

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORMWATER ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY  
General NPDES Permit Number MDRC0000  
State Discharge Permit Number 20CP0000

EFFECTIVE DATE: [Month] 1, 2021    EXPIRATION DATE: [Month] ??, 2025

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## **PART I. PERMIT APPLICABILITY**

By this permit the Maryland Department of the Environment (the Department) authorizes the discharge of pollutants to Waters of This State in accordance with the effluent limitations and conditions set forth herein associated with construction activity. This authorization is pursuant to the provisions of Title 9 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq., as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, and implementing regulations 40 CFR Parts 122, 123, 124, 125 and 127. Authorization under this permit is required from the “commencement of construction activities” (see Appendix A), until one of the conditions for terminating this permit’s coverage has been met (see Part II.F).

“You” and “Your” are used in this permit to refer to the authorized operator or applicant, as the context indicates, and that party’s facility or responsibilities.

### **A. Geographic Coverage**

This permit covers all areas of the State of Maryland.

### **B. Eligibility Conditions**

To be covered under this permit, you must meet the eligibility conditions in this Part and follow the requirements for obtaining permit coverage in Part II.

1. You are an “operator” of a construction site for which discharges will be covered under this permit. For the purposes of this permit and in the context of stormwater discharges associated with construction activity, an “operator” is any party associated with a construction project that meets either of the following two criteria:

- a. The party has operational control over construction plans and specifications, including the ability to make modifications to those plans and specifications (e.g., in most cases this is the owner of the site); or
- b. The party has day-to-day operational control of those activities at a project that are necessary to ensure compliance with the permit conditions (e.g., they are authorized to direct workers at a site to carry out activities required by the permit, correct violations (including repair or installation of erosion and sediment controls), and/or halt construction activity until violations of the permit are corrected; in most cases this is the general contractor (as defined in Appendix A) of the project).

Where there are multiple operators associated with the same project, all operators must obtain permit coverage. If the operator of a “construction support activity” (Part I.B.1.c) is different than the operator of the main site, that operator must also obtain permit coverage. See Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Part III.F for clarification on the sharing of liability between and among operators on the same site and for conditions that apply to developing a SWPPP for multiple operators associated with the same site. Subcontractors generally are not considered operators for the purposes of this permit.

- c. Stormwater discharges from construction support activities (e.g., concrete or asphalt batch plants, equipment staging yards, material storage areas, excavated material disposal areas, borrow areas) provided that:
  - i. The support activity is directly related to the construction site required to have permit coverage for stormwater discharges;
  - ii. The support activity is not a commercial operation, nor does it serve multiple unrelated construction sites;
  - iii. The support activity does not continue to operate beyond the completion of the construction activity at the site it supports; and
  - iv. Stormwater controls are implemented in accordance with Part III.A and Part III.B for discharges from the support activity areas.

2. **Your site's construction activities:**
  - a. Will disturb one or more acres of land, or will disturb less than one acre of land but are part of a common plan of development or sale that will ultimately disturb one or more acres of land; or
  - b. Have been designated by EPA or the Department as needing permit coverage under 40 CFR 122.26(a)(1)(v) or 40 CFR 122.26(b)(15)(ii);
3. For "new sources" (as defined in Appendix A) only:
  - a. The Department has not, prior to authorization under this permit, determined that discharges from your site will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any applicable water quality standard. Where such a determination is made prior to authorization, the Department may notify you that an individual permit application is necessary (Part I.E and Part II.B.3). However, the Department may authorize your coverage under this permit after you have included appropriate controls and implementation procedures designed to bring your discharge into compliance with this permit, specifically the requirement to meet water quality standards. In the absence of information demonstrating otherwise, the Department expects that compliance with the requirements of this permit, including the requirements applicable to such discharges in Part III, will result in discharges that will not cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any applicable water quality standard.
  - b. Discharges from your site to a Tier II water will not lower the water quality of the applicable water. In the absence of information demonstrating otherwise, the Department expects that compliance with the requirements of this permit, including the antidegradation review requirements applicable to such discharges in Part III.B.2, will result in discharges that will not lower the water quality of such waters.
4. Discharges from your site are not: already covered by a different NPDES permit for the same discharge; or in the process of having coverage under a different NPDES permit for the same discharge denied, terminated, or revoked.

### **C. Eligible Discharges (Types of Discharges Authorized)**

1. The following stormwater discharges are authorized under this permit provided that appropriate stormwater controls are designed, installed, and maintained (see Parts III.A and III.B):
  - a. Stormwater discharges, including stormwater runoff, snowmelt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage, associated with construction activity under 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)(x) or 122.26(b)(15)(i);
  - b. Stormwater discharges designated by the Department as needing a permit under 40 CFR 122.26(a)(1)(v) or 122.26(b)(15)(ii);
  - c. Stormwater discharges (no process water) from construction support activities (e.g., concrete or asphalt batch plants, equipment staging yards, material storage areas, excavated material disposal areas, borrow areas) provided that:
    - i. The support activity is directly related to the construction site required to have permit coverage for stormwater discharges;
    - ii. The support activity is not a commercial operation, nor does it serve multiple unrelated construction sites;
    - iii. The support activity does not continue to operate beyond the completion of the construction activity at the site it supports; and

- iv. Stormwater controls are implemented in accordance with Parts III.A and III.B for discharges from the support activity areas.
  - d. Stormwater discharges from earth-disturbing activities associated with the construction of staging areas and the construction of access roads conducted prior to active mining.
2. The following non-stormwater discharges associated with your construction activity are authorized under this permit provided that, with the exception of water used to control dust and to irrigate vegetation in stabilized areas, these discharges are not routed to areas of exposed soil on your site and you comply with any applicable requirements for these discharges in Parts III.A and III.B:
    - a. Discharges from emergency fire-fighting activities;
    - b. Landscape irrigation;
    - c. Water used to wash vehicles and equipment, provided that there is no discharge of soaps, solvents, or detergents used for such purposes;
    - d. Water used to control dust;
    - e. External building washdown, provided soaps, solvents, and detergents are not used, and external surfaces do not contain hazardous substances (as defined in Appendix A) (e.g., paint or caulk containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs));
    - f. Pavement wash waters, provided spills or leaks of toxic or hazardous substances have not occurred (unless all spill material has been removed) and where soaps, solvents, and detergents are not used. You are prohibited from directing pavement wash waters directly into any Waters of this State, storm drain inlet, or stormwater conveyance, unless the conveyance is connected to a sediment basin, sediment trap, or similarly effective control;
    - g. Uncontaminated air conditioning or compressor condensate;
    - h. Uncontaminated, non-turbid discharges of ground water or spring water;
    - i. Foundation or footing drains where flows are not contaminated with process materials such as solvents or contaminated ground water; and
    - j. Construction dewatering water discharged in accordance with Part III.A.4.
  3. Use of Chemical Additives for Sediment Control: Use of any chemical additives (defined in Appendix A) for sediment control requires prior notice, indicating your intent to use them on your NOI and listing the additives and any pertinent associated documentation in your Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). In addition, the use of Cationic Chemical Additives (defined in Appendix A) for sediment control is subject to the Department's approval policy as outlined in Part III.A.2.m of this permit. Any substances not approved by the Department are prohibited.
  4. Also authorized under this permit are discharges of stormwater listed above in Part I.C.1 or Part I.C.3, or authorized non-stormwater discharges listed above in Part I.C.2, commingled with a discharge authorized by a different NPDES permit and/or a discharge that does not require NPDES permit authorization.

#### **D. Prohibited Discharges**

The Department includes the prohibited discharges in this Part as a reminder to the operator that the only non-stormwater discharges authorized by this permit are in Part C above. To prevent the prohibited discharges, operators must comply with the applicable pollution prevention requirements in Part III.A.3. Any unauthorized non-stormwater discharges must be covered under an individual permit or alternative general permit.

1. Wastewater from the Concrete Washout. (Part III.A.3.d).

2. Wastewater from washout and cleanout of stucco, paint, form release oils, curing compounds, and other construction materials. (Part III.A.3.d)
3. Fuels, oils, or other pollutants used in vehicle and equipment operation and maintenance (Part III.A.3.a and Part III.A.3.c.iii).
4. Soaps or solvents, or detergents used in vehicle and equipment washing or external building washdown (Part III.A.3.b);
5. Toxic or hazardous substances from a spill or other release (also see Part III.A.3.c iv, Part III.A.3.f. and Part VI.J); and
6. Water contaminated by toxic or hazardous substances from sites managed under Maryland's Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) or Land Restoration Program (LRP), not addressed by a stormwater pollution prevention plan (Part III.F) and consistent with requirements stipulated by the Department's LMA.

**E. Requiring an Individual Permit or an Alternative General Permit**

The Department may require you to obtain, or you may also request, an individual permit or coverage under another general permit as described below, even though you may be eligible for coverage under this permit. If the Department requires you to apply for and obtain an alternative permit and you do not apply as required, the Department may terminate your coverage under this permit. This termination is effective at the end of the day that the Department specified for the application or Notice of Intent (NOI) to be submitted, after which you must cease discharges that were covered by this permit.

1. **Portable Batch Plants:** Process water discharges from concrete and asphalt plants, including batch plants, are not authorized under this permit and must have coverage under the General Permit for Discharges from Mineral Mines, Quarries, Borrow Pits and Concrete and Asphalt Plants or an individual permit.
2. **Mining Activity:** Earth disturbance for the purposes of preparation of sites for mineral mining or coal mining must obtain permit coverage under the specific General Permit for that activity, or under an individual permit. Such sites require coverage under those General Permits or individual permits specifically designated for discharges from mineral mining and coal mining activities. Mining sites where construction of structures or other non-mining related development will occur as part of reclamation, or any non-mining earth disturbance following completion of mining reclamation (unless otherwise ineligible for coverage), must obtain coverage under this General Permit if earth disturbance of one acre or more will occur.
3. **Landfills:** Earth disturbance of one acre or more for the purposes of construction of landfill cells or other structures, roads, and appurtenances to landfill operation must be covered under this General Permit unless the Department has authorized coverage under a different permit or general permit. For areas such as the interior of landfill cells where stabilization does not occur, you may terminate coverage once the landfill cell begins operating as a landfill and accepting waste, as long as you obtain coverage under the industrial stormwater General Permit..
4. **New Sources where the E&SC Plan Fails to Meet State Standards:** If the Department determines that a discharge may cause water quality standards to be exceeded in the receiving water, where such a determination is made prior to authorization, based on a failure of your E&SC plan to meet State erosion and sediment control or stormwater management standards (see Part I.B.3 and Part II.B.3), you may be required to obtain an individual NPDES discharge permit.

5. Prohibited Discharges: If the Department determines that a discharge contains a prohibited non-stormwater discharge (Part I.D), based on information in your NOI (Part II.C), Notice of Transfer (Part II.D) or from other sources, where the discharge is not covered by one of the above General Permits (Part I.E.1, I.E.2 or I.E.3), and is not addressed by applicable pollution prevention requirements in Part III.A.3, you may be required to obtain an individual NPDES discharge permit.
6. Water Quality Standards: At any time after authorization, the Department may determine that your stormwater discharges may cause, have reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any applicable water quality standard, or are causing or contributing to an impairment of a waterbody [i.e., waterbodies listed as impaired on the Integrated Report for Section 303(d)]. (See Part III.B.1, Part III.B.2, Part III.B.3 and Part VI.P). If such a determination is made, the Department will require you to: a. Modify the stormwater controls to adequately address, achieve and document the identified water quality concerns; b. Submit valid and verifiable data and information that are representative of ambient conditions and indicate that the receiving water is attaining water quality standards; and/or c. Cease discharges of pollutants from construction activity and apply for and obtain an individual discharge permit.
7. Existing Sources where the E&SC Plan Fails to Meet State Standards: If your E&SC plan fails to meet State erosion and sediment control or stormwater management standards (see Part II.B.2.c), the Department may require you to apply for an individual permit if you are unable to include appropriate controls and implementation procedures designed to bring your discharge into compliance with this permit, specifically the requirement to meet water quality standards.
8. When an Individual Permit or an Alternative General Permit are required under this Part I.E, the Department will notify you in writing. This notice shall include:
  - a. A brief statement of the reasons for this decision;
  - b. A statement setting a deadline for the notified person to file an application for an individual permit or file a NOI in accordance with the terms of the alternative general permit;
  - c. A permit application if applicable; and
  - d. For existing permittees, a statement that on the effective date of the individual permit or the alternative general permit as it applies to the individual permittee, coverage under this general permit shall automatically terminate.
9. The Department may grant additional time to submit the individual permit application or alternative general permit NOI upon request of the applicant.
10. Any person authorized by this permit may request to be excluded from the coverage of this permit by applying for an individual permit or filing an NOI for coverage under an alternative general permit. The person seeking an individual permit shall submit an individual application in accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 122, with reasons supporting the request to the Department. The person seeking coverage under an alternative general permit shall file an NOI in accordance with the terms of the alternative general permit. A request for an individual permit shall be granted if the Department determines that the reasons cited by the applicant are adequate to support the request. If the applicant seeks coverage under an alternative general permit, the terms of that permit will determine whether coverage under the alternative general permit is obtained.
11. When an individual permit is issued to a person otherwise covered by this permit, the applicability of this permit to the individual permittee is automatically terminated on the effective date of the individual permit. Similarly, when a person subject to this permit obtains coverage under an alternative general permit, the applicability of this permit is terminated on the effective date of the alternative general permit. When an individual permit is denied to an applicant otherwise covered



by this permit, or the applicant is denied coverage under the terms of an alternative general permit, the applicability of this general permit to the permittee may be terminated by the Department.

#### **F. Continuation of an Expired General Permit and Permit Coverage**

For those who meet the following notification requirements, unless this permit is terminated by the Department, an expired general permit continues in full force and effect, for those covered by the permit prior to its expiration during the period that the Department is drafting a new general permit and until the date(s) specified under a reissued general permit. If you wish to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, you shall submit a Continuation of Registration statement at least 60 days before the expiration date of the existing permit, unless permission for a later date has been granted by the Department. Notices of Intent or Continuation of Registration statements submitted later than the expiration date of the existing permit will not be accepted by the Department and permit coverage will not be extended.

#### **G. Duty to Reapply.**

If you wish to continue an activity regulated by this permit under a renewed general permit, you must apply for and obtain authorization as required by the new permit once the Department issues it.

### **Part II. AUTHORIZATION UNDER THIS PERMIT**

All “operators” (as defined in Appendix A) associated with your construction site, who meet the eligibility requirements (Part I.B), and who seek coverage under this permit, must submit to the Department a complete and accurate NOI, fee payment and associated documentation (Part II.A) according to the deadlines in Table 1. The approval of the authorization is contingent on a response to any comments taken during the comment period (Part II.B), and the Department’s review of the submission. Your Authorization is effective once the Department provides you with a registration letter (Part II.C).

Emergency Authorization Exception: A person who must conduct earth-disturbing activities prior to obtaining general permit coverage in response to a public emergency (e.g., natural disaster, widespread disruption in essential public services), and the related work requires immediate authorization to avoid imminent endangerment to human health, public safety, or the environment, or to reestablish essential public services, must obtain emergency authorization from the Department within 24 hours after initiating earth-disturbing activities. The person must obtain such emergency authorization in writing or via electronic mail. If the Department denies emergency authorization, the person must immediately stabilize earth disturbance and complete the authorization process under this Part before resuming earth disturbance. Where circumstances allow, it is recommended that a person obtain emergency authorization prior to initiating earth-disturbing activities. A person with emergency authorization is authorized to discharge on the condition that a complete and accurate NOI is submitted within 7 calendar days after commencing earth-disturbing activities, and must ultimately complete all requirements to obtain regular coverage under the general permit. The person must provide a copy of the emergency authorization with the NOI.

#### **A. Authorization Request**

1. **Notice of Intent (NOI).** You must submit to the Department an NOI (Part II.A.2) to be covered under this general permit. The NOI must be submitted prior to the expiration date of this permit, be accompanied by the appropriate fee (Part II.A.3) and include support documentation (Part II.4). The applicant shall submit the documents in either the electronic or paper format designated by the Department (Part II.A.5 or Part II.A.6), and they must be certified (Part II.7 and Part II.8).
2. **Contents of Notice of Intent.** The NOI shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - a. The site’s name, mailing address, and general location;
  - b. The site’s latitude and longitude;
  - c. A vicinity map of the site;



- d. The Owner/Operator's name and owner's signature, address, telephone number, email address and principal contact;
  - e. The preparer's name, organization, email address and telephone number;
  - f. The resident agent (for corporations/LLC) name and address, if the business is not incorporated or registered to do business in Maryland;
  - g. Federal Tax ID (not required for Individual);
  - h. Workers Compensation Certificate of Compliance document provided by the Workers Compensation Commission or Workers Comp Provider and Policy Number;
  - i. A brief project description, including existing and proposed land uses;
  - j. The type of facility (Individual, Sole Proprietor, Partnership, Volunteer Organization, Corporation, State, Federal, or Local Government);
  - k. Type of construction (single-family residential, multifamily residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, highway or road, utility or Other);
  - l. The name of the closest receiving water(s) (if the discharge is to a municipal separate storm sewer system, the name of the municipal system and the receiving water(s) shall be supplied);
  - m. A confirmation that the permittee has compared the eventual receiving water(s) with the Maryland 303(d) list, the date on which the comparison took place, and a statement as to whether the eventual receiving waters are listed on the 303(d) list as impaired for pollutants such as sediment or PCBs. Indicate the name and location of the impaired water(s) and the pollutant(s) for which the water is impaired;
  - n. A confirmation if the receiving waters are Tier II (sensitive or high quality waters), and if so that the antidegradation review and Checklist have been completed (Part II.A.4.b);
  - o. The total site area, the total proposed disturbed area, the type(s) of stormwater management best management practice(s) (BMP) proposed, and the total drainage area to be controlled by each type of BMP;
  - p. An indication whether you were exempted or waived from any requirements in the Stormwater Management Plan;
  - q. The E&SC Plan Approval Authority and Plan ID;
  - r. Estimated construction project start date and end date;
  - s. Indicate if the activity is part of a common plan of development or sale;
  - t. Indicate if earth-disturbing activities have commenced on your project/site, and if so indicate if your project is an "emergency-related project";
  - u. Indicate if there is or will be demolition of any structure built or renovated before January 1, 1980;
  - v. Indicate if any of the structures being demolished have at least 10,000 square feet of floor space;
  - w. Indicate if chemical additives are used for flocculation, and if so, what product is being used and whether it is cationic (Part I.C.3); and
  - x. Permit number of any other NPDES Permit related to this site and an indication if this is new or a continuation of coverage (see Table 1).
3. **Fees.** An NOI fee is required at the time of submission of an NOI. The fee schedule is based on the size of the total planned disturbance. If the area of disturbance is projected to increase, an NOI should be resubmitted with a fee that reflects this change in coverage. The applicant must determine the appropriate fee to be paid from the fee schedule set in State regulations COMAR 26.08.04.09-1 C(2). Fee exception: For larger common plans of development where grading and utility work has been completed under an NOI and authorization under this permit, and individual builders are constructing single family homes on small residential lots, or groups of these by a single builder within this common plan of development, there is no additional fee.
  4. **Additional Documentation Required:** The following documents are required and must be submitted as part of a complete authorization request.

- a. **Erosion and Sediment Control (E&SC) Plans:** Persons who obtain coverage under this general permit shall, prior to commencing construction, develop and obtain approval from appropriate approval authority of: erosion and sediment control plans (Part II.A.4.a) in accordance with the requirements established in Title 4, Subtitle 1 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (Sediment Control); and in Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.17.01 (Erosion and Sediment Control); and stormwater management plans (unless exempted by the following law or regulation or obtaining a proper waiver from the approval authority) in accordance with the requirements established in Title 4, Subtitle 2 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (Stormwater Management); and in COMAR 26.17.02 (Stormwater Management).  
  
