

Common compliance problems at construction sites

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity

Keep these common problems in mind as you manage your site.

Problem #1 – No temporary or permanent cover

Continuous positive slopes with exposed soil and within 200 linear feet of surface water must have temporary erosion protection or permanent cover year round. The timing of cover application depends on the steepness of the slope and when the slope was last worked. The *maximum time an area can remain open when the area is not actively being worked is:*

Slopes 3 to 1 or steeper =
Slopes from 10 to 1 to 3 to 1 =
Slopes flatter than 10 to 1 =

7 days or 3 days for special waters discharges
14 days or 7 days for special waters discharges
21 days or 7 days for special waters discharges

COMPLIANT



NON COMPLIANT



Problem #2 – No sediment controls on site

The permit requires established sediment control practices (e.g., sediment traps/basins, down-gradient silt fences or sediment barriers, check dams, etc.) on down-gradient perimeters before up-gradient land disturbing activities begin.

Problem #3 – No sediment control for temporary stock piles

Temporary stockpiles must have silt fence or other effective sediment controls, and cannot be placed in surface waters (or curb and gutter systems).

Problem #4 – No inlet protection

All storm drain inlets that receive a discharge from the construction site must be protected before construction begins, and must be maintained until the site is stabilized.

COMPLIANT



NON COMPLIANT





Problem #5 – No BMPs (Best Management Practices) to minimize vehicle tracking on to the road

Vehicle exits must use BMPs such as stone pads, concrete or steel wash racks, or equivalent systems to prevent vehicle tracking of sediment.

Problem #6 – Sediment on the road

If BMPs are not adequately keeping sediment off the street, then the permit requires tracked sediment to be removed (e.g., street sweeping).

COMPLIANT



NON COMPLIANT



Problem #7 – Improper solid waste or hazardous materials management

Solid waste must be disposed of properly, and hazardous materials (including oil, gasoline, and paint) must be properly stored (which includes secondary containment).

Problem #8 – Dewatering at the construction site

Typically dewatering occurs where building footings are being constructed. Measures must be taken to ensure the discharge is not causing erosion. If the discharge is turbid it must be treated before discharging from the site.

Problem #9 – Improper Inspection and Maintenance

The owner or operator must routinely inspect the construction site once every seven days and within 24 hours after a rainfall event greater than 0.5 inches in 24 hours. All inspections and maintenance must be recorded in writing and retained. Repairs must be made within 24 hours of discovery.

Adapted from *Stormwater Construction Inspection Guide*, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency