permit requirements.

Meeting this expectation can be very difficult, but keeping a few things in mind can significantly improve your chances:

- 1. Watch the forecast.** In many cases large rainfall events are predicted in advance. If sufficient notice is given, project activities can be adjusted to ensure that necessary stabilization measures or sediment controls are installed before the storm arrives.
- 2. Focus on the critical areas.** We can't stop the rain from falling, but we do need to minimize the erosion it causes on our project. Ditch bottoms, culvert ends and other areas with concentrated flow can be large sources of sediment if not properly protected. Focusing on getting these areas finished and stabilized will pay off in the end.
- 3. Stabilize immediately.** The permit requires stabilization be initiated immediately after grading has ceased. During a wet weather season, a delay of even a few days can be disastrous if a rainfall event occurs before the stabilization work is complete. Successfully meeting this requirement requires excellent communication and coordination on the project. This may also require finishing and stabilizing smaller areas of the project than anticipated. Disturbing large areas of the project which cannot be either worked or stabilized following a rain event is a sure path to non-compliance.

Kansas: Current 30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation
Valid at 5/31/2015 1200 UTC- Created 6/1/15 0:33 UTC



KCA Training

The Kansas Contractors Association (KCA) offered Environmental Inspector / Manager Training to contractor personnel on March 10 and 11, 2015. This training was developed according to the same guidelines as the KDOT courses and is considered to be an approved equivalent. There were 49 individuals certified at this initial offering of the KCA training. KCA anticipates scheduling additional sessions, although at this time no dates have been set. Questions about registration for this alternative training program for contractors should be directed to the Kansas Contractors Association.



To Mow or Not To Mow

By Scott Shields, KDOT Environmental Services

I have noticed good stands of temporary grass on our projects this spring and some of it was over 3' tall. In the past, it has been a rule of thumb to wait for the temporary grass to mature before mowing so it will re-seed itself. But, in the spring time if you have a good stand of temporary grass, it is better to mow it before it matures because it will promote regrowth of the oats and wheat grass and improve soil stabilization. Moreover, mowing in the spring will promote the growth of the Canada wild rye in our temporary seed mix. Recently, I have noticed Canada wild rye mix coming up on many projects. If we mow the temporary grass in the spring instead of waiting for it to mature in the summer, it will allow the Canada wild rye to really take off and that is what we want. In some situations it may be necessary to mow it 2 to 3 times before permanent seeding. The mowing height should be around 6 – 8 inches.

Mowing in the fall may be necessary as well, especially before permanent seeding. We do not want to shade out the planted seeds. It is best to mow at least 2 weeks before seeding to allow the thatch to dry up. Mowing before permanent seeding is always a good idea when you have a good stand of ground cover.



Annual Report

KDOT's 2014 Annual Report on Stormwater Compliance was published on March 27, 2015. The report details actions taken during the year to improve statewide compliance with the KDHE general permit and the Consent Decree. The report was submitted to the EPA as required by the Consent Decree and is currently available on KDOT's Stormwater website (<http://www.ksdot.org/burconsmain/Connections/swppp.asp>).



Stormwater Update Online

This issue and all past issues of this quarterly bulletin are available online at KDOT's Stormwater website:

<http://www.ksdot.org/burconsmain/Connections/swppp.asp>

Contact Jason Van Nice (jasonv@ksdot.org) for questions, comments or suggestions for future content.