Prior to submitting your NOI, you must have submitted your E&SC plan for approval to the appropriate approval authority in accordance with COMAR 26.17.02.09 E(4) and 26.17.01.07. Once the plan is approved, you must submit the proof of plan approval in the form of the scanned signature page, or a signed letter indicating approval from the appropriate approval authority.
  - b. **Antidegradation checklist:** If your construction activity will result in discharges to Sensitive Waters (Tier II), then you must complete the Checklist (Appendix C) as part of your antidegradation review (Part III.B.2).
  - c. **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP):** You must develop and submit a SWPPP consistent with Part III.F, when required under the conditions of Part III.F.1.
5. **How to Submit Your NOI and accompanying documentation via eNOI:** You must use the Department's NPDES eNOI Tool to electronically prepare and submit your NOI for coverage under this permit unless you received a Waiver from the Department (Part II.A.6). In addition to the NOI, you will also attach the E&SC, SWM, antidegradation checklist and SWPPP as required by this permit. To access the tool, go to access the system at:  
<https://egov.maryland.gov/mde/npdes/Account/Login>.
6. **Where to Submit NOI and accompanying documentation, when exempted from eNOI:** Only in those cases where you receive a Waiver from the Department, can you submit your documents via mail. All other applicants shall submit NOIs for coverage under this general permit through the electronic system designated by the Administration. Waivers from electronic reporting may be granted based on one of the following conditions:
- a. If the operator's operational headquarters are physically located in a geographic area (i.e., ZIP code or census tract) that is identified as underserved for broadband Internet access in the most recent report from the Federal Communications Commission; or
  - b. If the operator has limitations regarding available computer access or computer capability.

If the operator wishes to obtain a waiver from submitting a report electronically, operators must submit a request to the Department. In that request, operators must document which exemption they meet, provide evidence supporting any claims, and a copy of their completed NOI form. A waiver may only be considered granted once operators receive written confirmation from the Department.

If the Department grants the operator approval to use a paper NOI, and they elect to use it, the operator must request the form from the Department. Those with the waiver will submit completed paper forms, required documents and payment by mail to the Administration at the following address:

The Maryland Department of the Environment  
Water and Science Administration  
P.O. Box 2057  
Baltimore, Maryland 21203-2057

7. **Certification.** Any person signing documents under this section shall provide certification in accordance with the laws and regulations identified in Part II.A.8 below.
8. **Signatory Requirements.** All submissions of reports, certifications, Antidegradation Checklist (i.e. Appendix C) or related information shall be signed and certified as required by 40 CFR 122.22 and in accordance with requirements established in Title 4, Subtitle 1 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (Sediment Control); COMAR 26.17.01 (Erosion and Sediment Control); Title 4, Subtitle 2 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (Stormwater Management); and COMAR 26.17.02 (Stormwater Management). All Notices of Intent or Transfers shall be signed as follows:
  - For a corporation: by a responsible corporate officer;
  - For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively;
  - For a municipality, State, federal, or other public agency: by either a principal executive officer or a duly authorized official.
9. **Deadlines for Coverage.** The deadlines in Table 1 apply to operators applying for coverage under this permit. If you miss the deadline to submit your NOI, any and all discharges from your construction activities will continue to be unauthorized under the CWA until they are covered by this or a different NPDES permit. The Department may take enforcement action for any unpermitted discharges that occur between the commencement of construction activities and discharge authorization.

**Table 1- Deadlines for Permit Coverage**

Type of Operator	NOI Submittal Deadline	Special Instructions
<b>Operator of an Existing Construction Site with an active registration number under the prior 14GP</b> (i.e., a site where construction activities commenced prior to the effective date of this permit and which did have coverage under the prior 14GP permit).	Within 6 months after the effective date of this permit.	On eNOI select 'Continuation'. No additional fee, documentation or comment period is required. Comply with the terms and conditions of the 14GP in the interim. (This includes sites that filed DOI with an NOI after the 14GP expired).
<b>Operator of a New Site</b> (i.e. a site where construction activities commence on or after the effective date of this permit but before expiration of this permit).	A minimum of 60 days prior to commencing construction activities.	
<b>New Operator</b> (i.e. an operator that through transfer of ownership and/or operation replaces the operator of an already permitted construction site that is either a "New site" or an "existing site").	A minimum of 30 days prior to date that the transfer will take place to the new owner/operator.	No additional fee or comment period is required.
<b>Change in Construction Activity</b> (i.e. a request to modify an existing registration for use of a chemical additive or other triggering activity requiring SWPPP).	A week prior to initiating the change.	In cases where the SWPPP is required, include an updated SWPPP with the submission.
<b>Increase in Construction Activity</b> (i.e. a request to modify an existing registration for an increase in project acreage).	A minimum of 60 days prior to increasing construction activities.	If the increase is one acre or more, the process is the same as a new NOI. Fees are only assessed if the modification results in the total acreage being increased to the next fee tier.
<b>Operator of an "emergency-related project"</b> (i.e., a project initiated in response to a public emergency (e.g., mud slides, earthquake, extreme flooding conditions, disruption in essential public services), for which the related work requires immediate authorization to avoid imminent endangerment to human health or the environment, or to reestablish essential public services).	No later than 7 calendar days after commencing construction activities.	You are considered provisionally covered under the terms and conditions of this permit immediately. After reviewing the NOI, the Department may request more information prior to issuing full coverage or deny continued coverage.

10. **Failure to Notify.** If you miss the deadline (Part II.A.9) to submit your NOI (Part II.A), any and all discharges from your construction activities will continue to be unauthorized under the CWA and of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, until they are covered by this or a different

NPDES permit. The Department may take enforcement action for any unpermitted discharges that occur between the commencement of construction activities and discharge authorization.

- 11. Modifying your NOI.** Reasons to modify your NOI include an increase in the number of acres that will be disturbed at the site beyond that stated in the documentation of coverage under the general permit, or the addition of an activity that requires a SWPPP. If after submitting your NOI you need to correct or update any fields, you may do so by submitting a "Modify/Amend NOI" form using eNOI. In cases where the change necessitates a SWPPP, you must include the SWPPP along with the request. For increases in land disturbance of one acre or more, the process to modify the permit coverage shall be the same as for an initial NOI, thus a "Change NOI" form shall not be used. The permittee must reissue the NOI and be granted approval from the Department in order to have general permit coverage for the increased acreage before beginning earth disturbance on it.

## **B. NOI Approval Process and Public Review Period**

1. *Certification of Erosion and Sediment Control Submission to Approval Authority.* The Department will begin processing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered under this general permit when the applicant provides certification that a final erosion and sediment control plan (E&SC plan) was submitted to the appropriate approval authority (see Part II.A.4.a). If an NOI is submitted before the E&SC plan is submitted to the approval authority, the Department will not accept it for processing and will send notice to the applicant that the NOI is incomplete and will not be processed until the required information is provided.
2. *Public Notification Period.* The Department will regularly post NOI information on the NOI system website to include all completed NOIs (no errors) submitted during the previous week, with the exception in this Part for Single Family Homes in a Common Plan of Development (see below). This Public Notification Period serves as an announcement that the NOI has been submitted, providing the public with an additional notification in cases where they were not aware of the project. In order to provide opportunity for public review of any available proposed or final E&SC and SWM plans for sites to be covered by this permit, the Department will not act on NOIs for construction sites during a minimum 14-day period that begins on the date the NOI information is posted on the NOI system website. E&SC and SWM Plans can be accessed through the appropriate approval authority (which is identified on the NOI).
  - a. If approved plans are available during the Public Notification Period, and the E&SC plan does not meet State erosion and sediment control or stormwater management standards, comments can be submitted to the Department's Wastewater Permit Program. (Part 3 of this Section).
  - b. If approved plans are not available during the Public Notification Period (i.e. the plans haven't been stamped as approved by the appropriate approval authority), and deficiencies are identified in the proposed E&SC Plan, comments should be submitted to the appropriate approval authority, with a copy provided to the Department's Wastewater Permit Program.
  - c. If the E&SC plan is approved after the Public Notification Period, comments can be submitted to the Department's Wastewater Permit Program under Part I.E.7 of this permit.

After 14 days have elapsed from the date the Department posted the NOI information on the NOI system, and the Department has received notification from the applicant demonstrating that the E&SC plan for the project has been approved by the appropriate approval authority, the Department will make every reasonable effort, within 48 business hours, to issue notification that the site is covered under this permit, with the exception described in paragraph 3 of this section. [Note: If you modify/edit/alter the information while the NOI/eNOI is in the public notice period, you may cause the NOI/eNOI to restart the public notice period.]

*Exception to Public Notification Period:* For larger common plans of development where grading and utility work has been completed under an NOI and authorization under this permit, and individual builders are constructing single family homes on small residential lots, or groups of single homes are being constructed by a single builder within this common plan of development, there is no additional notification period.

3. *Exception to NOI Approval Process.* If the Department receives a detailed, written explanation as to why the E&SC plan fails to meet State erosion and sediment control or stormwater management standards, prior to issuance of General Permit coverage, the Department will do the following: (i) notify the general permit applicant that this information has been received, (ii) evaluate the information, and (iii) make a decision and send notification of that decision to the NOI applicant and the person making the request, confirming whether an individual permit or E&SC changes are required, and any timeframes for required actions (see Part I.E.4).

**C. Effective Date of Coverage.**

1. Based on the Department's review of your NOI (Part II.B) or Transfer Request (Part II.D) and associated documentation and fee payment, prior to authorization the Department may perform further review, notify you that additional effluent limitations are necessary, or deny coverage under this permit and require submission of an application for an individual NPDES permit. In these instances, the Department will notify you in writing of the delay, of the need for additional effluent limits, or of the request for submission of an individual NPDES permit application. If your request for coverage under the permit is granted, the Department will notify you and provide a registration number.
2. Coverage under this general permit is effective on the date described in the registration letter that you receive from the Department. You must contact the compliance program two (2) weeks prior to starting construction to schedule a preconstruction meeting.

**D. Transfer of Authorization.**

- The authorization under this permit is not transferable to any Operator except in accordance with this section, and in accordance with the Eligibility Conditions of this permit (Part I.B). As part of such transfer, the Department may require a separate application for an individual permit as stated in Part I. E.
1. As the transferor: Prior to relinquishing control, you must notify the Department via the eNOI system, of the proposed transfer, indicating the specific date of the proposed transfer of permit coverage, and to whom you propose to transfer permit coverage. You must familiarize the person who is assuming control of the permitted activities ("transferee" or new owner) with the program and provide the transferee/new owner with copies of: this general permit; the documentation from the Department that the site has coverage under the general permit; copies of any E&SC, SWM or SWPPPs prepared as required and the NOI submitted for the site.
  2. As the transferee: You must certify (Part II.A.7), via the eNOI system, your intent to abide by this permit, and confirm that the other information given on the original NOI remain correct or update this information. By this certification you are acknowledging responsibility for compliance with all of the terms and conditions of this permit (which includes all conditions of the E&SC plan and SWM plan and if you are required to maintain a SWPPP, you must either follow the existing SWPPP or develop your own SWPPP).
  3. The transfer shall become effective upon review and approval by the Department of a completed Transfer Request, signed by both the transferor and transferee.
  4. Obligations of the permittee. All conditions and obligations outlined in this general permit shall apply to the new permittee/owner upon transfer. See Part III.C.8 for recordkeeping requirements applicable to the transferor following transfer.

**E. E&SC Requirements for Coverage**

Once construction has commenced, it is a condition of this permit that erosion and sediment control and stormwater management plan approvals be kept up to date. Construction activity may not

continue if these plans have expired, but may resume once plans are renewed without payment of an additional fee as long as coverage under this General Permit is still in effect.

**F. How to Terminate Coverage.**

Until you submit a request for termination of coverage under this permit and it is approved by the Department, you must comply with all conditions and effluent limitations in the permit. To request that your permit coverage be terminated, you must submit to the Department a complete and accurate Notice of Termination (NOT), which certifies that you have met the requirements for terminating in Part II.F.

1. Minimum Information Required in the NOT – You must provide the following minimum information for the Notice of Termination.
  - a. The Notice of Termination shall consist of the information requested in the electronic system (Part II.A.5), unless the permittee is otherwise directed by the Department (Part II.A.5). Any alternative form that the Department may direct for use shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
    - i. The mailing address and location of the construction site for which notification is submitted. Where a mailing address is not available, the location can be described in terms of the latitude and longitude (to the nearest 15 seconds) and Maryland Grid Coordinates of the approximate center of the facility;
    - ii. The permittee's name, address, and telephone number;
    - iii. The name, address, and telephone number of the general contractor(s);
    - iv. The NOI identification number;
    - v. The following certification statement, signed as required by section VI.L. herein:

"I certify under penalty of law that disturbed soils at the identified site have been permanently stabilized in accordance with approved erosion and sediment control plans; that temporary erosion and sediment controls have been removed or will be removed at an appropriate time; and that all stormwater discharges associated with construction activity from this site that are authorized by this general permit have been eliminated. I understand that by submitting this Notice of Termination, I am no longer authorized to discharge stormwater associated with construction activity by the general permit and that discharging pollutants in stormwater associated with construction activity to waters of the United States is unlawful under the Clean Water Act where the discharge is not authorized by an NPDES permit. I understand that I must maintain the records described in Part III.C.8 of the General Permit for three years from the date of this Notice of Termination. I understand that I have the duty to provide information in Part VI.E. during this record retention period. I also understand that the submittal of this Notice of Termination does not release the permittee from liability for any violations of this permit or the Clean Water Act which may have occurred at this site."

- b. The permittee shall transmit the completed Notice of Termination form through the electronic system designated by the Department (Part II.A.5). If you have received a waiver (Part II.A.6) from the Department, you may file the NOT via mail to the following address:

The Maryland Department of the Environment  
Water and Science Administration  
1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 455  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708

2. Conditions for Terminating Coverage

You may terminate permit coverage only if one or more of the following conditions has occurred:



- a. You have completed all construction activities at your site and, if applicable, construction support activities covered by this permit (see Part I.C.1.c), and you have met the following requirements:
- i. For any areas that (1) were disturbed during construction, (2) are not covered over by permanent structures, and (3) over which you had control during the construction activities, you have met the permanent stabilization requirements for final vegetative or non-vegetative stabilization in Part III.A.2.f;
- Exceptions from the final stabilization requirement prior to terminating:
- Disturbed areas on agricultural land that are restored to their preconstruction agricultural use. This Part for final stabilization criteria does not apply, unless the areas disturbed were not previously used for agricultural activities, such as buffer strips immediately adjacent to Waters of this State, and areas which are not being returned to their preconstruction agricultural use.
  - Areas that need to remain disturbed. In limited circumstances, stabilization may not be required if the intended function of a specific area of the site necessitates that it remains disturbed, and only the minimum area needed remains disturbed (e.g., dirt access roads, utility pole pads, areas being used for storage of vehicles, equipment, materials, active landfill cells).
- ii. You have removed and properly disposed of all construction materials, waste and waste handling devices, and have removed all equipment and vehicles that were used during construction, unless intended for long-term use following your termination of permit coverage;
- iii. You have removed all stormwater controls that were installed and maintained during construction, except those that are intended for long-term use following your termination of permit coverage or those that are biodegradable; and
- iv. You have removed all potential pollutants and pollutant-generating activities associated with construction, unless needed for long-term use following your termination of permit coverage; or
- b. You have transferred control of all areas of the site for which you are responsible under this permit to another operator, and that operator has submitted an NOI and obtained coverage under this permit; or
- c. You have obtained coverage under an individual or alternative general NPDES permit. To terminate coverage under these conditions, you must submit a Notice of Termination.

### **Part III. CONTROL MEASURES AND EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS**

#### **A. Technology-Based Limits.**

In the technology-based limits included in this Part, the term “minimize” means reduce and/or eliminate to the extent achievable using control measures (including best management practices) that are technologically available and economically practicable and achievable in light of best industry practice.

#### **1. Control Measure Selection and Design Considerations**

You must design, install, and maintain stormwater controls required in Parts III.A.2 (sediment) and III.A.3 (pollution prevention) to minimize the discharge of pollutants in stormwater from construction activities. These stormwater controls at a minimum must be developed in accordance with the requirements established in Title 4, Subtitle 1 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (Sediment Control); and in Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 26.17.01 (Erosion and Sediment Control) and as included in the State’s handbook titled “2011 Maryland Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control”, herein after referred to as the “2011 ESC Handbook”. The 2011 ESC Handbook serve as the official guide for erosion and sediment control principles, methods, and practices. If the Department adopts applicable requirements after the effective date of this permit, including but not limited to revised Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, the permittee must comply by the deadline set forth in those requirements. To meet this requirement, you must:

- a. Account for the following factors in designing your stormwater controls:
  - i. The expected amount, frequency, intensity, and duration of precipitation;
  - ii. The nature of stormwater runoff and run-on at the site, including factors such as expected flow from impervious surfaces, slopes, and site drainage features. You must design stormwater controls to control stormwater volume, velocity, and peak flow rates to minimize discharges of pollutants in stormwater and to minimize channel and streambank erosion and scour in the immediate vicinity of discharge points; and
  - iii. The soil type and range of soil particle sizes expected to be present on the site.
- b. Design and install all stormwater controls in accordance with good engineering practices, including applicable design specifications.
- c. Complete installation of stormwater controls by the time each phase of construction activity has begun.
  - i. By the time construction activity in any given portion of the site begins, install and make operational any downgradient sediment controls (e.g., buffers, perimeter controls, exit point controls, storm drain inlet protection) that control discharges from the initial site clearing, grading, excavating, and other earth-disturbing activities.
  - ii. Following the installation of these initial controls, install and make operational all stormwater controls needed to control discharges prior to subsequent earth disturbing activities.
- d. Ensure that all stormwater controls are maintained and remain in effective operating condition during permit coverage and are protected from activities that would reduce their effectiveness.
  - i. Comply with any specific maintenance requirements for the stormwater controls listed in this permit, as well as any recommended by the manufacturer.
  - ii. If at any time you find that a stormwater control needs routine maintenance, you must immediately initiate the needed maintenance work, and complete such work by the close of the next business day.
  - iii. If at any time you find that a stormwater control needs repair or replacement, you must comply with the corrective action requirements in Part III.D.

## 2. Erosion and Sediment Controls

You must implement erosion and sediment controls consistent with approved erosion and sediment control and stormwater management plans (Part II.E and Part II.A.4.A) and in accordance with the following requirements to minimize the discharge of pollutants in stormwater from construction activities. These controls are intended to prevent the discharge of significant amounts of sediment to surface waters, or conveyance systems leading to surface waters, particularly in the Chesapeake Bay watershed or impaired waterways. This permit is not an alternative for and does not take the place of any local permits or ordinances required by Maryland law or regulation or by the county or municipality that has jurisdiction where the construction activity occurs, including but not limited to a grading permit, E&SC plan approval, or SWM plan approval. It is a condition of this permit that you comply with approved E&SC and SWM plans. Specific E&SC control design constraints are specified in the 2011 ESC Handbook.

- a. Provide and maintain a Stream Protection Zone. The Stream Protection Zone consists of a natural buffer from the site's earth disturbances to edge of stream of at least 50 feet for Tier I watersheds, or an average of 100 feet and not less than 50 feet at any point for Tier II watersheds, and/or additional erosion and sediment controls. Additional considerations may also apply based on State regulations or local criteria (e.g., wetlands and waterways, forest conservation, and critical area). Refer to Appendix B for more specifics related to this requirement.
  - i. Stream Protection Zone Alternatives. If work is required within the Stream Protection Zone, additional erosion and sediment control measures are required. The measures that may be considered within the Stream Protection Zone include but are not limited to accelerated stabilization, redundant controls, increased buffers, passive or active chemical treatment, or

a reduction in the size of the grading unit. See Appendix B for additional conditions applicable to each compliance alternative.

