

STORMWATER UPDATE

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EIT / EMT Training Upcoming Dates

Wichita, KS
September 29-30
October 1-2
March 30-31
April 1-2
April 20-21
April 22-23

**MORE DATES TO BE
ANNOUNCED SOON**

<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

From the Director of Operations Catherine Patrick, PE

I had an opportunity to visit all six districts and take a first-hand look at the erosion control issues on our construction projects. Our folks and the contractors are learning these new measures together as we take training and apply what we learn.

The construction projects take on a new dynamic because "business as usual" does not satisfy our erosion control requirements. The operations we used to perform concurrently might now have to be phased differently as we satisfy erosion control requirements. Erosion control is proactive not reactive so devices need to be available and discussed prior to disturbing existing areas.

As we get more comfortable with these new measures, and our contractor and field staff continue working together, we will satisfy the erosion needs on the projects. I know I've learned a lot just in my visits to the field and I appreciate the effort we are taking to meet these new challenges in stabilizing slopes and implementing control erosion measures on our projects.

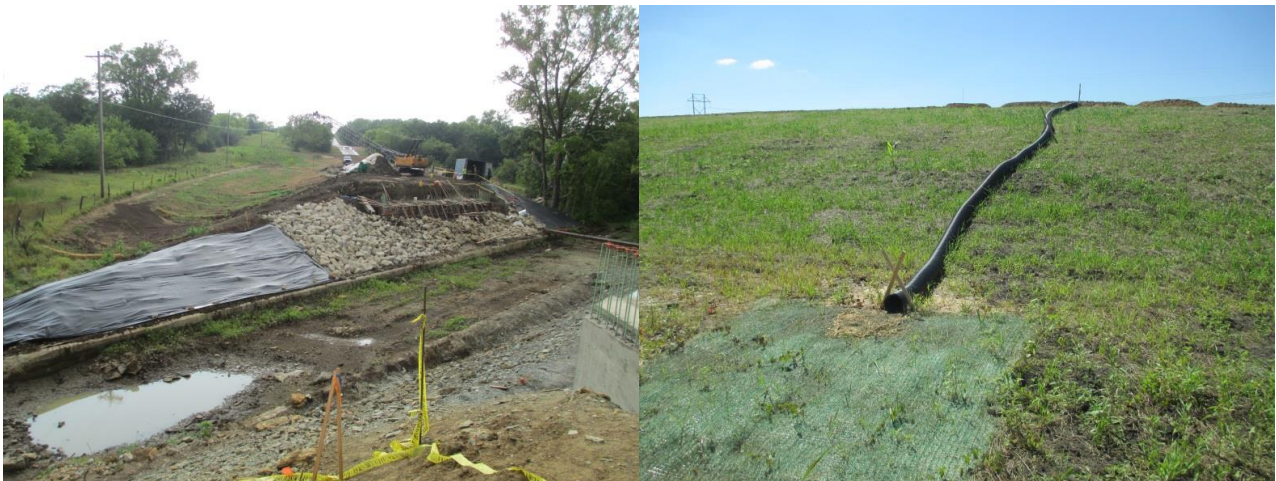


One Year and Counting

On September 5 the Consent Decree will have been in place for one full year. Over this year we have made a large number of changes to our specifications, standard drawings and our way of thinking about stormwater pollution prevention during construction. It is easy to see the positive effects these changes have had on many of our projects. We are stabilizing more timely and more often, scheduling our operations to minimize disturbed soil, and managing our stockpiled materials and waste more effectively. As we move forward, it is important to maintain focus and continue to improve. Consistently implementing effective dewatering practices, temporary stream crossings and maintenance of drainage during culvert construction are areas still in need of improvement.

Our stabilization practices are much improved, but sometimes we still struggle to finish as we go. This often leads to temporary stabilization of unfinished grading work. By not finishing the grading work and replacing salvaged topsoil, we are often attempting to stabilize subsoils which are more erodible and less likely to support vegetation. The increased erosion due to this lack of vegetation also increases maintenance costs and the risk of permit violations. Furthermore, the temporary stabilization must then be replaced once the grading is complete, again increasing the project cost. Finishing the grading work, including topsoil replacement, and stabilizing immediately improves permit compliance and produces cost savings for both KDOT and the Contractor.

The Consent Decree will remain in effect for at least three more years. We have made great strides this year, but we still have a long journey ahead. In order to achieve our goal of permit compliance it is critical to maintain the continual improvement we have seen so far.



PQL Update

The Prequalified List for Class 1 Erosion Control Materials was updated to remove all hydraulically applied products (hydromulches). These products were removed from the list due to a number of performance issues encountered over the previous year. We have greatly expanded our use of these class 1 materials, typically in areas prone to erosion such as steep slopes and around culvert ends. The typical conditions on our construction projects are not conducive to rapid vegetation establishment and the hydromulch products tend to fail before the grasses can take hold. The exclusive use of blankets for these areas should provide us with longer-lasting protection and allow more time for vegetation establishment.

This change does not mean that hydromulches have been banned from use or that are not effective in any situation. Hydromulches are addressed in the Standard Specification sections 904 and 2110. The bid items Mulching (Hydro) and Mulching (Hydro BFM) remain as before. These items can provide effective, short-term protection against rainfall for stockpiles and slopes without significant concentration of flow.

The current PQL 34B can be found online at <http://ksdot1.ksdot.org/burmatres/pql/default.asp>



Seed Certifications

There are several factors which contribute to the success or failure of a seeding operation. Some of these factors, like the weather, are beyond our ability to control. Because we cannot always create the perfect environment for success it is important that we be mindful of the factors that ARE within our control to increase the probability of success.

Standard Specification section 2103, based on the Kansas Seed Law, addresses the material acceptance requirements for grass and wildflower seed used on KDOT projects. The specifications require, in part, recent germination testing of all seeds accepted for use. If tested in Kansas, the analysis is valid for a period of 9 months. Out of state test results are considered valid for a period of 5 months. All seed containers are required to be labeled to show purity, germination, weed seed content and the date of testing.

As with any construction material accepted for use on our projects, we must be aware of the specification requirements. All materials should be inspected before use and rejected if the requirements are not met.

