

# STORMWATER UPDATE

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## EIT / EMT Training Upcoming Dates

### KSU Salina CIT Program

<http://citksu.com>

**March 27-28, 2017**

**March 29-30, 2017**

**May 1-2, 2017**

**May 3-4, 2017**

**June 7-8, 2017**

### Kansas Contractors Association

<http://www.kansascontractors.org/>

## No classes scheduled

**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 [KDOT.stormwaterinspection@ks.gov](mailto:KDOT.stormwaterinspection@ks.gov). Failure to complete and submit inspection reports on time **will** result in penalties.

## Progress

Change is hard. Change that requires the engagement of hundreds of individuals with various and often competing interests is extremely difficult. Despite the challenges created by the total makeover of KDOT's erosion and sediment control program we have all worked together over the last 4 years to effect what I believe to be a remarkable improvement.

The change is obvious when travelling around the state and observing KDOT construction projects. I often hear positive comments from professionals who see the good work being done on our construction projects and notice the improvement we have made over the years. It is no longer common to find KDOT construction projects with large, unstabilized and uncontrolled disturbed areas. It is common to see mulching, blanketing and vegetation during construction.

The focus on erosion control before sediment control has reduced the need for temporary BMP maintenance once the construction is complete. During the initial implementation of the consent decree procedures major efforts by KDOT maintenance forces and some emergency repair contract work was necessary to address long-standing erosion problems on recently completed construction projects. Today, aggressive seeding and mulching during construction results in better vegetated projects at Notice of Acceptance and fewer erosion concerns left for maintenance to address.

Another indicator of change is the audience response at our training sessions, various presentations and other meetings. During the initial rollout of the new (to us) requirements the most common audience reaction would be best described as an angry murmur. It was not uncommon to get questions like "Do we really have to do this?" or "How is this even reasonable?" Initially many of the questions asked during training were simply complaining or trying to find the perfect "what-if" scenario that targets some perceived contradiction or loophole in the requirements.

The murmuring has not totally silenced, but today our audiences are much more receptive. Today our classes often ask excellent questions based on actual situations that occur on projects with the intention of learning how to better handle a similar situation in the future. Today our inspectors, contractors and engineers are able to share experiences and learn from each other as well as from the course instructors.

I believe that we have taken tremendous steps forward over the last 4 years. I also believe that we have challenges ahead of us in the years to come. As we begin discussions with the EPA and US Department of Justice regarding the potential termination of the consent decree we will be challenged to maintain and continue our progress. Our challenge will be to take our learned lessons and apply them in a way that strengthens our compliance program.

With that in mind, I have composed a draft stormwater master plan for a post-consent decree KDOT. In this draft document I propose retaining the majority of the practices implemented over the last few years, but with some notable tweaks. These proposed modifications will, in my opinion, make the overall compliance program easier to administer and to execute at all levels without sacrificing the goal of permit compliance. This draft will be distributed to all of our field offices and to many of our contractor and consultant partners. You probably won't like everything you read in the draft and that is fine. If you have comments, questions or suggestions for improvement I would be very happy to receive them. The best way to comment on this draft is by email to [jason.vannice@ks.gov](mailto:jason.vannice@ks.gov). If you are reading these words I assume you have an interest and a stake in the direction of this program. I know our time is precious but I would encourage you to spend a few moments to review and provide feedback. Thank you!



## Seeding

With the recent spring-like weather permanent seeding should be completed or under way on many of our current projects. The current seeding specification (Section 904) requires "...permanent seeding during the first season after the grading work is finished." Early establishment of vegetation reduces the need for maintenance of temporary erosion and sediment controls which benefits both KDOT and the Contractor.

Many times our permanent seeding is being performed with a no-till drill into an established stand of temporary grass. When sections of grading work are completed during the permanent seeding season, however, it may be advisable to place both temporary and permanent seed simultaneously. Typically in this case the recommendation will be to cut the temporary seed rates in half. For questions about seed types, rates or seasons contact [Scott Shields](#) in the KDOT Environmental Services Section.

Spring is also an excellent time to evaluate completed projects for vegetation establishment and potential permit termination. We are currently required to maintain permit coverage until the entire project disturbed area is permanently stabilized. Permanent stabilization can include pavement, riprap, or perennial vegetation. Vegetation should be established to a density of 70% relative to an undisturbed area at or near the site.





## Training Update

Classes have been scheduled and enrollment is open for 2017. KDOT CIT classes are available March 27-28, March 29-30, May 1-2, May 3-4 and June 7-8. Registration is online, visit <http://citksu.com> for details.

The Kansas Contractors Association (KCA) also sponsors classes. No classes are currently scheduled but may be added if demand is sufficient. Contact the KCA for details.

Everyone should review their recertification dates and enroll in the appropriate classes to ensure the certifications do not lapse. Classes may be canceled due to insufficient enrollment so please register early.



## KDHE and EPA General Permit Update

KDHE is currently working on revisions to the construction stormwater general permit. The current version of the permit, issued in 2012, will expire March 2017. A draft permit is expected to be published for public review and comment sometime within the next few months. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

EPA's Construction General Permit (CGP) was issued on January 11, 2017 and took effect on February 16, 2017. This permit does not directly apply to any KDOT projects but may be of particular interest to contractors who work in other states or on tribal lands where the EPA is the permitting authority. Information about the EPA's 2017 CGP may be found on the EPA [website](#).



## 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 ([jason.vannice@ks.gov](mailto:jason.vannice@ks.gov)) for questions, comments or suggestions for future content.