- b. Minimize soil compaction. In areas of your site where infiltration practices will be installed:
  - i. Restrict vehicle and equipment use in these locations to avoid soil compaction; and
  - ii. Before seeding or planting areas of exposed soil that have been compacted, use techniques that rehabilitate and condition the soils as necessary to support vegetative growth.
- c. Preserve native topsoil, unless infeasible.
- d. Minimize steep slope disturbances. Minimize the disturbance of “steep slopes” (as defined in Appendix A).
- e. Install sediment controls along any perimeter areas of the site that will receive pollutant discharges.
  - i. Remove sediment before it has accumulated to one-half of the above-ground height of any perimeter control.
  - ii. Exception. For areas at “linear construction sites” (as defined in Appendix A) where perimeter controls are infeasible (e.g., due to a limited or restricted right-of-way), implement other practices as necessary to minimize pollutant discharges to perimeter areas of the site.
- f. Stabilize exposed portions of the site. Implement and maintain stabilization measures that minimize erosion from exposed portions of the site in accordance with the 2011 ESC Handbook. Stabilization practices are used to promote the establishment of vegetation on exposed soil. When soil is stabilized with vegetation, the soil is less likely to erode and more likely to allow infiltration of rainfall, thereby reducing sediment loads and runoff to downstream areas. After initial soil disturbance or redistribution, permanent (2011 ESC Handbook Section B-4-5) or temporary (2011 ESC Handbook Section B-4-4) stabilization is required within:
  - i. Three (3) calendar days as to the surface of all perimeter controls, dikes, swales, ditches, perimeter slopes, and all slopes steeper than 3 horizontal to 1 vertical (3:1); and
  - ii. Seven (7) calendar days as to all other disturbed areas on the project site except for those areas under active grading.

Stabilization requirements are found in Section B-4 of the 2011 ESC Handbook. These include details on incremental stabilization, soil preparation, mulching, plant species, and seeding rates. Adequate vegetative stabilization requires 95% groundcover (2011 ESC Handbook Section B-4). If environmental conditions, such as winter weather, prevent or delay seed germination, it is important to use a method of anchoring mulch to prevent erosion.
- g. Direct stormwater to vegetated areas and maximize stormwater infiltration and filtering to reduce pollutant discharges, unless infeasible.
- h. Minimize tracking of sediment at entrance or exit from construction site.
  - i. Restrict vehicle use to properly designated exit points;
  - ii. Use appropriate stabilization techniques (2011 ESC Handbook Section B-1 or B-2) at all points that exit onto paved roads;
  - iii. Implement additional track-out controls as necessary to ensure that sediment removal occurs prior to vehicle exit; and
  - iv. Where sediment has been tracked-out from your site onto paved roads, sidewalks, or other paved areas outside of your site, remove the deposited sediment by the end of the same business day in which the track-out occurs or by the end of the next business day if track-out occurs on a non-business day. Remove the track-out by sweeping, shoveling, or vacuuming

these surfaces, or by using other similarly effective means of sediment removal. You are prohibited from hosing or sweeping tracked-out sediment into any stormwater conveyance, storm drain inlet, or Waters of this State.

- i. Minimize dust. On areas of exposed soil, minimize the generation of dust through the appropriate application of water or other dust suppression techniques (2011 ESC Handbook Section H-5).
- j. If you install a sediment trap or basin:
  - i. Situate the trap or basin outside of any Waters of this State and any natural buffers established under Part III.A.2.a;
  - ii. Design the trap or basin to avoid collecting water from wetlands;
  - iii. Design the trap or basin, outlet structures and associated erosion controls consistent with state standards (2011 ESC Handbook Section D and G);
  - iv. Remove accumulated sediment to maintain stormwater capacity and conduct all other appropriate maintenance to ensure the trap or basin remains in effective operating condition as required for the practice in the 2011 ESC Handbook Section G.
- k. Protect storm drain inlets.
  - i. Install inlet protection measures (2011 ESC Handbook Section E-9) that remove sediment from discharges prior to entry into any storm drain inlet that carries stormwater flow from your site to a Waters of This State, provided you have authority to access the storm drain inlet; and
  - ii. Clean, or remove and replace, the protection measures as sediment accumulates, the filter becomes clogged, and/or performance is compromised. If the inlet protection does not completely drain within 24 hours after a storm event, it is clogged. When this occurs, remove accumulated sediment and clean, or replace the geotextile and stone. Where there is evidence of sediment accumulation adjacent to the inlet protection measure, remove the deposited sediment by the end of the same business day in which it is found or by the end of the following business day if removal by the same business day is not feasible.
- l. Minimize erosion of stormwater conveyance channels and their embankments, outlets, adjacent streambanks, slopes, and downstream waters. Use erosion controls and velocity dissipation devices within and along the length of any stormwater conveyance channel and at any outlet to slow down runoff to minimize erosion.
- m. If you are using chemical additives (defined in Appendix A) for control of sediment (such as polymers or flocculants) at your site, you must comply with the requirements identified in this section. You shall refer to the most current version of Standards for Use of Chemical Additives for Sediment Control document available on the Department's website for specific instructions on information which must be included in your SWPPP, additional requirements, and assistance in applying for additive use.
  - i. The use of chemical additives for sediment control should only be considered in the event that water quality standards cannot be met using conventional best management practices.
  - ii. Should the use of chemical additives be necessary, you must utilize conventional best management practices for erosion and sediment controls prior to and after the application of chemical additives.
  - iii. Additives may only be applied where treated stormwater is directed to a sediment control (e.g., sediment basin, perimeter control) prior to discharge. This permit intends to authorize additives used to create flocculation of suspended materials in stormwater or groundwater. It does not authorize use of additives for bank or soil stabilization.
  - iv. Chemical additives must be approved by the Department prior to use. The Department maintains a current list of pre-approved polymers/flocculants including approved application method and maximum allowable dosage concentration or application rate on its website (<https://mdewwp.page.link/MDFlocs>).

- v. If you wish to use a chemical additive which is not found on the approved list, you must request approval by following the Department's Procedures for Review of Chemical Additives for Sediment Control. You may not begin use of any chemical additive absent from the pre-approved list until you receive written approval from the Department.
- vi. You are required to identify all additives you will be using on your Notice of Intent (pursuant to Part II.A.1 of this permit). If you wish to change to or add another preapproved chemical, you shall provide notification to the Industrial Stormwater Permits Division of the Department within 30 days of commencing the use of the new pre-approved additive.
- vii. You must minimize exposure of stored chemicals to stormwater. Store all treatment chemicals in leakproof containers that are kept under storm-resistant cover and surrounded by secondary containment structures (e.g., spill berms, decks, spill containment pallets), or provide equivalent measures designed and maintained to minimize the potential discharge of treatment chemicals in stormwater or by any other means (e.g., storing chemicals in a covered area, having a spill kit available on site and ensuring personnel are available to respond expeditiously in the event of a leak or spill).
- viii. You must comply with relevant local requirements affecting the use of chemical additives. If requested by the E&SC plan approval authority, provide a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) with your E&SC plan.
- ix. You must use chemical additives and chemical treatment systems in accordance with good engineering practices, and with dosing specifications and sediment removal design specifications provided by the provider/supplier of the applicable chemicals.
- x. You must document any departures from good engineering practices or dosing specifications and sediment removal design specifications provided by the provider/supplier of the applicable chemicals.
- xi. Selection of additives and dosing rates should be determined based on site-specific test results. Documentation of the chemical selection process and dosing rate determination shall be included in your SWPPP. Dosing rates cannot exceed those found on the Department's list of pre-approved additives.
- xii. Ensure that all persons who handle and use chemical additives at the site are provided with appropriate, product-specific training. At a minimum, this training must cover proper dosing requirements and safe handling practices.
- xiii. You must notify and receive written approval from the Department's Industrial Stormwater Permits Division of the Department at least 30 days prior to using cationic chemical additives (as defined in Appendix A).
- xiv. To receive authorization to use cationic chemical additives under this permit, you must identify in your SWPPP appropriate controls and implementation procedures (including where the chemical is applied, description of active treatment systems required, dosing, filtering, pH monitoring, etc.) designed to ensure that your use of cationic chemical additives will not lead to a violation of water quality standards. See the Standards for Use of Chemical Additives for Sediment Control document for additional instructions for completing your SWPPP and requesting use of cationic chemical additives.
- xv. A copy of the SWPPP section regarding use of cationic chemical additives must be submitted along with the NOI and Request for Use of Cationic Chemical Additives form. You are required to comply with all such requirements if the Department has authorized you to use cationic chemical additives at your site.
- xvi. Depending on the additive selected for use, you may be required to sample discharges and test for residuals or other components. Any such monitoring requirement will be laid out in your registration letter. Results of required monitoring shall be maintained with the SWPPP and made available if requested by Department personnel.
- xvii. Authorization is conditioned on your compliance with additional requirements necessary to ensure that the use of such chemicals will not cause an exceedance of water quality standards. If you use polymers and/or other chemical treatments as part of your controls, you must identify the polymers and/or chemicals used and the purpose in your SWPPP.

- n. The permittee shall consider Federal and State listed rare, threatened, and endangered species and/or their habitat in the design of the erosion and sediment control plan in accordance with the 2011 Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, Section A-4. If rare, threatened, and endangered species and/or their habitat is identified, the permittee shall contact the appropriate approval authority to determine additional regulatory requirements.
- o. Manage stockpiles or land clearing debris piles composed, in whole or in part, of sediment and/or soil (2011 ESC Handbook Section B-4-8):
  - i. Locate the piles outside of any stream protection zones established under Part III.A.2.a and away from any stormwater conveyances, drain inlets, and areas where stormwater flow is concentrated;
  - ii. Install a sediment barrier along all downgradient perimeter areas;
  - iii. For piles that will be unused for 14 or more days, provide cover or appropriate temporary stabilization (consistent with Part III.A.2.f);
  - iv. You are prohibited from hosing down or sweeping soil or sediment accumulated on pavement or other impervious surfaces into any stormwater conveyance, storm drain inlet, or Waters of This State.

### **3. Pollution Prevention Requirements**

You must implement pollution prevention controls in accordance with the following requirements to minimize the discharge of pollutants in stormwater and to prevent the discharge of pollutants from spilled or leaked materials from construction activities.

- a. For equipment and vehicle fueling and maintenance:
  - i. Provide an effective means of eliminating the discharge of spilled or leaked chemicals, including fuels and oils, from these activities;
  - ii. If applicable, comply with the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) requirements in 40 CFR part 112 and Section 311 of the CWA;
  - iii. Ensure adequate supplies are available at all times to handle spills, leaks, and disposal of used liquids;
  - iv. Use drip pans and absorbents under or around leaky vehicles;
  - v. Dispose of or recycle oil and oily wastes in accordance with other federal, state, tribal, or local requirements;
  - vi. Clean up spills or contaminated surfaces immediately, using dry clean up measures (do not clean contaminated surfaces by hosing the area down); and
  - vii. Eliminate the source of the spill to prevent a discharge or a continuation of an ongoing discharge.
- b. For equipment and vehicle washing:
  - i. Provide an effective means of minimizing the discharge of pollutants from equipment and vehicle washing, wheel wash water, and other wash waters; (Examples of effective means include locating activities away from Waters of this State and stormwater inlets or conveyances and directing wash waters to a sediment basin or sediment trap, using filtration devices, such as filter bags or sand filters, or using other similarly effective controls.)
  - ii. Ensure there is no discharge of soaps, solvents, or detergents in equipment and vehicle wash water; and
  - iii. For storage of soaps, detergents, or solvents, provide either
    - cover (e.g., plastic sheeting, temporary roofs) to minimize the exposure of these detergents to precipitation and to stormwater, or
    - a similarly effective means designed to minimize the discharge of pollutants from these areas.
- c. For storage, handling, and disposal of building products, materials, and wastes:

- i. For building materials and building products (Examples of building materials and building products typically present at construction sites include asphalt sealants, copper flashing, roofing materials, adhesives, concrete admixtures, and gravel and mulch stockpiles), provide either
  - cover (e.g., plastic sheeting, temporary roofs) to minimize the exposure of these products to precipitation and to stormwater, or
  - a similarly effective means designed to minimize the discharge of pollutants from these areas.
- ii. For pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers, and landscape materials:
  - In storage areas, provide either
    - cover (e.g., plastic sheeting, temporary roofs) to minimize the exposure of these chemicals to precipitation and to stormwater, or
    - a similarly effective means designed to minimize the discharge of pollutants from these areas; and
  - Comply with all application and disposal requirements included on the registered pesticide, herbicide, insecticide, and fertilizer label (see also Part III.A.3.e).
- iii. For diesel fuel, oil, hydraulic fluids, other petroleum products, and other chemicals:
  - Store chemicals in water-tight containers, and provide either
    - cover (e.g., plastic sheeting, temporary roofs) to minimize the exposure of these containers to precipitation and to stormwater, or
    - a similarly effective means designed to minimize the discharge of pollutants from these areas (e.g., having a spill kit available on site and ensuring personnel are available to respond expeditiously in the event of a leak or spill), or provide secondary containment (e.g., spill berms, decks, spill containment pallets); and
  - Clean up spills immediately, using dry clean-up methods where possible, and dispose of used materials properly. Notify the authorities as required. (Part III.A.3.f). You are prohibited from hosing the area down to clean surfaces or spills; and
  - Eliminate the source of the spill to prevent a discharge or a furtherance of an ongoing discharge.
- iv. For hazardous or toxic wastes:
  - Separate hazardous or toxic waste from construction and domestic waste;
  - Store waste in sealed containers, which are constructed of suitable materials to prevent leakage and corrosion, and which are labeled in accordance with applicable Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requirements and all other applicable federal, state, tribal, or local requirements;
  - Store all outside containers within appropriately-sized secondary containment (e.g., spill berms, decks, spill containment pallets) to prevent spills from being discharged, or provide a similarly effective means designed to prevent the discharge of pollutants from these areas (e.g., storing chemicals in a covered area, having a spill kit available on site);
  - Dispose of hazardous or toxic waste in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended method of disposal and in compliance with federal, state, tribal, and local requirements;
  - Clean up spills immediately, using dry clean-up methods, and dispose of used materials properly. Notify the authorities as required. (Part III.A.3.f). You are prohibited from hosing the area down to clean surfaces or spills;
  - Follow all other federal, state, tribal, and local requirements regarding hazardous or toxic waste; and
  - Eliminate the source of the spill to prevent a discharge or a furtherance of an ongoing discharge.



- v. For construction and domestic wastes:
  - Provide waste containers (e.g., dumpster, trash receptacle) of sufficient size and number to contain construction and domestic wastes;
  - Keep waste container lids closed when not in use and close lids at the end of the business day for those containers that are actively used throughout the day. For waste containers that do not have lids, provide either
    - cover (e.g., a tarp, plastic sheeting, temporary roof) to minimize exposure of wastes to precipitation, or
    - a similarly effective means designed to minimize the discharge of pollutants (e.g., secondary containment);
  - On business days, clean up and dispose of waste in designated waste containers; and
  - Clean up immediately if containers overflow.
- vi. For sanitary waste, position portable toilets so that they are secure and will not be tipped or knocked over and are located away from Waters of this State and stormwater inlets or conveyances.
- d. For washing applicators and containers used for stucco, paint, concrete, form release oils, curing compounds, or other materials:
  - i. Direct wash water into a leak-proof container or leak-proof and lined pit designed (refer to 2011 ESC Handbook Section H-6) so that no overflows can occur due to inadequate sizing or precipitation;
  - ii. Handle washout or cleanout wastes as follows:
    - Do not dump liquid wastes in storm sewers or Waters of this State.;
    - Dispose of liquid wastes in accordance with applicable requirements in Part III.A.3.c; and
    - Remove and dispose of hardened concrete waste consistent with your handling of other construction wastes in Part III.A.3.c; and
  - iii. Locate any washout or cleanout activities as far away as possible from Waters of This State and stormwater inlets or conveyances, and to the extent feasible, designate areas to be used for these activities and conduct such activities only in these areas.
- e. For the application of fertilizers:
  - i. Apply at a rate and in amounts consistent with manufacturer's specifications, or document in the SWPPP departures from the manufacturer specifications where appropriate in accordance with Part III.F;
  - ii. Apply at the appropriate time of year for your location, and preferably timed to coincide as closely as possible to the period of maximum vegetation uptake and growth;
  - iii. Avoid applying before heavy rains that could cause excess nutrients to be discharged;
  - iv. Never apply to frozen ground;
  - v. Never apply to stormwater conveyance channels; and
  - vi. Follow all other federal, state, tribal, and local requirements regarding fertilizer application, including Agriculture Article § 8-803.4.
- f. Releases in Excess of Reportable Quantities. Discharges of hazardous substances and oil resulting from on-site spills are not authorized by this permit. (Part I.D.5). In the event of a discharge resulting from a spill of hazardous substances or oil from a construction site (Parts III.A.3.c.iii and Part III.A.3.c.iv), where the release is an amount equal to or in excess of a reporting quantity established under either 40 CFR Part 110, 40 CFR Part 117, or 40 CFR Part 302, occurring during a 24 hour period:
  - i. You shall notify the National Response Center (NRC) as soon as you have knowledge of the discharge in accordance with the requirements of 40 CFR Part 110, 40 CFR Part 117, and 40 CFR Part 302;
    - 1-800-424-8802 or
    - 202-267-2675 (in the Washington, DC metropolitan area)

- ii. You shall notify the Maryland Department of the Environment as soon as you have knowledge of the discharge;
  - Between 8AM and 5PM at 410-537-3510
  - All other hours at (866) 633-4686

You must also, within seven (7) calendar days of knowledge of the release, provide a description of the release, the circumstances leading to the release, and the date of the release to the Department's compliance program. Local requirements may necessitate additional reporting of spills or discharges to local emergency response, public health, or drinking water supply agencies. No condition of this general permit shall release the permittee from any responsibility or requirements under other environmental statutes or regulations.

#### **4. Construction Dewatering Requirements**

Comply with the following requirements to minimize the discharge of pollutants in ground water or accumulated stormwater that is removed from excavations, trenches, foundations, vaults, or other similar points of accumulation, in accordance with Part I.C.2. (Uncontaminated, clear (non-turbid) dewatering water can be discharged without being routed to a control.)

- a. Treat dewatering discharges with controls to minimize discharges of pollutants;
  - i. Appropriate controls are identified in the 2011 ESC Handbook Section F, and may require additional use of chemical additives as provided in this permit that are designed to remove sediment.
  - ii. Appropriate controls to use downstream of dewatering controls to minimize erosion include vegetated buffers, check dams, riprap, and grouted riprap at outlets.
- b. Do not discharge visible floating solids or foam;
- c. Use an oil-water separator or suitable filtration device (such as a cartridge filter) that is designed to remove oil, grease, or other products if dewatering water is found to contain these materials;
- d. To the extent feasible, use vegetated, upland areas of the site to infiltrate dewatering water before discharge. You are prohibited from using Waters of this State as part of the treatment area;
- e. At all points where dewatering water is discharged, comply with the velocity dissipation requirements of Part III.A.2.1;
- f. With backwash water, either haul it away for disposal or return it to the beginning of the treatment process; and
- g. Replace and clean the filter media used in dewatering devices when the pressure differential equals or exceeds the manufacturer's specifications.

#### **B. Water Quality-Based Limits.**

##### **1. General Effluent Limitation to Meet Applicable Water Quality Standards**

Discharges must be controlled as necessary to meet applicable water quality standards. In the absence of information demonstrating otherwise, the Department expects that compliance with the conditions in this permit will result in stormwater discharges being controlled as necessary to meet applicable water quality standards. If at any time you become aware, or the Department determines, that discharges are not being controlled as necessary to meet applicable water quality standards, you must take corrective action as required in Parts III.D.1 and III.D.2, and document the corrective actions as required in Part III.D.3.

