



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of County Transportation

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Robert Bentley
Governor

John R. Cooper
Transportation Director

February 4, 2014

MEMORANDUM FY 2014-08

To: All County Engineers and Division County Transportation Engineers

From: Mr. D.E. Phillips, Jr., P.E.
State County Transportation Engineer

By: Joshua A. Sanford
Joshua A. Sanford, P.E.
County Transportation Design Engineer

RE: **Revision to Procedural Guidelines for County Projects/ County Road Design Policy**

Upon recent discussions with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), the Stormwater Permit Guidelines for Bridge Replacement projects shown on page 10.17 of the 2007 edition of the Procedural Guidelines for County Projects have been revised. Bridge replacement projects that have less than one (1) acre of disturbance area, including parking and staging areas, will not be required to obtain stormwater registration. Further clarification can be found at www.adem.state.al.us/programs/water/constructionstormwater.cnt under the Alabama Construction General Permit link. I have also attached page 3 of the NPDES General Permit concerning permit coverage for your use from the website listed above. This revision is effectively immediately. This applies to all applicable projects handled by this Bureau and this revision will be reflected in the new edition of the Procedural Guidelines for County Projects once it has been completed.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments concerning this matter.

DEP/JAS/lj
Attachment
CC: Mr. Ed Austin, P.E., State Innovative Programs Engineer
PC: File

PLAN PREPARATION

EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL PROCEDURES FOR COUNTY PROJECTS

In order to address ADEM regulations regarding stormwater runoff on construction sites and to comply with all requirements of the "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System" (NPDES), the following erosion control procedures shall be used for all county projects let to contract through the Alabama Department of Transportation, regardless of the funding source.

Stormwater Permit Guidelines (Construction vs. Maintenance)

We have summarized some fundamental ADEM and ALDOT interpretations which are outlined below.

1. Limited blading or placing fill next to a road that has been repaved to ensure safe grade transition to existing shoulder of the roadway for safety purposes, or routine blading to regularly maintain the grade of an existing safety shoulder (with immediate stabilization as needed) is considered normal maintenance and not construction. Blading or placing fill next to a road to widen the road, shoulder, or adding a new safety lane is considered construction.
2. Adding width to the road, shoulder, or adding/lengthening a turn lane is new construction and is not normal maintenance.

The following examples, although not all inclusive, provide some general guidelines.

Bridge Replacement Projects (Includes Cast-In-Place, Precast, & Bridge Culverts)

~~• All bridge replacement projects will require stormwater registration.~~

The county (or consultant under contract with the county) should provide a complete "Erosion & Sediment Control Plan" showing the proposed location and type of all erosion control items needed to complete the overall project. This "Erosion & Sediment Control Plan" should include the approach work, whether it is included as part of the project or to be done by county forces. The plan should clearly indicate if the contractor or the county is responsible for the erosion control measures. This can be done by using different legends or including phases for the overall erosion control plan. **The controlling item of work should be used as a guide to determine who is responsible for the erosion control items.** NOTE: Only the items for which the contractor is responsible shall be included as pay items in the plans.

1. **Bridge Replacement - Approach Work Included In Contract.** - The contractor shall be responsible for all erosion control measures, and these items should be shown as part of the erosion control plan and included in the pay quantities for the project.
2. **Bridge Replacement - Approach Work Done By County Forces.** - The contractor shall be responsible for only the erosion control measures within the project limits at the bridge or culvert site. The county will be responsible for all erosion control items associated with the approach fill. A note should be placed in the plans tied to the contract time

PART I Coverage Under This General Permit

A. Permit Coverage

This permit authorizes, subject to the conditions of this permit, discharges associated with construction activity that will result in land disturbance equal to or greater than one (1) acre or from construction activities involving less than one (1) acre and which are part of a common plan of development or sale equal to or greater than one (1) acre occurring on or before, and continuing after the effective date of this permit, except for discharges identified under Part I.C. of the permit. Coverage under this permit is not required for discharges associated with minor land disturbing activities (such as home gardens or individual home landscaping, repairs, maintenance work, fences and other related activities which result in minor soil erosion), animal feeding operation (AFO) or concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) construction activity that has been granted NPDES registration coverage pursuant to Chapter 335-6-7, normal agricultural practices and silvicultural operations.

B. Eligibility

1. Allowable Stormwater Discharges

This permit authorizes the following stormwater discharges:

- (a) Stormwater associated with construction activities defined in Part I.A. of this permit;
- (b) Stormwater discharges determined by the Director to require coverage under this permit;
- (c) Discharges from support activities (e.g., equipment staging yards, material storage areas, excavated material disposal areas, borrow areas) provided:
 - (i) The support activity is directly related to the construction site covered under this permit;
 - (ii) The support activity is not a commercial operation serving multiple unrelated construction projects by different operators, and does not operate beyond the completion of the construction activity at the last construction project it supports; and
 - (iii) Pollutant discharges from support activity areas are minimized to the maximum extent practicable and do not pose a reasonable potential to exceed applicable water quality standards.

2. Allowable Non-Stormwater Discharges

This permit authorizes the following non-stormwater discharges provided the non-stormwater component of the discharge is in compliance with Part III.C.:

- (a) Discharges from fire-fighting activities;
- (b) Fire hydrant flushings;
- (c) Waters used to wash vehicles where detergents are not used;
- (d) Water used to control dust;
- (e) Potable water including uncontaminated water line flushings not associated with hydrostatic testing;
- (f) Routine external building wash down associated with construction that does not use detergents;
- (g) Pavement wash waters where spills or leaks of toxic or hazardous materials have not occurred (unless all spilled material has been removed) and where detergents are not used;
- (h) Uncontaminated air conditioning or compressor condensate associated with temporary office trailers and other similar buildings;
- (i) Uncontaminated ground water or spring water;
- (j) Foundation or footing drains where flows are not contaminated with process materials such as solvents;
- (k) Landscape irrigation.