

STORMWATER UPDATE

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EIT / EMT Training Upcoming Dates

KSU Salina CIT Program

<http://citksu.com>

March 21-22
March 23-24
May 9-10
May 11-12
June 13-14
June 15-16

Kansas Contractors Association

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

March 8-9

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

Documentation of Open Areas

By Kevin Palic, PE

One of my top corrective actions from oversight inspections is to stabilize an inactive area. When reviewing a project, if there is no equipment in the vicinity, I document it as inactive and needing seeded and stabilized.

When performing a project inspection, if there is no equipment in the area or on the dirt spread, the area is inactive and should be documented as needing seeded and stabilized. Failing to do so is one of the most common errors when completing an inspection. According to the KDHE permit, "stabilization of disturbed areas must, at a minimum, be initiated immediately whenever any clearing, grading, excavating, or other soil disturbing activities have permanently ceased on any portion of the site, or temporarily ceased on any portion of the site and will not resume for a period exceeding 14 calendar days." The inspection should document the condition of the project that day, not what it may be a few days from now. As a project inspector, according to the schedule, you may know that the contractor intends to return the next week but you cannot be sure. During the inspection, the 14 days should not be taken into account.

An example is a year like this in some areas across the state that received more than normal rain. When performing the inspection, this area is open but it is not documented as open because the contractor is scheduled to be in there in two days. Then the rains start and work is unable to be done and the schedule has changed. Because this area is wet, the contractor decides to move to another spread that is dry. There is the inspection after the rain event, and then another routine two weeks later. The area is still open and inactive at the time of the routine inspection and has not been documented on any of the previous inspections. This is this is a violation because the area has been open for more than 14 days. This situation is all too common.

While performing inspections, if there is no equipment on the spread, document it as inactive and requiring corrective action to either stabilize or resume work. If work begins back in that area, great! All that is required is to document that work resumed. If work does not resume then stabilization is required. Of course, if the area is finish graded then the option to resume work does not apply and the area must be stabilized.

Training

Make sure you review your EIT and EMT certifications and sign up to maintain these necessary certifications. Registration for the K-State CIT classes is now open on the program website (<http://citksu.com>).

The Kansas Contractors Association is also sponsoring classes. The next class is scheduled for March 8-9, 2016. For information regarding enrollment contact the KCA at 785-266-4152.

Any of these classes may be cancelled if the enrollment minimums are not met. Signing up early helps make sure that classes are scheduled to meet the demand. If the classes are full please put your name on the waiting list. There are often cancellations that allow us to fill spots from the waiting list and it also helps us determine how many more classes may be required.



Specifications

New special provisions will be implemented with the April, 2016 letting. The two specifications, 15-PS0360-R01 and 15-9002-R01 add new, clarifying language regarding current KDOT stabilization requirements. This language is intended to provide our inspectors and contractors with better guidance during construction. The following text is now included in both specifications:

Stabilization is initiated when physical work on the project to install stabilizing BMPs has begun. “Immediately” in the context of the above provisions has been defined by the EPA to mean “as soon as practicable, but no later than the end of the next work day, following the day when the earth-disturbing activities have temporarily or permanently ceased.” Prosecute stabilization work continuously and diligently until completed.

It is very important to carefully review the special provisions for each project you are working on. The pace of revision has slowed down, but there are still a number of versions in use across the state. Please contact the Stormwater Compliance Engineer with any questions or concerns.

KDOT Vision

I recently had the good fortune to attend the annual International Erosion Control Association (IECA) conference in San Antonio, Texas. This week-long event is widely attended by industry professionals from North and South America. The conference includes a wide selection of educational presentations, a giant expo showroom of product and equipment displays and numerous opportunities to network with scientists, contractors, product manufacturers and government agency personnel.

One of my many takeaways from this conference is that we here at KDOT are doing good work with our stormwater compliance program, but we need to keep working towards the goal of doing great work. This means we should be starting to find ways to go above and beyond the bare minimums of compliance and find new and innovative approaches to our projects that not only meet the expectations of the regulators but actually improve our ability to provide one of the best state transportation systems in the nation.

A recurring theme at the conference was the concept of the “triple bottom line.” This framework encourages organizations to consider not just economics, but also social and environmental performance measures. This three-pronged system gives us multiple avenues to measure success. I believe that this fits very well with our mission as a public transportation agency. In order to successfully provide the outstanding social benefits of our highway system we must also be successful at managing our financial resources and be good stewards of our environment.

Over the next year we will be taking a hard look at many of our specifications and processes and looking for ways to improve. One of my objectives is to help us find better, more cost-effective solutions to managing stormwater on our construction projects. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcomed and highly valued. KDOT’s vision statement, “the best in everything we do,” can only be delivered with the full engagement and participation of all of our KDOT staff, contractors and other partners.



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) with questions, comments or suggestions for future content.