The Department may insist that you install additional controls (to meet the narrative water quality-based effluent limit above) on a site-specific basis, or require you to obtain coverage under an individual permit, if information in your NOI or from other sources indicates that your discharges are not controlled as necessary to meet applicable water quality standards. This includes situations

where additional controls are necessary to comply with a wasteload allocation in an EPA-established or approved TMDL .

If during your coverage under a previous permit, you were required to install and maintain stormwater controls specifically to meet the assumptions and requirements of an EPA-approved or established TMDL (for any parameter) or to otherwise control your discharge to meet water quality standards, you must continue to implement such controls as part of your coverage under this permit.

**2. Discharge Limitations for Sites Discharging to Sensitive Waters**

For any portion of the site that discharges to a water that is identified by the Department, or EPA as Tier II for antidegradation purposes, you must perform an antidegradation review (COMAR 26.08.02.04-1), accomplished by completing the antidegradation checklist in Appendix C. The checklist confirms that you will comply with the inspection frequency specified in III.C, the stabilization deadline specified in Part III.A.2.f and the additional controls required when work is considered within Stream Protection Zones as specified in Part III.A.2.a and Appendix B. The antidegradation checklist includes verification of whether the stream has assimilative capacity or if any waivers were allowed. Operators with discharges to Tier II streams with no assimilative capacity may be subject to additional review by the Department. In addition, on a case-by-case basis, the Department may notify operators of new sites or operators of existing sites with increased discharges that additional analyses, stormwater controls, or other measures are necessary to comply with the applicable antidegradation requirements, or notify you that an individual permit application is necessary.

**3. Discharge Limitations for Sites Discharging to Impaired Waters**

If you discharge to a water that is impaired, the Department will inform you if any additional controls are necessary for your discharge to be controlled as necessary to meet water quality standards, including for it to be consistent with the assumptions of any available wasteload allocation in any applicable TMDL, or if coverage under an individual permit is necessary.

If you discharge to a water that is impaired for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and are engaging in demolition of any structure with at least 10,000 square feet of floor space built or renovated before January 1, 1980, you must:

- a. Implement controls to minimize the exposure of PCB-containing building materials, including paint, caulk, and pre-1980 fluorescent lighting fixtures, to precipitation and to stormwater (Examples of controls to minimize exposure of PCBs to precipitation and stormwater include separating work areas from non-work areas and selecting appropriate personal protective equipment and tools, constructing a containment area so that all dust or debris generated by the work remains within the protected area, using tools that minimize dust and heat. For additional information, refer to 20-CP Fact Sheet); and
- b. Ensure that disposal of such materials is performed in compliance with applicable state, federal, and local laws.

**C. Site Inspection, Monitoring and Records.**

After the first earth disturbance occurs on the site, and thenceforth during the entire period of permit coverage whether the site is active or inactive, the permittee shall conduct inspections of the permitted area.

**1. Person(s) Responsible for Inspecting Site**

The person(s) inspecting the site may be a person on the permittee's staff or a third party hired or arranged to conduct inspections. The person conducting the inspection must hold a valid certificate of attendance from a training program for responsible personnel as required by Section 4-104(b) of the Environment Article, unless the erosion and sediment control plan approval authority has waived

the requirement for a Certificate of Training in accordance with Section 4-104(c) of the Environment Article.

## **2. Frequency of Inspections**

At a minimum the permittee shall conduct inspections at one of the two following intervals, unless you are subject to the Part III.C.3 site inspection frequency for discharges to sensitive waters or qualify for a Part III.C.4 reduction in the inspection frequency:

- a. Once each calendar week (Sunday to Saturday), and after a storm event of 0.25 inches or greater within 24 hours (either the same day the rainfall event concludes or the next day), or
- b. Once every four (4) business days.

To determine if a storm event of 0.25 inches or greater has occurred on your site, you must either keep a properly maintained rain gauge on your site or obtain the storm event information from a weather station that is representative of your location. For any day of rainfall during normal business hours that measures 0.25 inches or greater, you must record the total rainfall measured for that day in accordance with Part III.C.7.f.

## **3. Increase in Inspection Frequency for Sites Discharging to Sensitive Waters**

For any portion of the site that discharges to a water that is identified by the Department as Tier II, for antidegradation purposes (see Part III.B.2), instead of the inspection frequency specified in Part III.C.2, you must conduct inspections once every four (4) calendar days. When possible schedule these within 24 hours of the occurrence of a storm event of 0.25 inches or greater within 24 hours, or the occurrence of runoff from snowmelt sufficient to cause a discharge. To determine if a storm event of 0.25 inches or greater has occurred on your site, you must either keep a properly maintained rain gauge on your site, or obtain the storm event information from a weather station that is representative of your location. For any day of rainfall during normal business hours that measures 0.25 inches or greater, you must record the total rainfall measured for that day in accordance with Part III.C.7.f.

## **4. Reductions in Inspection Frequency**

For areas meeting stabilization requirements of COMAR 26.17.01.07.B.6(f) and the erosion and sediment control plan, inspections may be reduced to once per month if construction activity is suspended. If construction activity resumes in such a portion of the site at a later date, the inspection frequency immediately increases to that required in III.C.2; the permittee must document the beginning and ending dates of the period of stabilization in its inspection records.

## **5. Areas That Must Be Inspected**

During your site inspection, you must at a minimum inspect the following areas of your site:

- a. All areas that have been cleared, graded, or excavated and that have not yet completed stabilization consistent with Part III.A.2.f;
- b. All stormwater controls (including pollution prevention controls) installed at the site to comply with this permit (This includes the requirement to inspect for sediment that has been tracked out from the site onto paved roads, sidewalks, or other paved areas consistent with Part III.A.2.h).;
- c. Material, waste, borrow, and equipment storage and maintenance areas that are covered by this permit;
- d. All areas where stormwater typically flows within the site, including drainageways designed to divert, convey, and/or treat stormwater;
- e. All points of discharge from the site; and
- f. All locations where stabilization measures have been implemented.

You are not required to inspect areas that, at the time of the inspection, are considered unsafe to your inspection personnel.

## 6. Requirements for Inspections

During your site inspection, you must at a minimum:

- a. Check whether all stormwater controls (i.e., erosion and sediment controls and pollution prevention controls) are properly installed, appear to be operational, and are working as intended to minimize pollutant discharges;
- b. Check for the presence of conditions that could lead to spills, leaks, or other accumulations of pollutants on the site;
- c. Identify any locations where new or modified stormwater controls are necessary to meet the requirements of Parts III.A and/or III.B;
- d. Check for signs of visible erosion and sedimentation (i.e., sediment deposits) that have occurred and are attributable to your discharge at points of discharge and, if applicable, the banks of any Waters of this State flowing within or immediately adjacent to the site;
- e. Identify any incidents of noncompliance observed;
- f. If a discharge is occurring during your inspection:
  - i. Identify all discharge points at the site; and observe and document the visual quality of the discharge, and
  - ii. take note of the characteristics of the stormwater discharge, including color; odor; floating, settled, or suspended solids; foam; oil sheen; and other indicators of stormwater pollutants.
- g. Based on the results of your inspection, complete any necessary maintenance under Part III.A.1.d and corrective action under Part III.D.

## 7. Inspection Report

You must complete an inspection report within 24 hours of completing any site inspection and meet the applicable signature requirements. Approved forms for the inspection can be found on the Department's website. Each inspection report must include the following:

- a. the date and time of the inspection;
- b. the name(s) of the individual(s) who performed the inspection;
- c. weather information (conditions during the inspection as well as time and amount of last recorded precipitation);
- d. a summary of your inspection findings, covering at a minimum the observations you made in accordance with Part III.C.6, including any necessary maintenance or corrective actions; (such as whether significant amounts of sediment were observed as described in Part III.C.6.d, Prevention of the Discharge of Significant Amounts of Sediment, above; an assessment of the condition of erosion and sediment controls and how any deficiencies were or are being addressed; and a description and date of any erosion and sediment control implementation and maintenance performed, including identification of any controls that have not been installed as required);
- e. a description of the site's present phase of construction;
- f. If you are inspecting your site at the frequency specified in Part III.C.3 (discharges to Sensitive Waters), and you conducted an inspection because of rainfall measuring 0.25 inches or greater within a 24 hour period, you must include the applicable rain gauge or weather station readings that triggered the inspection; and
- g. If you determined that it is unsafe to inspect a portion of your site, you must describe the reason you found it to be unsafe and specify the locations to which this condition applies.

## 8. Records On-site

- a. After the first earth disturbance occurs on the site, and thenceforth during the entire period of permit coverage whether the site is active or inactive, you shall post, at a safe, publicly accessible location in close proximity to the project site, a notice of permit coverage, including the project name as listed on the permit, the permittee, the words "General Permit for Stormwater Associated with Construction Activity", and the permit registration number.
- b. During the entire period of permit coverage, you shall maintain the following records, which shall be available when the site is active, either physically on-site or electronically accessible through your environmental system.:

- i. The NOI and records of all data used to complete the NOI;
  - ii. the approved erosion and sediment control plan;
  - iii. the approved stormwater management plan;
  - iv. a copy of this General Permit;
  - v. a copy of your SWPPP (if applicable)
  - vi. a copy of your antidegradation checklist (if applicable)
  - vii. a copy of the general permit registration document from the Department;
  - viii. a copy of transfer of authorization documents (if applicable);
  - ix. all inspection reports and enforcement actions issued to the permittee from any appropriate enforcement or approval authority, including the Department, the delegated enforcement authority, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and
  - x. Written reports of all inspections conducted by the permittee.
- c. For a period of three (3) years from the date that general permit coverage for the site is terminated, the permittee shall maintain the records in Part III.C.8.b above and a copy of the Notice of Termination (after it is prepared).
- d. When a permit is transferred, the original permittee must maintain the records in Part III.C.8.b above that document the permit activity up to the date of transfer. The original permittee must maintain those records for three (3) years from the date of transfer. Both the original permittee and the new permittee must maintain a copy of the Transfer of Authorization document.
- e. The permittee shall ensure that samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring are representative of the monitored activity. If the Department requires monitoring at a site covered by this permit, the permittee shall use monitoring procedures that are sufficiently sensitive to meet an imposed limit, in accordance with federal regulations at 40 CFR 122.44(i)(1)(iv). Records of monitoring information must include:
- i. the date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
  - ii. the individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
  - iii. the date(s) analyses were performed;
  - iv. the individual(s) who performed the analyses;
  - v. the analytical techniques or methods used;
  - vi. the results of such analyses; and
  - vii. all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation.
- f. Reporting Requirements. You must provide, upon request by the Department, the information maintained in accordance with Part III.C.8 to:

The Maryland Department of the Environment  
Water and Science Administration  
Compliance Program  
1800 Washington Blvd, Ste 420  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1708

## **D. Corrective Actions**

### **1. Conditions Triggering Corrective Action.**

You must take corrective action to address any of the following conditions identified at your site:

- a. A stormwater control needs repair or replacement (beyond routine maintenance required under Part III.A.1.d); or
- b. A stormwater control necessary to comply with the requirements of this permit was never installed, or was installed incorrectly; or
- c. Your discharges are causing an exceedance of applicable water quality standards; or

- d. A prohibited discharge has occurred (see Part I.D), or
- e. There are indications of significant amounts of sediment discharging such as:
  - i. Earth slides or mud flows;
  - ii. Concentrated flows of stormwater such as rills, rivulets or channels that cause erosion when such flows are not filtered, settled or otherwise treated to remove sediment;
  - iii. Turbid flows of stormwater that are not filtered, settled or otherwise treated to reduce turbidity;
  - iv. Deposits of sediment at the construction site in areas that drain to unprotected stormwater inlets or catch basins that discharge directly to surface waters;
  - v. Deposits of sediment from the construction site on public or private streets outside of the permitted construction activity;
  - vi. Deposits of sediment from the construction site on any adjacent property outside of the permitted construction activity; or
  - vii. Discharges from the construction site to municipal conveyances, curbs and gutters, or streams running through or along the site where visual observations show that the discharges differ from ambient conditions in terms of turbidity so as to indicate significant amounts of sediment present in them.

## **2. Corrective Action Deadlines**

If the permittee observes any of the triggering events described in Section III.D.1 above, or if any person informs the enforcement authority or the Department of a triggering event and the enforcement authority or the Department informs the permittee that one or more of the triggering events was verified, the permittee must undertake the following actions and record the dates and results of these actions in an onsite logbook.

- a. Within one day the permittee shall inspect erosion and sediment control practices to verify compliance with its approved Plans. Any deficiencies, including, but not limited to, failure to follow the approved sequence of construction, failure to maintain approved buffers, grading beyond the limit of disturbance, or any approved sediment and erosion controls found to be missing, improperly installed or in need of maintenance must be corrected immediately and may be considered to be a violation of this permit until such time that they are corrected.
- b. If the site is found to be in compliance with its approved Plans, the permittee shall, by the next business day, contact the Compliance Program of the Water and Science Administration in the Department, the enforcement authority for the site (if it is not the Department), and the appropriate approval authority for Erosion and Sediment Control and inform the authorities about the conditions observed during the inspection cited above. In addition to any requirements imposed by the delegated enforcement authority or the Department, the permittee shall, after notifying the enforcement authority, implement any of the following that are determined to be appropriate towards the prevention of further triggering events:
  - i. Any change that may be approved in the field by the inspector for the enforcement authority for the site;
  - ii. Modifications to the Plans allowed as field modifications by the approval authority;
  - iii. Performing temporary or permanent seeding of disturbed areas more frequently than required by the approved Plan or regulation; or
  - iv. Increasing buffer distances.

The permittee shall implement any changes needed based on the above review within four days after the triggering event is observed.

If additional triggering events are observed, the permittee shall, through its site engineer, determine if the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan and Stormwater Management Plan are adequate, if an update to a SWPPP is required or whether additional on-site practices or plan modifications are required. Within three days of the observation of a second triggering event, the permittee shall contact the Compliance Program of the Water and Science Administration in the Department, the enforcement authority for the site (if it is not the Department), and the approval authority for the Plans and advise them that:

- a. The permittee observed a triggering event;



- b. The event happened despite the fact that erosion and sediment controls were properly installed and maintained; and
- c. The permittee is reviewing plans and will afford the approval authority the opportunity to concurrently review them.

The permittee's review of plans shall begin within three days of the triggering event. The permittee must submit revised plans to the approval authority no later than 14 days after the observation of a second triggering event. The permittee must obtain approval of the revised Plans from the approval authority and begin implementation of the changes immediately upon approval.

### **3. Corrective Action Report**

For each corrective action taken in accordance with this Part, you must complete a report in accordance with the following:

- a. Within 24 hours of identifying the corrective action condition, document the specific condition and the date and time it was identified.
- b. Within 24 hours of completing the corrective action (in accordance with the deadlines in Part III.D.2), document the actions taken to address the condition, including whether any SWPPP modifications are required.
- c. Each corrective action report must be signed in accordance with Part II.A.7 of this permit.
- d. You must keep a copy of all corrective action reports at the site or at an easily accessible location, so that it can be made available at the time of an on-site inspection or upon request by the Department.
- e. You must retain all corrective action reports completed for this Part for at least three (3) years from the date that your permit coverage expires or is terminated.

### **E. Staff Training Requirements**

Each operator, or group of multiple operators, must assemble a "stormwater team" to carry out compliance activities associated with the requirements in this permit. At least one of the team members must be a qualified person who holds a valid certificate of attendance at a training program in accordance with Environment Article § 4-104 and must be on site as required by the approved Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

#### **1. Prior to the commencement of construction activities,**

You must ensure that the following personnel on the stormwater team understand the requirements of this permit and their specific responsibilities with respect to those requirements:

- a. Personnel who are responsible for the design, installation, maintenance, and/or repair of stormwater controls (including pollution prevention controls);
- b. Personnel responsible for the application and storage of treatment chemicals (if applicable);
- c. Personnel who are responsible for conducting inspections as required in Part III.C.1; and
- d. Personnel who are responsible for taking corrective actions as required in Part III.D.

#### **2. Regarding subcontractors or outside service providers,**

You are responsible for ensuring that all activities on the site comply with the requirements of this permit. You are not required to provide or document formal training for subcontractors or other outside service providers, but you must ensure that such personnel understand any requirements of this permit that may be affected by the work they are subcontracted to perform.

#### **3. Specific training related to scope of jobs,**

At a minimum, members of the stormwater team must be trained to understand the following if related to the scope of their job duties (e.g., only personnel responsible for conducting inspections need to understand how to conduct inspections):

- a. The permit deadlines associated with installation, maintenance, and removal of stormwater controls and with stabilization;
- b. The location of all stormwater controls on the site required by this permit and how they are to be maintained;

- c. The proper procedures to follow with respect to the permit's pollution prevention requirements; and
  - d. When and how to conduct inspections, record applicable findings, and take corrective actions.
- 4. Easy access to documents,**  
Each member of the stormwater team must have easy access to an electronic or paper copy of applicable portions of this permit, the most updated copy of your SWPPP, and other relevant documents or information that must be kept with the SWPPP.

## **F. Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)**

### **1. General Requirements**

- All operators associated with a construction site under this permit must develop a SWPPP consistent with the requirements in Part III.F prior to their submittal of the NOI, if they have any of the conditions at your site:
- a. Use Chemical Additives or Polymers for Sediment Control,
  - b. Have potential for any of the non-stormwater discharges prohibited in Part I.D above (whether the site is known to be contaminated by PCBs, PFAS, mercury, lead, or other metals, or any other source of toxic industrial pollution),
  - c. Implementing controls associated with any of the activities referenced in Part III.A.3, or
  - d. Are sharing liability between and among operators on the same site.

The SWPPP does not establish the effluent limits that apply to your site's discharges; these limits are established in this permit in Parts III.A and III.B.

You have the option of developing a group SWPPP where you are one of several operators at your site. For instance, if both the owner and the general contractor of the construction site are operators and thus are both required to obtain a permit, the owner may be the party undertaking SWPPP development, and the general contractor (or any other operator at the site) can choose to use this same SWPPP, as long as the SWPPP addresses the general contractor's (or other operator's) scope of construction work and functions to be performed under the SWPPP. Regardless of whether there is a group SWPPP or several individual SWPPPs, all operators are jointly and severally liable for compliance with the permit. Where there are multiple operators associated with the same site through a common plan of development or sale, operators may assign to themselves various permit-related functions under the SWPPP provided that each SWPPP, or a group SWPPP, documents which operator will perform each function under the SWPPP. However, dividing the functions to be performed under each SWPPP, or a single group SWPPP, does not relieve an individual operator from liability for complying with the permit should another operator fail to implement any measures that are necessary for that individual operator to comply with the permit, e.g., the installation and maintenance of any shared controls. In addition, all operators must ensure, either directly or through coordination with other operators, that their activities do not cause a violation and/or render any other operators' controls and/or any shared controls ineffective. All operators who rely on a shared control to comply with the permit are jointly and severally liable for violations of the permit resulting from the failure to properly install, operate and/or maintain the shared control. The SWPPP must be kept up-to-date throughout coverage under this permit.

### **2. SWPPP Contents**

At a minimum, the SWPPP must include the information specified in this Part and as specified in other parts of this permit.

- a. All Site Operators. Include a list of all other operators who will be engaged in construction activities at the site, and the areas of the site over which each operator has control.
- b. Stormwater Team. Identify the personnel (by name or position) that are part of the stormwater team, as well as their individual responsibilities, including which members are responsible for conducting inspections.

- c. Nature of Construction Activities. (If plans change due to unforeseen circumstances or for other reasons, the requirement to describe the sequence and estimated dates of construction activities is not meant to “lock in” the operator to meeting these dates. When departures from initial projections are necessary, this should be documented in the SWPPP, the E&SC, or in associated records, as appropriate.) Include the following:
- i. A description of the nature of your construction activities, including the age or dates of past renovations for structures that are undergoing demolition;
  - ii. The size of the property (in acres or length in miles if a linear construction site);
  - iii. The total area expected to be disturbed by the construction activities (to the nearest quarter acre or nearest quarter mile if a linear construction site);
  - iv. A description of any on-site and off-site construction support activity areas covered by this permit (see Part I.C.1.c);
  - v. The maximum area expected to be disturbed at any one time, including on-site and off-site construction support activity areas;
  - vi. A description and projected schedule for the following:
    - Commencement of construction activities in each portion of the site, including clearing and grubbing, mass grading, demolition activities, site preparation (i.e., excavating, cutting and filling), final grading, and creation of soil and vegetation stockpiles requiring stabilization;
    - Temporary or permanent cessation of construction activities in each portion of the site;
    - Temporary or final stabilization of exposed areas for each portion of the site; and
    - Removal of temporary stormwater controls and construction equipment or vehicles, and the cessation of construction-related pollutant-generating activities.
  - vii. A list and description of all pollutant-generating activities on the site. For each pollutant-generating activity, include an inventory of pollutants or pollutant constituents (e.g., sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, paints, caulks, sealants, fluorescent light ballasts, contaminated substrates, solvents, fuels) associated with that activity, which could be discharged in stormwater from your construction site. You must take into account where potential spills and leaks could occur that contribute pollutants to stormwater discharges, and any known hazardous or toxic substances, such as PCBs and asbestos, that will be disturbed or removed during construction;
  - viii. Business days and hours for the project;
  - ix. If you are conducting construction activities in response to a public emergency (see Part I.F.1), a description of the cause of the public emergency (e.g., mud slides, earthquake, extreme flooding conditions, widespread disruption in essential public services), information substantiating its occurrence (e.g., state disaster declaration or similar state or local declaration), and a description of the construction necessary to reestablish affected public services.
- d. Site Map. Include a legible map, or series of maps, showing the following features of the site:
- i. Boundaries of the property;
  - ii. Locations where construction activities will occur, including:
    - Locations where earth-disturbing activities will occur (note any phasing), including any demolition activities;
    - Approximate slopes before and after major grading activities (note any steep slopes (as defined in Appendix A));
    - Locations where sediment, soil, or other construction materials will be stockpiled;
    - Any Waters of This State crossings;
    - Designated points where vehicles will exit onto paved roads;
    - Locations of structures and other impervious surfaces upon completion of construction; and
    - Locations of on-site and off-site construction support activity areas covered by this permit (see Part I.C.1.c).
  - iii. Locations of all Waters of this State within and one mile downstream of the site’s discharge point. Also identify if any are listed as impaired, or are identified as a Tier II water;

- iv. Areas of state listed critical habitat within the site and/or at discharge locations;
- v. Type and extent of pre-construction cover on the site (e.g., vegetative cover, forest, pasture, pavement, structures);
- vi. Drainage patterns of stormwater and authorized non-stormwater before and after major grading activities;
- vii. Stormwater and authorized non-stormwater discharge locations, including:
  - Locations where stormwater and/or authorized non-stormwater will be discharged to storm drain inlets; and
  - Locations where stormwater or authorized non-stormwater will be discharged directly to Waters of this State.
- viii. Locations of all potential pollutant-generating activities identified in Part III.F.2.c.vii;
- ix. Locations of stormwater controls, including natural buffer areas and any shared controls utilized to comply with this permit; and
- x. Locations where polymers, flocculants, or other treatment chemicals will be used and stored.
- e. Non-Stormwater Discharges. Identify all authorized non-stormwater discharges in Part I.C.2 that will or may occur.
- f. Description of Stormwater Controls.
  - i. For each of the Part III.A.2 erosion and sediment control effluent limits, Part III.A.3 pollution prevention effluent limits, and Part III.A.4 construction dewatering effluent limits, as applicable to your site, you must include the following:
    - A description of the specific control(s) to be implemented to meet the effluent limit;
    - Any applicable stormwater control design specifications (including references to any manufacturer specifications and/or erosion and sediment control manuals/ordinances relied upon, and any departures from such specifications must reflect good engineering practice and must be explained in the SWPPP.);
    - Routine stormwater control maintenance specifications; and
    - The projected schedule for stormwater control installation/implementation.
  - ii. You must also include any of the following additional information as applicable.
    - Natural buffers and/or equivalent sediment controls (see Part III.2.A). You must include the following:
      - The compliance alternative to be implemented;
      - If complying with alternative 2, the width of natural buffer retained;
      - If complying with alternative 2 or 3, the erosion and sediment control(s) you will use to achieve an equivalent sediment reduction, and any information you relied upon to demonstrate the equivalency;
      - If complying with alternative 3, a description of why it is infeasible for you to provide and maintain an undisturbed natural buffer of any size;
      - For “linear construction sites” where it is infeasible to implement compliance alternative 1, 2, or 3, a rationale for this determination, and a description of any buffer width retained and/or supplemental erosion and sediment controls installed; and
      - A description of any disturbances that have been exempted from these requirements by the approval authority that occur within Stream Protection Zones.
    - Perimeter controls for a “linear construction site” (see Part III.A.2.e). For areas where perimeter controls are not feasible, include documentation to support this determination and a description of the other practices that will be implemented to minimize discharges of pollutants in stormwater associated with construction activities. Note: Routine maintenance specifications for perimeter controls documented in the SWPPP must include the Part III.A.2.e.i requirement that sediment be removed before it has accumulated to one-half of the above-ground height of any perimeter control.
    - Sediment track-out controls (see Parts III.A.2.h.ii and III.A.2.h.iii). Document the specific stabilization techniques and/or controls that will be implemented to remove sediment prior to vehicle exit.

- Treatment chemicals (see Part III.A.2.m), you must include the following:
  - A listing of the soil types that are expected to be exposed during construction in areas of the project that will drain to chemical treatment systems. Also include a listing of soil types expected to be found in fill material to be used in these same areas, to the extent you have this information prior to construction;
  - A listing of all treatment chemicals to be used at the site and why the selection of these chemicals is suited to the soil characteristics of your site;
  - If the Department authorized you to use cationic chemical additives for sediment control, include the specific controls and implementation procedures designed to ensure that your use of cationic chemical additives will not lead to an exceedance of water quality standards;
  - The dosage of all treatment chemicals to be used at the site and the methodology to be used to determine dosage;
  - Information from any applicable Safety Data Sheet (SDS);
  - Schematic drawings of any chemically enhanced stormwater controls or chemical treatment systems to be used for application of the treatment chemicals;
  - A description of how chemicals will be stored consistent with Part III.A.2.m.vi;
  - References to applicable state or local requirements affecting the use of treatment chemicals, and copies of applicable manufacturer's specifications regarding the use of your specific treatment chemicals and/or chemical treatment systems; and
  - A description of the training that personnel who handle and apply chemicals have received prior to permit coverage, or will receive prior to use of the treatment chemicals at your site.
- Stabilization measures (see Part III.A.2.f). You must include the following:
  - The specific vegetative and/or non-vegetative practices that will be used;
  - The stabilization deadline that will be met in accordance with Part III.A.2.f;
  - If complying with deadlines for sites affected by unforeseen circumstances that delay the initiation and/or completion of vegetative stabilization, document the circumstances and the schedule for initiating and completing stabilization.
- Spill prevention and response procedures (see Part I.D.5 and Part III.A.3.c.iv). You must include the following:
  - Procedures for expeditiously stopping, containing, and cleaning up spills, leaks, and other releases. Identify the name or position of the employee(s) responsible for detection and response of spills or leaks; and
  - Procedures for notification of appropriate facility personnel, emergency response agencies, and regulatory agencies where a leak, spill, or other release containing a hazardous substance or oil in an amount equal to or in excess of a reportable quantity consistent with Part III.A.3.f. and established under either 40 CFR 110, 40 CFR 117, or 40 CFR 302, occurs during a 24-hour period (see Part III.A.3.f). Contact information must be in locations that are readily accessible and available to all employees. You may also reference the existence of Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans developed for the construction activity under Part 311 of the CWA, or spill control programs otherwise required by an NPDES permit for the construction activity, provided that you keep a copy of that other plan on site.
- Waste management procedures (see Part III.A.3.c). Describe the procedures you will follow for handling, storing and disposing of all wastes generated at your site consistent with all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local requirements, including clearing and demolition debris, sediment removed from the site, construction and domestic waste, hazardous or toxic waste, and sanitary waste.

- Application of fertilizers (see Part III.A.3.e). Document any departures from the manufacturer specifications where appropriate.
- g. Procedures for Inspection, Maintenance, and Corrective Action. Describe the procedures you will follow for maintaining your stormwater controls, conducting site inspections, and, where necessary, taking corrective actions, in accordance with Part III.A.1.d, Part III.C, and Part III.D of this permit. Also include:
    - i. The inspection schedule you will follow, which is based on whether your site is subject to Part III.C.2 or Part III.C.3, and/or whether your site qualifies for any of the reduced inspection frequencies in Part III.C.4;
    - ii. If you will be conducting inspections in accordance with the inspection schedule in Part III.C.a, or Part III.C.3, the location of the rain gauge or the address of the weather station you will be using to obtain rainfall data; and
    - iii. Any maintenance or inspection checklists or other forms that will be used.
  - h. Staff Training. Include documentation that the required personnel were, or will be, trained in accordance with Part III.E.
  - i. Compliance with Other Requirements.
    - i. Threatened and Endangered Species Protection. Include documentation required in Part III.A.2.n supporting your eligibility with regard to the protection of State threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat.
    - ii. Safe Drinking Water Act Underground Injection Control (UIC) Requirements for Certain Subsurface Stormwater Controls. If you are using any of the following stormwater controls at your site, document any contact you have had with the Department for implementing the requirements for underground injection wells in the Safe Drinking Water Act and EPA's implementing regulations at 40 CFR 144 -147. Such controls would generally be considered Class V UIC wells:
      - iii. Infiltration trenches (if stormwater is directed to any bored, drilled, driven shaft or dug hole that is deeper than its widest surface dimension, or has a subsurface fluid distribution system);
      - iv. Commercially manufactured pre-cast or pre-built proprietary subsurface detention vaults, chambers, or other devices designed to capture and infiltrate stormwater flow; and
      - v. Drywells, seepage pits, or improved sinkholes (if stormwater is directed to any bored, drilled, driven shaft or dug hole that is deeper than its widest surface dimension, or has a subsurface fluid distribution system).
  - j. SWPPP Certification. You must sign and date your SWPPP in accordance with Part I.F.5.
  - k. Post-Authorization Additions to the SWPPP. Once you are authorized for coverage under this permit, you must include the following documents as part of your SWPPP:
    - i. Any correspondence exchanged between you and the Department related to coverage under this permit;
    - ii. A copy of the acknowledgment letter you receive from the Department assigning your NPDES ID (i.e., permit tracking number);
    - iii. A copy of this permit (an electronic copy easily available to the stormwater team is also acceptable).

### **3. On-site Availability of your SWPPP**

You must keep a current copy of your SWPPP at the site or at an easily accessible location so that it can be made available at the time of an on-site inspection or upon request by the Department, the EPA, the local agency approving stormwater management plans, or the operator of a storm sewer system receiving discharges from the site. The Department may provide access to portions of your SWPPP to a member of the public upon request. Confidential Business Information (CBI) will be withheld from the public, but may not be withheld from the Department. If an on-site location is unavailable to keep the SWPPP when no personnel are

present, notice of the plan's location must be posted near the main entrance of your construction site.

#### **4. SWPPP Modifications**

- a. You must modify your SWPPP, including the site map(s), within seven (7) days of any of the following conditions:
  - i. Whenever new operators become active in construction activities on your site, or you make changes to your construction plans, stormwater controls, or other activities at your site that are no longer accurately reflected in your SWPPP. This includes changes made in response to corrective actions triggered under Part III.D. You do not need to modify your SWPPP if the estimated dates in Part III.F.2.vi change during the course of construction;
  - ii. To reflect areas on your site map where operational control has been transferred (and the date of transfer) since initiating permit coverage;
  - iii. If inspections or investigations by the Department or its authorized representatives determine that SWPPP modifications are necessary for compliance with this permit;
  - iv. Where the Department determines it is necessary to install and/or implement additional controls at your site in order to meet the requirements of this permit, the following must be included in your SWPPP:
    - A copy of any correspondence describing such measures and requirements; and
    - A description of the controls that will be used to meet such requirements.
  - v. To reflect any revisions to applicable federal, state, or local requirements that affect the stormwater controls implemented at the site; and
  - vi. If applicable, if a change in chemical treatment systems or chemically enhanced stormwater control is made, including use of a different treatment chemical, different dosage rate, or different area of application.
- b. You must maintain records showing the dates of all SWPPP modifications. The records must include the name of the person authorizing each change (see Part III.F.2.j above) and a brief summary of all changes.
- c. All modifications made to the SWPPP consistent with Part III.F.4 must be authorized by a person identified in I.F.5.
- d. Upon determining that a modification to your SWPPP is required, if there are multiple operators covered under this permit, you must immediately notify any operators who may be impacted by the change to the SWPPP.

### **Part VI. STANDARD PERMIT CONDITIONS**

#### **A. Duty to Comply**

You must comply at all times with the terms and conditions of this permit, the provisions of the Environment Article, Title 7, Subtitle 2 and Title 9, Subtitles 2 and 3 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, and the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq. Any noncompliance with any of the requirements of this permit constitutes a violation of the Clean Water Act. As detailed in Part IV (Corrective Actions) of this permit, failure to take any required corrective actions constitute an independent, additional violation of this permit and the Clean Water Act. As such, any actions and time periods specified for remedying noncompliance do not absolve parties of the initial underlying noncompliance. However, where corrective action is triggered by an event that does not itself constitute permit noncompliance, there is no permit violation provided you take the required corrective action within the relevant deadlines established in Part III.D.

#### **B. Property Rights.**

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, nor any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property nor any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of Federal, State or local laws or regulations.



**C. Water Construction and Obstruction**

This permit does not authorize you to construct or place physical structures, facilities, or debris or undertake related activities in any Waters of this State.

**D. Right of Entry**

You must permit the Secretary of the Department, the Regional Administrator for the EPA, or their authorized representatives, upon the presentation of credentials, to:

1. enter upon your premises where a discharges' source is located or where any records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit;
2. access and copy, at reasonable times, any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit;
3. inspect, at reasonable times, any monitoring equipment or monitoring method required in this permit;
4. inspect, at reasonable times, any collection, treatment, pollution management, or discharge facilities required under this permit;
5. sample, at reasonable times, any discharge of pollutants; and
6. take photographs (which may require direction for reasons of national security).

**E. Duty to Provide Information.**

You must provide within a reasonable time, any information which the Department may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit, or to determine compliance with this permit to the Department. You must also provide copies of records required to be kept by this permit to the Department, upon request.

**F. Availability of Reports**

Except for data determined to be confidential under the Maryland Public Information Act and/or Section 308 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1318, all submitted data, plans or reports prepared pursuant to this permit, including self-inspection information, must be available for public inspection at the offices of the Department and the Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

**G. Submitting Additional or Corrected Information**

When you become aware that you failed to submit any relevant facts or submitted incorrect information in the NOI or in any other approved plans or report to the Department, you must submit the facts or information to the Department within 30 days.

**H. Removed Substances**

Wastes such as solids, sludges, or other pollutants removed from or resulting from treatment or control of wastewaters or facility operations, must be disposed of in a manner to prevent any wastes or runoff from wastes from contacting Waters of this State.

**I. Toxic Pollutants**

You must comply with effluent standards or prohibitions for toxic pollutants established under the Federal Clean Water Act, or under Section 9-314 and Sections 9-322 to 9-328 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. You must be in compliance within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if this permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.

**J. Oil and Hazardous Substances Prohibited**

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve you from any responsibility, liability, or penalties to which the permittee may be subject under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act (33. U.S.C. § 1321), or under the Annotated Code of Maryland.

**K. Proper Operation and Maintenance.**

The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. Proper operation and maintenance requires the installation and operation of backup, auxiliary, or similar systems or controls, by a permittee when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.

**L. Bypass**

Any bypass of treatment facilities necessary to maintain compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit is prohibited unless:

1. the bypass is unavoidable to prevent a loss of life, personal injury or substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which would cause them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources;
2. there are no feasible alternatives;
3. notification is received by the Department within 24 hours (if orally notified, then followed by a written submission within five calendar days of the permittee's becoming aware of the bypass). Where the need for a bypass is known (or should have been known) in advance, this notification shall be submitted to the Department for approval at least ten calendar days before the date of bypass or at the earliest possible date if the period of advance knowledge is less than ten calendar days; and
4. the bypass is allowed under conditions determined by the Department to be necessary to minimize adverse effects.

**M. Upset**

Conditions Necessary for Demonstration of an Upset. An upset shall constitute an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with technology-based effluent limitations only if the permittee demonstrates, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence, that:

1. an upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the specific cause(s) of the upset;
2. the permitted facility was at the time being operated in a prudent and workman-like manner and in compliance with proper operation and maintenance procedures;
3. the permittee submitted a 24-hour notification of upset in accordance with the reporting requirements of Corrective Actions above;
4. the permittee submitted, within five (5) calendar days of becoming aware of the upset, documentation to support and justify the upset; and
5. the permittee complied with any remedial measures required to minimize adverse impact.

**N. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense.**

It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this general permit.

**O. Duty to Mitigate**

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any adverse impact to Waters of this State or to human health resulting from noncompliance with any effluent limitations specified in this permit, including such accelerated or additional monitoring as necessary to determine the nature and impact of the noncomplying discharge.

**P. Permit Actions.**

Authorization under this permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. At any time at the discretion of the Department or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or if there is evidence indicating that stormwater discharges authorized by this permit cause, have the

reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an excursion above any applicable water quality standard, the Department may require the owner or operator of such discharge to obtain an individual permit or alternative general permit coverage. A request by the permittee for a modification, revocation or reissuance, termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not suspend the permittee's obligation to comply with all permit conditions.

**Q. Severability.**

The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this permit shall not be affected thereby.

**R. Reopener Clause for Permits**

This permit must be modified, or alternatively, revoked and reissued, in accordance with the procedures contained in COMAR 26.08.04.10 and 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.62, 122.63, 122.64 and 124.5, to comply with any applicable effluent standard or limitation issued or approved under Sections 301, 304, and 307 of the Clean Water Act [33 USCS §§ 1311, 1314, 1317] if the effluent standard or limitation issued or approved:

1. contains different conditions or is otherwise more stringent than any effluent limitation in this permit; or
2. controls any pollutant not limited in this permit. This permit, as modified or reissued under this section, must also contain any other requirements of the Act then applicable.

**S. Civil and Criminal Liability**

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject under section 309 of the CWA, with Title 9 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, any applicable State or Federal law, or regulation under authority preserved by section 510 of the CWA.

**T. Action on Violations**

The issuance or reissuance of this permit does not constitute a decision by the State not to proceed in an administrative, civil, or criminal action for any violations of State law or regulations occurring before the issuance or re-issuance of this permit, nor a waiver of the State's right to do so.

**U. Civil Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions.**

In addition to civil penalties for violations of State water pollution control laws set forth in Section 9-342 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Clean Water Act and EPA regulations at 40 C.F.R. Part 19 provide that any person who violates Section 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318 or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any such sections in a permit issued under Section 402 of the Act or in a permit issued under Section 404 of the Act, is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$37,500 per day for each violation. Statutory penalties of the CWA are subject to the Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule (40 CFR 19.4).

**V. Criminal Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions.**

In addition to the criminal penalties for violations of State water pollution control laws set forth in Section 9-343 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Clean Water Act provides that:

1. Any person who negligently violates Section 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 311(b)(3), 318, or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under Section 402 of the Act, or in a permit issued under Section 404 of the Act, is subject to a fine of not less than \$2,500 nor more than \$25,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment for not more than one year, or both; In the case of a second or subsequent

- conviction for a negligent violation, a person shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$50,000 per day of violation or by imprisonment of not more than two years, or both;
2. Any person who knowingly violates Section 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 311(b)(3), 318, or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under Section 402 of the Act, or in a permit issued under Section 404 of the Act, is subject to a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$50,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment for not more than three years, or both; in the case of a second or subsequent conviction for a knowing violation, a person shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$100,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment of not more than 6 years, or both;
  3. Any person who knowingly violates Sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 311(b)(3), 318, or 405 of the Act, or any permit condition or limitation implementing any of such sections in a permit issued under Section 402 of the Act, or in a permit issued under Section 404 of the Act, and who knows at that time that he is placing another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, is subject to a fine of not more than \$250,000 or imprisonment for not more than 15 years, or both; in the case of a second or subsequent conviction for a knowing endangerment violation, a person shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500,000 or by imprisonment of not more than 30 years, or both; an organization, as defined in Section 309(c)(3)(B)(iii) of the Act, shall, upon conviction of violating the imminent danger provision be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000 for a first violation and up to \$2,000,000 for second or subsequent convictions;
  4. Any person who: falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit, or knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or non-compliance, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both. If a conviction of a person is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, punishment is a fine of not more than \$20,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment of not more than 4 years, or both.

#### **W. Administrative Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions.**

In addition to administrative penalties for violations of State water pollution control laws set forth in Section 9-342 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Clean Water Act provides that any person who violates a permit condition implementing Sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act is subject to an administrative penalty, as follows:

1. Class I Penalty. Not to exceed the maximum amounts authorized by Section 309(g)(2)(A) of the Act and the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act (28 U.S.C. § 2461 note) as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act (31 U.S.C. § 3701 note) (currently \$16,000 per violation, with the maximum amount of any Class I penalty assessed not to exceed \$37,500).
2. Class II Penalty. Not to exceed the maximum amounts authorized by Section 309(g)(2)(B) of the Act and the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act (28 U.S.C. § 2461 note) as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act (31 U.S.C. § 3701 note) (currently \$16,000 per day for each day during which the violation continues, with the maximum amount of any Class II penalty not to exceed \$187,500).

#### **Part V. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE GENERAL NPDES PERMITS**

On September 5, 1974, the Administrator of the EPA approved the proposal submitted by the State of Maryland for the operation of a permit program for discharges into navigable waters under Section 402 of the federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. Section 1342. On May 15, 1989, EPA and Maryland entered into a superseding Memorandum of Agreement for such discharges. On September 30, 1990, the Administrator of the EPA approved the proposal submitted by the State of Maryland for the operation of a general permit program. Under the approvals described above, this general discharge permit is both a State of Maryland general discharge permit and an NPDES general discharge permit.

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D. Lee Currey, Director  
Water and Science Administration

## Appendix A: Definitions, Abbreviations and Acronyms

**Additive or Chemical additive** - waste water treatment chemicals or products added to water prior to discharge, such as polymers or flocculants. Additives are added to the water so that the discharge water is in compliance with the permit limits.

**Administration** - the Maryland Department of the Environment, Water and Science Administration.

**Agricultural Land** - cropland, grassland, rangeland, pasture, and other agricultural land, on which agricultural and forest-related products or livestock are produced and resource concerns may be addressed. Agricultural lands include cropped woodland, marshes, incidental areas included in the agricultural operation, and other types of agricultural land used for the production of livestock.

**Antidegradation Policy or Antidegradation Requirements** - the water quality standards regulation that requires states and tribes to establish a three-tiered antidegradation program:

1. Tier I maintains and protects existing uses and water quality conditions necessary to support such uses. An existing use can be established by demonstrating that fishing, swimming, or other uses have actually occurred since November 28, 1975, or that the water quality is suitable to allow such uses to occur. Where an existing use is established, it must be protected even if it is not listed in the water quality standards as a designated use. Tier I requirements are applicable to all surface waters. In Maryland, all water not deemed Tier II would by default be deemed Tier I.
2. Tier II maintains and protects "high quality" waters -- waterbodies where existing conditions are better than necessary to support CWA § 101(a)(2) "fishable/swimmable" uses. Water quality can be lowered in such waters. However, state and tribal Tier II programs identify procedures that must be followed and questions that must be answered before a reduction in water quality can be allowed. In no case may water quality be lowered to a level which would interfere with existing or designated uses. They are identified in COMAR 26.08.02.04-1 and on MDE website.
3. Tier III maintains and protects water quality in outstanding national resource waters (ONRWs). At the time of this permit issuance, there are no Tier III waters identified in Maryland.

**Appropriate approval authority** - the state or local government agency that has authority to review and approve Erosion and Sediment Control Plans and Stormwater Management Plans. The specific approval authority for the project is referenced on the NOI by the permittee.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)** – schedules of activities, practices (and prohibitions of practices), structures, vegetation, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage. See 40 CFR 122.2.

**Business day** – for the purposes of this permit, means Monday through Friday, but does not include legal holidays in the State of Maryland.

**Bypass** – Bypass means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.

**Cationic chemical additive** – Additives that contain an overall positive charge. Among other things, they are used to reduce turbidity in stormwater discharges by chemically bonding to the overall negative charge of suspended silts and other soil materials and causing them to bind together and settle out. Common examples

of cationic treatment chemicals are chitosan and cationic PAM.

**CFR** - Code of Federal Regulations

**Chemical Additive** – Refer to Additive definition.

**COMAR** - Code of Maryland Regulations

**Commencement of Construction Activities** – the initial disturbance of soils (or ‘breaking ground’) associated with clearing, grading, or excavating activities or other construction-related activities (e.g., stockpiling of fill material; placement of raw materials at the site).

**Common Plan of Development or Sale** - means an area where multiple separate and distinct construction activities are occurring under one plan. The “plan” in a common plan of development or sale is broadly defined as any announcement or piece of documentation (including a sign, public notice or hearing, sales pitch, advertisement, drawing, permit application, zoning request, computer design, etc.) or physical demarcation (including boundary signs, lot stakes, surveyor markings, etc.) indicating that construction activities may occur on a specific plot.

**Concrete Plant** - a facility at which concrete is mixed for use on or off site, and includes any area where concrete and other related products are made.

**Concrete Washout** - After concrete is poured at a construction site, the chutes of ready mixed concrete trucks and hoppers of concrete pump trucks are washed out to remove the remaining concrete before it hardens. Equipment such as wheelbarrows and hand tools also are washed down. Additionally, at the end of each work day, drums of concrete trucks, mixer truck barrels or concrete moulds or forms, are washed out. These activities collectively produce process water commonly referred to as concrete washout.

**Construction Activity** – earth-disturbing activities, such as the clearing, grading, and excavation of land, and other construction-related activities (e.g., stockpiling of fill material; placement of raw materials at the site) that could lead to the generation of pollutants. Some of the types of pollutants that are typically found at construction sites are: sediment; nutrients; heavy metals; pesticides and herbicides; oil and grease; bacteria and viruses; trash, debris, and solids; treatment polymers; and any other toxic chemicals. *Note: Construction activity does not include earth disturbance for agricultural and silvicultural production activities such as for orchards, cultivated crops, pastures, range lands, and forest lands, unless those activities involve construction of structures, roads, or other appurtenances.*

**Construction Site or Site** – the land or water area where construction activities will occur and where stormwater controls will be installed and maintained. The construction site includes construction support activities, which may be located at a different part of the property from where the primary construction activity will take place, or on a different piece of property altogether.

**Construction Support Activity** – a construction-related activity that specifically supports the construction activity and involves earth disturbance or pollutant-generating activities of its own, and can include activities associated with concrete or asphalt batch plants, equipment staging yards, materials storage areas, excavated material disposal areas, and borrow areas.

**Construction Waste** – discarded material (such as packaging materials; scrap construction materials; masonry products; timber, steel, pipe, and electrical cuttings; plastics; and styrofoam).

**Control Measure** – refers to any BMP or other method (including narrative effluent limitations) used to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State.

**Conveyance Channel** – a temporary or permanent waterway designed and installed to safely convey stormwater flow within and out of a construction site.

**Corrective Action** – for the purposes of the permit, any action taken, or required to be taken, to (1) repair, modify, or replace any stormwater control used at the site; (2) clean up and dispose of spills, releases, or other deposits found on the site; and (3) remedy a permit violation.

**Critical Habitat** – as defined in the Endangered Species Act at 16 U.S.C. 1531 for a threatened or endangered species, (i) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection; and (ii) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

**CWA** – Clean Water Act (or the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq)

**Department** - the Maryland Department of the Environment.

**Detergent** - a cleaner including surfactants, dispersants, or emulsifiers, designed to act as a wetting agent and made from chemical compounds rather than from fats and lye.

**Dewatering** - the act of draining rainwater and/or ground water from building foundations, vaults, and trenches.

**Director** - the Regional Administrator, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment, or an authorized representative.

**Discharge** – when used without qualification, means the "discharge of a pollutant." See 40 CFR 122.2.

**Discharge of a pollutant** – any addition of any "pollutant" or combination of pollutants to "waters of this State" from any "point source," or any addition of any pollutant or combination of pollutants to the waters of the "contiguous zone" or the ocean from any point source other than a vessel or other floating craft which is being used as a means of transportation. This includes additions of pollutants into waters of this State from: surface runoff which is collected or channeled by man; discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances, leading into privately owned treatment works. See 40 CFR 122.2.

**Discharge to an Impaired Water** – for the purposes of this permit, a discharge to an impaired water occurs if the first Waters of This State to which you discharge is identified as an "Impaired Water". For discharges that enter a storm sewer system prior to discharge, the Water of This State to which you discharge is the first Waters of This State that receives the stormwater discharge from the storm sewer system.

**Domestic Waste** – for the purposes of this permit, typical household trash, garbage or rubbish items generated by construction activities.

**E&SC or ESC Plan** - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

**Effluent limitation** – for the purposes of this permit, any of the Part III.A or Part III.B requirements.

**EPA** – U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

**EPA Approved or Established TMDLs** – "EPA Approved TMDLs" are those that are developed by a State and approved by EPA. "EPA Established TMDLs" are those that are developed by EPA.

**Existing Discharger** – an operator applying for coverage under this permit for discharges authorized previously under an NPDES general or individual permit.



**Facility or Activity** – any NPDES “point source” (including land or appurtenances thereto) that is subject to regulation under the NPDES program. See 40 CFR 122.2.

**General Contractor** – for the purposes of this permit, the primary individual or company solely accountable to perform a contract. The general contractor typically supervises activities, coordinates the use of subcontractors, and is authorized to direct workers at a site to carry out activities required by the permit.

**Groundwater** - underground water in a zone of saturation.

**Hazardous Materials or Hazardous Substances or Hazardous or Toxic Waste** – for the purposes of this permit, any liquid, solid, or contained gas that contain properties that are dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment. See also 40 CFR §261.2.

**Impaired Water** (or “**Water Quality Impaired Water**”) – a body of water identified by the Department or EPA pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act as not meeting applicable State water quality standards (these waters are called “water quality limited segments” under 40 CFR 30.2(j)). Impaired waters include both waters with approved or established TMDLs, and those for which a TMDL has not yet been approved or established. Impaired waters compilations are included in Maryland’s most current List of Impaired Surface Waters as Category 4a, 4b, 4c or 5 waterbodies.

**Impervious surface** - any surface that does not allow stormwater to infiltrate into the ground, including any area that is paved or used for vehicular storage or traffic, building rooftops, sidewalks, driveways, etc.

**Includes or including** - includes or including by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

**Infeasible** – there is a site-specific constraint making it not technologically possible, or not economically practicable and achievable in light of best industry practices, to achieve the required control measures on-site. The burden is on the permittee to demonstrate to the permitting authority that the requirement is infeasible.

**Linear Construction Site** – includes the construction of roads, bridges, conduits, substructures, pipelines, sewer lines, towers, poles, cables, wires, connectors, switching, regulating and transforming equipment and associated ancillary facilities in a long, narrow area.

**Minimize** – to reduce and/or eliminate to the extent achievable using control measures (including best management practices) that are technologically available and economically practicable and achievable in light of best industry practice

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer** – a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains): 1) Owned or operated by a State, city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (created by or pursuant to State law) having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, stormwater, or other wastes, including special districts under State law such as a sewer district, flood control district or drainage district, or similar entity, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under section 208 of the CWA that discharges to waters of the United States; 2) Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater; 3) Which is not a combined sewer; and 4) Which is not part of a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) as defined at 40 CFR 122.2. See 40 CFR 122.26(b)(4) and (b)(7).

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)** – in Maryland we have several MS4 NPDES Permits. The following are a summary of how they are broken down by size. For a full listing and explanation, visit the Department website for “Maryland’s NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits”.

- Phase I MS4s are for large jurisdictions, which are municipalities with populations of greater than 250,000, and medium jurisdictions, which are municipalities with populations between 100,000 and 250,000. The large Phase I MS4 jurisdictions are Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County. The medium Phase I MS4 jurisdictions are Carroll County, Charles County, Frederick County, Harford County, and Howard County. One statewide MS4 under this category has been issued to the State Highway Administration.
- Phase II MS4s include smaller jurisdictions or approximately 60 cities and towns in Maryland with populations greater than 1,000. They also include State and Federal facilities.

**New Source** – for the purposes of this permit, a construction project that commenced construction activities after February 1, 2010.

**New Source Performance Standards (NSPS)** – technology-based standards for facilities that qualify as new sources under 40 CFR 122.2 and 40 CFR 122.29.

**Non-Stormwater Discharges** – discharges that do not originate from storm events. They can include, but are not limited to, discharges of process water, air conditioner condensate, noncontact cooling water, vehicle wash water, sanitary wastes, concrete washout water, paint wash water, irrigation water, or pipe testing water.

**Non-Turbid** – a discharge that does not cause or contribute to an exceedence of turbidity related water quality standards

**NPDES** – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

**Operational** – for the purposes of this permit, stormwater controls are made “operational” when they have been installed and implemented, are functioning as designed, and are properly maintained.

**Operator** – for the purposes of this permit and in the context of stormwater discharges associated with construction activity, any party associated with a construction project that meets either of the following two criteria: 1. The party has operational control over construction plans and specifications, including the ability to make modifications to those plans and specifications; or 2. The party has day-to-day operational control of those activities at a project that are necessary to ensure compliance with the permit conditions. This definition is provided to inform permittees of EPA's and the Department's interpretation of how the regulatory definitions of “owner or operator” and “facility or activity” are applied to discharges of stormwater associated with construction activity. Subcontractors generally are not considered operators for the purposes of this permit.

**Outfall** – locations where collected and concentrated stormwater flows are discharged from the facility, including pipes, ditches, swales, and other structures that transport stormwater.

**Owner** - a person who has a legal interest in the facility or in the property on which the facility is located, or the owner's agent.

**Permanent stabilization** - all soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed and the site meets the Final Stabilization Criteria.

**Permittee** - the person holding a permit issued by the Department, or authorized for coverage under a general permit by the department.

**Person** - the federal government, the State, any county, municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, or any of their units, or an individual, receiver, trustee, guardian, executor, administrator, fiduciary, or representative of any kind, or any partnership, firm, association, public or private corporation, or any other entity.

**Project** - the total area, which will be disturbed under the applied for coverage, upon which construction activity will occur through stages or phases over time.

**Pollutant** – dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, filter backwash, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and industrial, municipal and agricultural waste discharged into water. See 40 CFR 122.2.

**Pollutant of concern** – A pollutant which causes or contributes to a violation of a water quality standard, including a pollutant which is identified as causing an impairment in a state's 303(d) list.

**Pollution** – means any contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of any waters of this State, including a change in temperature, taste, color, turbidity, or odor of the waters or the discharge or deposit of any organic matter, harmful organism, or liquid, gaseous, solid, radioactive, or other substance into any waters of this State that will render the waters harmful, or detrimental, to:

- (a) Public health, safety, or welfare;
- (b) Domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate beneficial uses;
- (c) Livestock, wild animals, birds; or
- (d) Fish or other aquatic life.

**Polymers** – for the purposes of this permit, coagulants and flocculants used to control erosion on soil or to enhance the sediment removal capabilities of sediment traps or basins. Common construction site polymers include polyacrylamide (PAM), chitosan, alum, polyaluminum chloride, and gypsum.

**Qualified Person** – a person knowledgeable in the principles and practice of erosion and sediment controls and pollution prevention, who possesses the appropriate skills and training to assess conditions at the construction site that could impact stormwater quality, and the appropriate skills and training to assess the effectiveness of any stormwater controls selected and installed to meet the requirements of this permit.

**RCRA** – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

**Receiving Water** – a Water of this State into which the regulated stormwater discharges.

**Reportable Quantity Release** – a release of a hazardous substance at or above the established legal threshold that requires emergency notification. Refer to 40 CFR Parts 110, 117, and 302 for complete definitions and reportable quantities for which notification is required.

**Runoff** - that portion of stormwater that, once having fallen to the ground, is in excess of the evaporative or infiltrative capacity of soils, and the retentive capacity of surface features, which flows or will flow off the land by surface runoff to waters of the State.

**Run-on** - water from outside the industrial stormwater area that flows into the area. Run-on includes stormwater from rainfall or the melting of snow or ice that falls directly on the unit, as well as the water that drains from adjoining areas.

**SDS** – Material Safety Data Sheet

**Shared Control** - for the purposes of this permit, a stormwater control, such as a sediment basin or pond, used by two or more operators that is installed and maintained for the purpose of minimizing and controlling pollutant discharges from a construction site with multiple operators associated with a common plan of development or sale.

**Site** - any area where Permittee engages in Construction Activity and where coverage under an applicable permit is required.

**Small Residential Lot** – for the purpose of this permit, a lot being developed for residential purposes that will disturb less than 1 acre of land, but is part of a larger residential project that will ultimately disturb greater than or equal to 1 acre.

**Steep Slopes** – where a state, tribe, local government, or industry technical manual (e.g., stormwater BMP manual) has defined what is to be considered a “steep slope”, this permit’s definition automatically adopts that definition. Where no such definition exists, steep slopes are automatically defined as those that are 15 percent or greater in grade.

**Stormwater** – stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage. See 40 CFR 122.26(b)(13).

**Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction Activity** – as used in this permit, a discharge of pollutants in stormwater to Waters of This State from areas where earth disturbing activities (e.g., clearing, grading, or excavation) occur, or where construction materials or equipment storage or maintenance (e.g., fill piles, borrow area, concrete truck chute washdown, fueling), or other industrial stormwater directly related to the construction process (e.g., concrete or asphalt batch plants), are located.

**Storm Event** – a precipitation event that results in a measurable amount of precipitation.

**Stream Protection Zone or SPZ** – This term is similar to EPA’s Vegetated Buffer, however Maryland uses the term “buffer” for many different regulatory protections. The additional E&SC protections for buffers are included in this permit for construction activities that occur within a distance or zone from the edge of streams called the Stream Protection Zone. The permit defines the SPZ specific measurement from edge of stream as 50 feet for Tier I streams or an average of 100 feet and not less than 50 feet at any point for Tier II streams.

**SWM Plan** - Stormwater Management Plan.

**SWPPP** – Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

**Tier II Waters** – For antidegradation purposes, pursuant to 40 CFR 131.12(a)(2), Tier II waters are characterized as having water quality that exceeds the levels necessary to support propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water. They are identified in COMAR 26.08.02.04-1 and on MDE website.

**Tier III Waters** – for antidegradation purposes, pursuant to 40 CFR 131.12(a)(3), Tier III waters are identified by states as having high quality waters constituting an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW), such as waters of National Parks and State Parks, wildlife refuges, and waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance.

**Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)** – A TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant’s sources. A TMDL includes wasteload allocations (WLAs) for point source discharges; load allocations (LAs) for nonpoint sources and/or natural background, and must include a margin of safety (MOS) and account for seasonal variations. (See section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 130.2 and 130.7).

**Toxic Waste** – see “Hazardous Substances.” “Treatment Chemicals” – polymers, flocculants, or other chemicals used to reduce turbidity in stormwater.

**Turbidity** – a condition of water quality characterized by the presence of suspended solids and/or organic

material.

**Uncontaminated Discharge** – in the context of authorized non-stormwater discharges, a discharge that does not cause or contribute to an exceedance of applicable water quality standards.

**Upset** - an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.

**Vehicle Wash Water** - The routine washing of vehicle exteriors to remove sediment and to make them presentable in the public.

**Wastewater** - any:

1. liquid waste substance derived from industrial, commercial, municipal, residential, agricultural, recreational, or other operations or establishments; and
2. other liquid waste substance containing liquid, gaseous or solid matter and having characteristics that will pollute any waters of the State.

**Water Quality Impaired** – See 'Impaired Water'.

**Water Quality Standards** – A water quality standard defines the water quality goals of a water body, or portion thereof, by designating the use or uses to be made of the water and by setting criteria necessary to protect the uses. The Department has promulgated in COMAR 26.08.02 (<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/>) and EPA adopt water quality standards to protect public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act (See CWA sections 101(a)(2) and 303(c)). Water quality standards also include an antidegradation policy. See P.U.D. o. 1 of Jefferson County et al v. Wash Dept of Ecology et al, 511 US 701, 705 (1994).

**Waters of this State** – includes:

1. both surface and underground waters within the boundaries of this State subject to its jurisdiction, including that part of the Atlantic Ocean within the boundaries of this State, the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, and all ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, tidal and nontidal wetlands, public ditches, tax ditches, and public drainage systems within this State, other than those designed and used to collect, convey, or dispose of sanitary sewage; and
2. the flood plain of free-flowing waters determined by the Department of Natural Resources on the basis of the 100-year flood frequency.

**Wetland** – those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. On-site evaluations are typically required to confirm the presence and boundaries of wetlands.

## Appendix B: Stream Protection Zone (SPZ) Requirements

The purpose of this appendix is to assist you in complying with the requirements in Part III.A.2.a of the permit regarding the establishment of Stream Protection Zones and/or additional sediment controls. This appendix is organized as follows:

### Contents

<a href="#">1. Construction Sites that are Required to Provide and Maintain Stream Protection Zones</a>	1
<a href="#">2. Stream Protection Zone Alternatives</a>	2
<a href="#">3. Exceptions to the Stream Protection Zone Alternatives</a>	4
<a href="#">4. Requirements for Providing and Maintaining Natural Buffers</a>	5
<a href="#">5. Guidance for Providing Additional Erosion and Sediment Controls</a>	9

#### **1. Construction Sites that are Required to Provide and Maintain Stream Protection Zones**

Vegetated buffers (referred in this Appendix as buffers) are important filters that protect water quality. When construction occurs and results in runoff that isn't filtered by a substantial buffer, it has a much greater potential to impact perennial and intermittent streams. The requirement in Part III.A.2.a is to provide and maintain a Stream Protection Zone (SPZ), made up of either a natural vegetated buffer and/or additional erosion and sediment controls. This SPZ is measured from the edge of stream to at least 50 feet for Tier I watersheds, or an average of 100 feet and not less than 50 feet at any point for Tier II watersheds since Tier II Watersheds merit additional protection to maintain their high-quality status. The reason for allowing an average 100 foot SPZ for Tier II watersheds is for the consideration of natural topography or site specific conditions, such as avoiding work on steep slopes; however, the SPZ may not be less than 50 feet at any point. The additional erosion and sediment controls in this appendix do not apply if the construction activity doesn't occur within the Stream Protection Zone. If the project can avoid earth disturbance in the required SPZ, then the minimum controls found in Maryland's Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook shall suffice for the project. See Figure B-1.

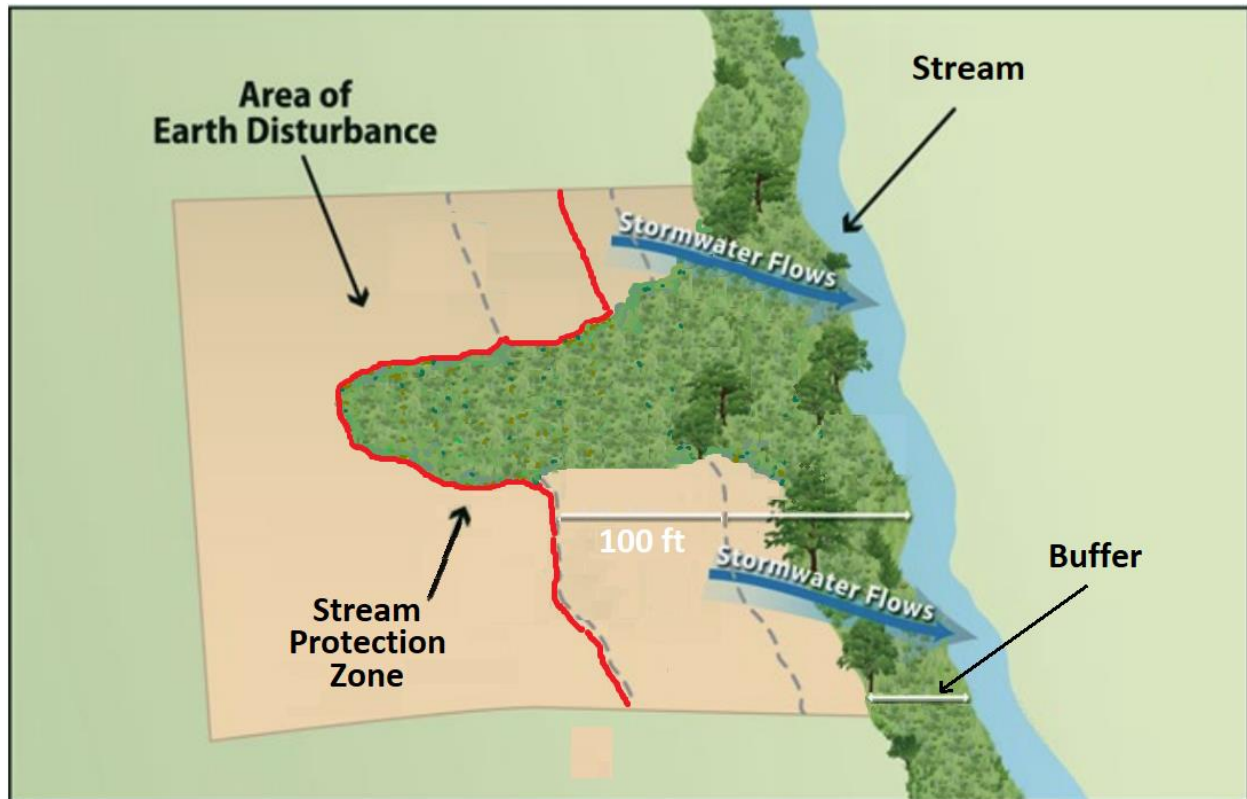


Figure B-1 Example of earth-disturbing activities within average 100 feet Stream Protection Zone of a Tier II Stream.

## 2. Stream Protection Zone Alternatives<sup>1</sup>

If any portion of a project is in a Stream Protection Zone you have two Stream Protection Zone alternatives from which you can choose, unless you qualify for any of the exceptions (see below and Part 3 of this Appendix). The Stream Protection Zone alternative selected must be maintained throughout the duration of permit coverage:

Stream Protection Zone Alternative 1: Provide and maintain an undisturbed natural buffer within the Stream Protection Zone; or

Stream Protection Zone Alternative 2: Provide and maintain an undisturbed natural buffer that is less than the specific Stream Protection Zone and is supplemented by additional erosion and sediment controls. The acceptable additional erosion and sediment controls include, but are not limited to, those listed in the 2011 ESC Handbook. These acceptable additional erosion and sediment controls are accelerated stabilization, redundant controls, upgraded controls, passive or active chemical treatment, or a

<sup>1</sup> For projects in Tier II Watersheds, when you complete the Checklist (Appendix C) as part of your antidegradation review (Part III.B.2), these Stream Protection Zone alternatives are the elements you will include on the Checklist to verify your evaluation of planned protections in Stream Protection Zones.

reduction in the size of the grading unit. These options are explained in more detail below, and are the controls that must be considered and once selected, implemented when construction activity occurs within the Stream Protection Zone. The local approval authorities may provide additional options that provide similar protection.

***a. Accelerated Stabilization Requirements***

Earth disturbance must be stabilized as soon as possible and as dictated by the approved plan (e.g., seed and mulch, soil stabilization matting, rip rap, sod, pavement):

- At a minimum, all perimeter controls (e.g., earth dikes, sediment traps) and slopes steeper than 3:1 require stabilization within three calendar days and all other disturbed areas within seven calendar days
- Accelerated stabilization (e.g., same day stabilization) may be required based on site characteristics or as specified by the approval authority

***b. Redundant Controls***

Runoff must pass through two sediment control devices in series. The following are examples of possible combinations:

- When dewatering sump areas, sediment traps, or sediment basins, discharge sediment laden water first to a portable sediment tank and then a filter bag
- Install parallel rows of a perimeter filtering control or a combination thereof of silt fence, super silt fence, and filter logs (e.g., two rows of parallel silt fence or a row of filter log parallel to a row of super silt fence)

***c. Upgrade Controls***

The following are examples of possible upgrades:

- Upgrade from silt fence to super silt fence
- Upgrade from a temporary stone outlet structure to a temporary gabion outlet structure
- Upgrade all sediment traps and basins to control additional storage volume; increase the required storage volume from 3,600 cubic feet/acre to 5,400 cubic feet/acre
- Upgrade standard inlet protection type A to type B and upgrade at grade inlet protection to gabion inlet protection

***d. Passive or Active Chemical Treatment***

See Part III.A.2.m of this permit for more information on chemical treatment.

***e. Reduction in the Size of the Grading Unit***



- Require grading unit limitations to 10 acres of earth disturbance inside the Stream Protection Zone
- Require grading unit limitations to 20 acres for any earth disturbance that is adjacent to and contiguous with earth disturbances inside the Stream Protection Zone

***f. Prerogative of Approval Authorities***

The additional controls described above for projects in Stream Protection Zones are examples of accelerated stabilization, redundant controls, upgraded controls, passive or active chemical treatment, or a reduction in the size of the grading unit. Approval authorities may use these examples as a guide when approving projects, but may also apply further erosion and sediment control measures based on local site conditions, local regulations/ordinances, and best professional judgement.

**3. Exceptions to the Stream Protection Zone Alternatives**

The following exceptions apply to the requirement to implement one of the Stream Protection Zone alternatives (see Part 2 of this Appendix):

- The following disturbances within the Stream Protection Zone are exempt from the requirements found in Part III.A.2.a of the permit and this Appendix:
  - Construction approved under a CWA Section 404 permit; or
  - Construction of a water-dependent structure or water access areas (e.g., pier, boat ramp, trail).
- If there is no discharge of stormwater to Waters of this State through the area between the disturbed portions of the site and the tributary or waterbody located within the measured Stream Protection Zone, you are not required to comply with the requirements in Part III.A.2.a and this Appendix. This includes situations where you have implemented controls measures, such as a berm or other barrier, which will prevent such discharges.
- Where no natural buffer exists due to preexisting development disturbances (e.g., structures, impervious surfaces) that occurred prior to the initiation of planning for the current development of the site, you are not required to comply with the requirements in Part III.A.2.a and this Appendix.

Where some natural buffer exists but portions of the area within the Stream Protection Zone are occupied by preexisting development disturbances, you are required to comply with the requirements in Part III.A.2.a and this Appendix. Clarity about how to implement the Stream Protection Zone alternatives for these situations is provided in Parts 4 and 5 below.

- For “linear construction sites” (see Appendix A), you are not required to comply with this requirement if site constraints (e.g., limited right-of-way) make it infeasible to implement one of

the above Stream Protection Zone alternatives, provided that, to the extent feasible, you limit disturbances within 50 feet of any Waters of this State and/or you provide supplemental erosion and sediment controls to treat stormwater discharges from earth disturbances within 50 feet of the Waters of this State. For Tier II watersheds, you must also document in the Checklist your rationale for why it is infeasible for you to implement one of the above Stream Protection Zone alternatives, and describe any buffer width retained and supplemental erosion and sediment controls installed.

Note that you must document in your SWPPP (if required under the conditions of Part III.F.1) if any disturbances related to any of the above exceptions occurs within the buffer area on your site.

#### **4. Requirements for Providing and Maintaining Natural Buffers**

This part of the appendix applies to you if you choose Stream Protection Zone alternative 1 (avoid Stream Protection Zone), or Stream Protection Zone alternative 2 (work within the Stream Protection Zone supplemented by additional erosion and sediment controls described above).

##### Stream Protection Zone Measurement

Where you are retaining a buffer of any size, the buffer should be measured perpendicularly from any of the following points, whichever is further landward from the water:

- The ordinary high water mark of the water body, defined as the line on the shore established by fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, and/or the presence of litter and debris; or
- The edge of the stream or river bank, bluff, or cliff, whichever is applicable.

Refer to Figure B-2 and Figure B-3 for visual/graphic depictions of how to properly measure the buffer. You may find that specifically measuring these points is challenging if the flow path of the Water of this State changes frequently, thereby causing the measurement line for the buffer to fluctuate continuously along the path of the waterbody. Where this is the case, the Department suggests that rather than measuring each change or deviation along the water's edge, it may be easier to select regular intervals from which to conduct your measurement. For instance, you may elect to conduct your buffer measurement every 5 to 10 feet along the length of the water.

Additionally, note that if earth-disturbing activities will take place on both sides of a Water of this State that flows through your site, to the extent that you are establishing a buffer around this water, it must be established on both sides. For example, if you choose Stream Protection Zone alternative 1, and your project calls for earth disturbances on both sides of a small stream, you would need to retain the full 50 feet of buffer on both sides of the water. However, if your earth disturbing activities will only occur on one side of the stream, you would only need to retain the 50-foot buffer on the side of the stream where the earth disturbance will occur.

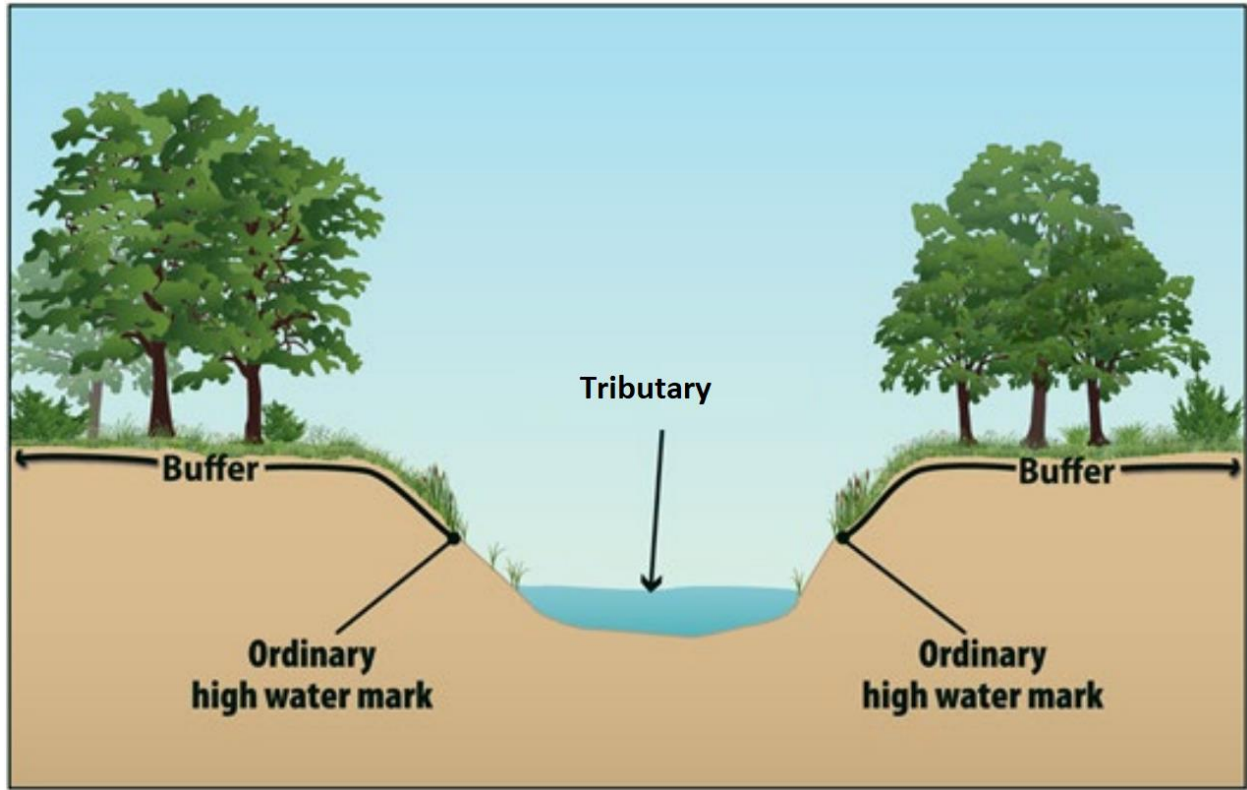


Figure B- 2 – Stream Protection Zones and natural buffers are measured from the ordinary high water mark of the water body, as indicated by a clear natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of the soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, and/or the presence of litter/debris.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Alternatively, if the appropriate approval authority has an equivalent method for calculating a 50 foot Stream Protection Zone in a Tier I watershed, that is not less restrictive, for sake of consistency you can use that delineation.

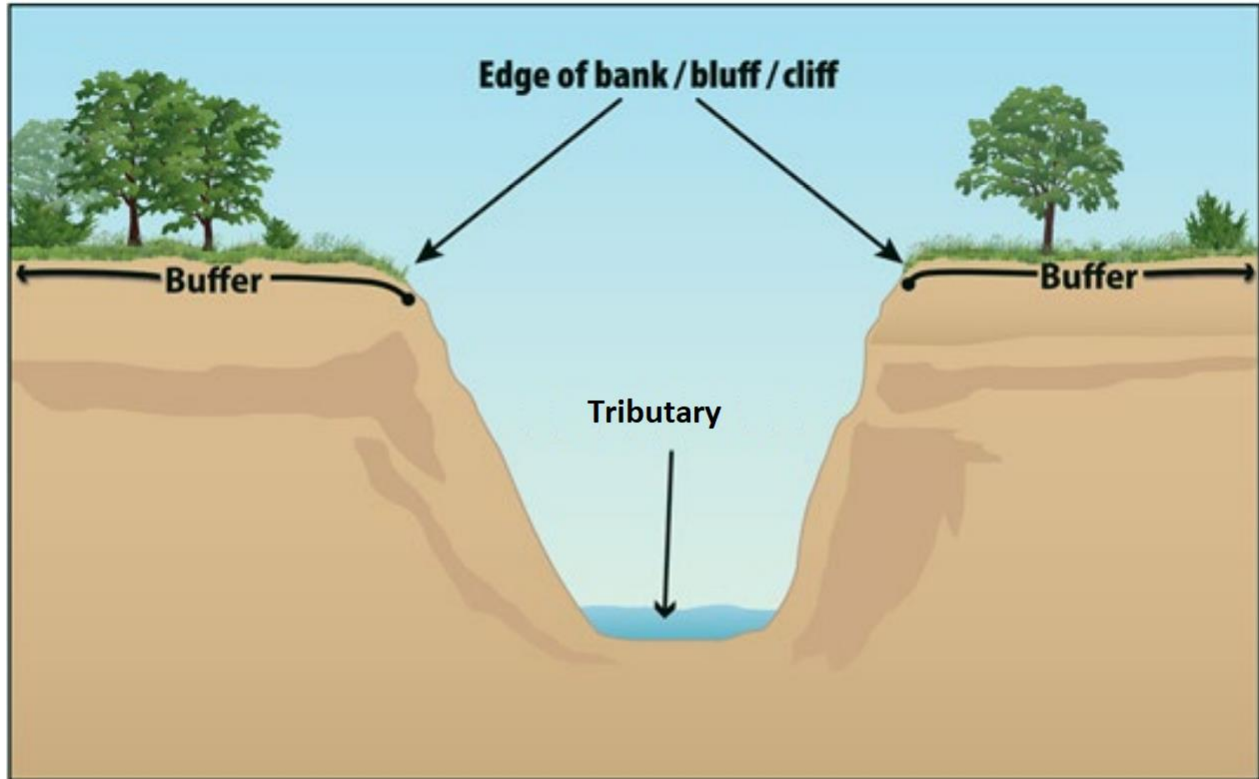


Figure B- 3 — Stream Protection Zones and natural buffers are measured from the edge of the bank, bluff, or cliff, whichever is applicable.<sup>3</sup>

#### Limits to Disturbance Within the Stream Protection Zone

If avoidance of earth disturbances in a Stream Protection Zone is not possible, then minimization of the project's footprint shall be implemented. You are considered to be in compliance with the requirement to provide and maintain a natural buffer if you retain and protect from construction activities the natural buffer that existed prior to the commencement of construction. If the Stream Protection Zone contains no vegetation prior to the commencement of construction (e.g., sand or rocky surface), you are not required to plant vegetation. As noted above, any preexisting structures or impervious surfaces may occur in the natural buffer provided you retain and protect from disturbance the buffer areas outside of the preexisting disturbance.

To ensure that the water quality protection benefits of retained buffers during construction, you are prohibited from conducting any earth-disturbing activities within the buffer during the term of permit coverage. In furtherance of this requirement, prior to commencing earth-disturbing activities on your site, you must delineate, and clearly mark off, with flags, tape, or a similar marking device, the buffer area on your site. The purpose of this requirement is to make the buffer area clearly visible to the people working on your site so that unintended disturbances are avoided.

<sup>3</sup> Alternatively, if the appropriate approval authority has an equivalent method for calculating a 50 foot Stream Protection Zone in a Tier I watershed, that is not less restrictive, for sake of consistency you can use that delineation.

While you are not required to enhance the quality of the vegetation that already exists within the buffer, you are encouraged to do so where such improvements will enhance the water quality protection benefits of the buffer. (Note that any disturbances within the Stream Protection Zone related to buffer enhancement are permitted and do not constitute construction disturbances.) For instance, you may want to target plantings where limited vegetation exists, or replace existing vegetation where invasive or noxious plant species (see <http://plants.usda.gov/java/noxiousDriver>) have taken over. In the case of invasive or noxious species, you may want to remove and replace them with a diversity of native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants that are well-adapted to the climatic, soil, and hydrologic conditions on the site. You are also encouraged to limit the removal of naturally deposited leaf litter, woody debris, and other biomass, as this material contributes to the ability of the buffer to retain water and filter pollutants.

If a portion of the buffer area adjacent to the Waters of this State is owned by another party and is not under your control, you are only required to retain and protect from construction activities the portion of the buffer area that is under your control. For example, if you comply with Stream Protection Zone alternative 1 (avoid Stream Protection Zone), but 10 feet of land immediately adjacent to the Water of this State is owned by a different party than the land on which your construction activities are taking place and you do not have control over that land, you must only retain and protect from construction activities the 40-foot buffer area that occurs adjacent to the property on which your construction activities are taking place. The Department would consider you to be in compliance with this requirement regardless of the activities that are taking place in the 10-foot area that is owned by a different party than the land on which your construction activities are taking place that you have no control over.

#### Discharges to the Buffer

You must ensure that all discharges from the area of earth disturbance to the natural buffer are first treated by the site's erosion and sediment controls (for example, you must comply with the Part III.A.2.e requirement to install sediment controls along any perimeter areas of the site that will receive pollutant discharges), and if necessary to prevent erosion caused by stormwater flows within the buffer, you must use velocity dissipation devices.

Discharges from a project into existing riparian buffers shall be non-erosive. Non-erosive discharges shall be attained through true sheet flow conditions, where the width of the flow path is at least as wide as the flow length, or a stable channel or pipe. Adequately designed outlet protection, including but not limited to rock outlets or plunge pools, shall be provided for all concentrated discharges into the stream, unless supporting evidence is provided that the flows are non-erosive, or the stream is already protected from erosion.

The purpose of this requirement is to decrease the rate of stormwater flow and encourage infiltration so that the pollutant filtering functions of the buffer will be achieved. To comply with this requirement, construction operators typically will use devices that physically dissipate stormwater flows so that the discharge entering the buffer is spread out and slowed down.

#### E&SC Documentation

All additional controls needed to meet Stream Protection Zone requirements in Tier II watersheds shall be clearly marked on the erosion and sediment control plan and approved by the appropriate approval authority pursuant to COMAR 26.17.01. You are required to document in your E&SC plan the natural buffer width that is retained. For example, if you are complying with alternative 1, you must specify in your E&SC Plan that you are providing a 50-foot buffer. Or, if you will be complying with alternative 2, you must document in the E&SC Plan the reduced width of the buffer you will be retaining (and you must also describe the additional erosion and sediment controls you will use). Note that you must also show any Stream Protection Zones on your site map in your SWPPP (if required under the conditions of Part III.F.1). Additionally, if any disturbances related to the exceptions in Part 3 of this Appendix occur within the buffer area, you must document this in the SWPPP.

## **5. Guidance for Providing Additional Erosion and Sediment Controls**

This part of the appendix applies to you if you choose Stream Protection Zone alternative 2 (provide and maintain an undisturbed natural buffer that is less than the specific Stream Protection Zone and is supplemented by additional erosion and sediment controls).

### Determine Whether it is Feasible to Provide a Reduced Buffer

The Department recognizes that there will be a number of situations in which it will be infeasible to provide and maintain a buffer of any width. While some of these situations may exempt you from the buffer requirement entirely (see Part 3 of this Appendix), if you do not qualify for one of these exemptions, there still may be conditions or circumstances at your site that make it infeasible to provide a natural buffer. For example, there may be sites where a significant portion of the property on which the earth-disturbing activities will occur is located within the Stream Protection Zone, thereby precluding the retention of certain natural buffer areas. Therefore, you may only choose Stream Protection Zone alternative 2, if it is feasible for you to retain some natural buffer on your site. (Note: For any buffer width retained, you are required to comply with the requirements in Part 4, above, concerning the retention of vegetation and restricting earth disturbances.)

### Design Controls That Provide Additional Sediment Reduction

You must next determine what additional controls are possible on your site. The additional selected controls, in combination with retained natural buffer, are in addition to considerations in the Handbook for site soils and slopes.

Note that if only a portion of the natural buffer is less than the Stream Protection Zone, you are only required to implement additional erosion and sediment controls within that portion to achieve sediment reduction through that area. You would not be required to provide additional treatment of stormwater discharges that flow through areas where the natural buffer exceeds the Stream Protection Zone width. See Figure G-4.

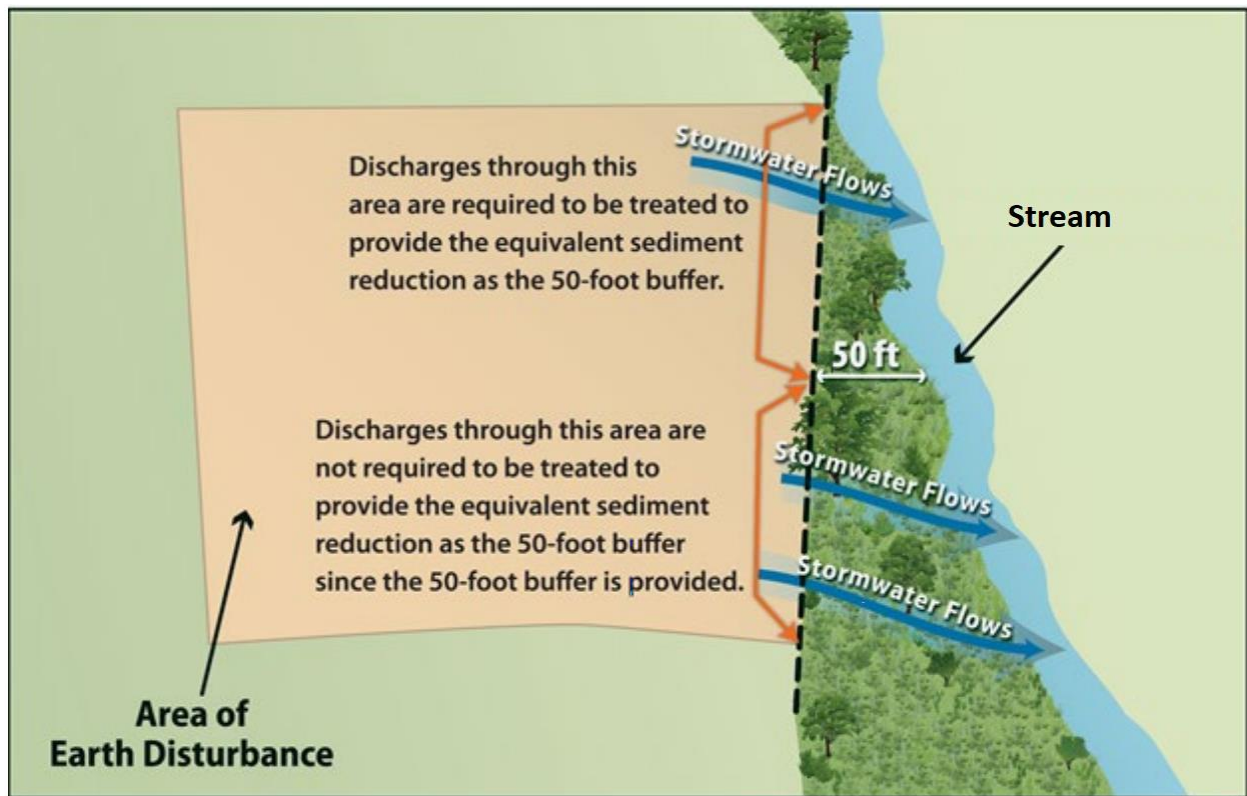


Figure B-4 - Example of how to comply with the requirement to provide the equivalent sediment reduction when only a portion of your earth-disturbances discharge to a buffer of less than 50- feet.

## Appendix C: 20-CP Antidegradation Checklist

For any portion of your construction site that is located with a watershed that is identified by the Department<sup>1</sup> or the EPA, as a Tier II for antidegradation purposes, you must perform an antidegradation review (COMAR 26.08.02.04-1). This Checklist<sup>2</sup> is acceptable for use in documenting your antidegradation review and ensuring protection of Tier II resources during construction and must be signed in accordance with Part II.A.8. This form, or other appropriate written evaluation, may be uploaded with your NOI or provided to the Industrial Stormwater Permits Division at the Maryland Department of the Environment. Additional controls selected, the delineation of the Stream Protection Zone boundary and the location of buffers shall be clearly marked on the erosion and sediment control (E&SC) plan and approved by the appropriate approval authority pursuant to COMAR 26.17.01.

**Project Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**General Permit Number (MD):** \_\_\_\_\_ **OR, if not available,**

**County ESC Plan Identifier:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Site Map #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Parcel #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Complete:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Do all Tier II watersheds impacted by the proposed activity HAVE assimilative capacity?(1)</b></p> <p>If the proposed construction activity is within a watershed which doesn't have assimilative capacity, you will need to consult with the Department's Tier II staff (<a href="https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/WaterQualityStandards/Pages/Antidegradation_Policy.aspx">https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/WaterQualityStandards/Pages/Antidegradation_Policy.aspx</a>) on available options for the site and list the outcomes of that discussion here.</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>Yes/No</b></p>
<p><b>Were any waivers granted by the Approval Authority for stormwater controls for this project?</b> For projects in Tier II watersheds, waivers need to be fully justified in light of the potential to impact water quality. A waiver that was granted that could lead to degradation would require modeling or other evidence that the lack of stormwater controls will not impact the receiving waters.</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>	<p><b>Yes/No</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> Use the interactive Tier II webmap located at:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/WaterQualityStandards/Pages/HighQualityWatersMap.aspx> to assist you. On the map, Tier II watersheds colored orange have NO assimilative capacity.

<sup>2</sup> Alternative forms may be approved by the Department, if they contain the information in this checklist.



<p><b>Will the site Meet the following Stabilization Criteria?</b>          After initial soil disturbance or redisturbance, permanent (2011 ESC Handbook Section B-4-5) or temporary (2011 ESC Handbook Section B-4-4) stabilization is required within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Three (3) calendar days as to the surface of all perimeter controls, dikes, swales, ditches, perimeter slopes, and all slopes steeper than 3 horizontal to 1 vertical (3:1); and</li> <li>ii. Seven (7) calendar days as to all other disturbed areas on the project site except for those areas under active grading.</li> </ul>	Yes/No
<p><b>Will Increased Inspection Frequency for earth disturbing activity within a Tier II Watershed be conducted?</b>          For any portion of the site that discharges to a water that is identified by the Department as Tier II for antidegradation purposes, you must conduct inspections in accordance with the following inspection frequencies: Once every four (4) calendar days.</p>	Yes/No
<p><b>Will Stockpiles be located outside the Stream Protection Zone?</b> For stockpiles or land clearing debris piles composed, in whole or in part, of sediment and/or soil (2011 ESC Handbook Section B-4-8), locate the piles outside of any Stream Protection Zones.</p>	Yes/No
<p><b>Were there any exemptions to the requirements for Protections in the Stream Protection Zone below?</b> Note: The list of potential exemptions are listed at the end of this checklist. If exemptions were applicable they must be noted here.</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	Yes/No
<p><b>Have you Verified your Stream Protection Zone Considerations below?</b></p> <p>All additional controls selected in Stream Protection Zone Alternative 2, to meet the Stream Protection Zone Considerations below shall be clearly marked on the erosion and sediment control (E&amp;SC) plan and approved by the appropriate approval authority pursuant to COMAR 26.17.01. You are required to document in your E&amp;SC plan where the natural buffer width that is retained (where you are implementing alternative 1 below) and you must document the reduced width of the buffer you will be retaining and document the additional erosion and sediment controls you will use (where you will be implementing alternative 2 below).</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	Yes/No
<p><b>Will the site follow Stream Protection Zone Alternative 1?</b> Provide and maintain an undisturbed natural buffer within the Stream Protection Zone (an average of 100 feet from edge of stream).</p> <p>Comments: _____</p>	Yes/No

<p><b>Will the site follow Stream Protection Zone Alternative 2?</b> Provide and maintain an undisturbed natural buffer that is less than an average of 100 feet and is supplemented by additional erosion and sediment controls. The acceptable additional erosion and sediment controls include, but are not limited to, those listed in the 2011 ESC Handbook. Those controls are accelerated stabilization, redundant controls, upgraded controls, passive or active chemical treatment, or a reduction in the size of the grading unit. These options are provided below, which are the controls that must be considered and, once selected, implemented when construction activity occurs within these Stream Protection Zones. The local approval authorities may provide additional options that provide similar protection. Check each that apply below.</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>Yes/No</b></p>
<p><input type="radio"/> <b>a: Accelerated Stabilization Requirements</b></p> <p>Earth disturbance must be stabilized as soon as possible and as dictated by the approved plan (e.g., seed and mulch, soil stabilization matting, rip rap, sod, pavement):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At a minimum, all perimeter controls (e.g., earth dikes, sediment traps) and slopes steeper than 3:1 require stabilization within three calendar days and all other disturbed areas within seven calendar days</li> <li><u>Accelerated stabilization</u> (e.g., same day stabilization) may be required based on site characteristics or as specified by the approval authority</li> </ul> <p>Comments: _____</p>	
<p><input type="radio"/> <b>b: Redundant Controls</b></p> <p>When using redundant controls, the runoff must pass through two sediment control devices in series. The following are examples of possible combinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When dewatering sump areas, sediment traps, or sediment basins, discharge sediment laden water first to a portable sediment tank and then a filter bag</li> <li>Install parallel rows of a perimeter filtering control or a combination thereof of silt fence, super silt fence, and filter logs (e.g., two rows of parallel silt fence or a row of filter log parallel to a row of super silt fence)</li> </ul> <p>Comments: _____</p>	
<p><input type="radio"/> <b>c: Upgrade Controls</b></p> <p>The following are examples of possible upgrades:</p>	

- Upgrade from silt fence to super silt fence
- Upgrade from a temporary stone outlet structure to a temporary gabion outlet structure
- Upgrade all sediment traps and basins to control additional storage volume; increase the required storage volume from 3,600 cubic feet/acre to 5,400 cubic feet/acre
- Upgrade standard inlet protection type A to type B and upgrade at grade inlet protection to gabion inlet protection

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

○ **d: Passive or Active Chemical Treatment**

Based on the soil type, chemical treatment may be necessary to control turbidity. The use of chemical additives requires permit coverage and considerations related to potential aquatic toxicity. <https://mdewwp.page.link/ChemAddReview>.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

○ **e: Reduction in the Size of the Grading Unit**

- Require grading unit limitations to 10 acres of earth disturbance inside the Stream Protection Zone
- Require grading unit limitations to 20 acres for any earth disturbance that is adjacent to and contiguous with earth disturbances inside the Stream Protection Zone

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

○ **f: Prerogative of Approval Authorities**

The additional controls described above for projects in Stream Protection Zones are examples of accelerated stabilization, redundant controls, upgraded controls, passive or active chemical treatment, or a reduction in the size of the grading unit. Approval authorities may use these examples as a guide when approving projects, but may also apply further erosion and sediment control measures based on local site conditions, local regulations/ordinances, and best professional judgement.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exemptions to the requirements for Protections in the Stream Protection Zone:**

The following disturbances within the Stream Protection Zone are exempt from the requirements of this guidance:

- Construction approved under a CWA Section 404 permit; or Construction of a water-dependent structure or water access areas (e.g., pier, boat ramp, trail).
- If there is no discharge of stormwater to Waters of this State through the area between the disturbed portions of the site and receiving waters, you are not required to comply with the requirements in this guidance. This includes situations where you have implemented controls measures, such as a berm or other barrier, which will prevent such discharges.
- Where no natural buffer exists due to preexisting development disturbances (e.g., structures, impervious surfaces) that occurred prior to the initiation of planning for the current development of the site, you are not required to comply with the requirements in this guidance.
  - Where some natural buffer exists but portions of the area within the Stream Protection Zone are occupied by preexisting development disturbances, you are required to comply with the requirements in this guidance. Clarity about how to implement the Stream Protection Zone alternatives for these situations is provided upon request from the Department.
- For “linear construction sites” , you are not required to comply with this requirement if site constraints (e.g., limited right-of-way) make it infeasible to implement one of the above Stream Protection Zone alternatives, provided that, to the extent feasible, you limit disturbances within the Stream Protection Zone. You must also document in the Checklist your rationale for why it is infeasible for you to implement one of the above Stream Protection Zone alternatives, and describe any buffer width retained and supplemental erosion and sediment controls installed.