

The Monthly Dirt

A Monthly Newsletter on the California Construction General Permit
By WGR Southwest, Inc.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ~~UNITS~~ ^{HOURS} *there's been a few changes...*

Are you a CPESC, CESSWI, CPSWQ, or CMS4S? If so, you are probably familiar with Professional Development Units – the continuing education requirements from EnviroCert International, the company that manages these storm water certifications. What you may not know is that EnviroCert recently made some changes to the Professional Development Unit requirements, all of which became effective in October 2014. As we gear up for PDU Week 2015, the staff at **The Monthly Dirt** thought it might be helpful to publish a brief recap of the changes in the PDH requirements.

1 So, what all has changed? Probably the most obvious change is the name – Professional Development Hours (or PDH), instead of Professional Development Units (or PDU). The reason for this change seems to be to clear up some confusion around the somewhat ambiguous “units.” EnviroCert seems to be stressing the fact that professional development credits are awarded on an hourly basis, not an arbitrary “unit” basis that could be different based on the difficulty, complexity, and length of the training.

2 Another change is the Professional Development Categories – there are now three categories instead of four: **Category A: Continuing Education (Learning Events)**. The old Category A is still in place, but is more defined. This category includes activities where professionals participate in learning events that are related to their certifications. This includes a wide range of events – formal and informal, live or online. However, it must be an event that provides the professional with an opportunity to actively engage in learning new information or refreshing existing knowledge. One important change is that online learning events (either live or recorded) must now be either exam or certificate verified. The requirements state that this category must make up at least 30% and up to 100% of your PDH credits. **Category B: Learning Developer, Reviewer, or Author**. This is basically the same as the old Category B, but has been defined a little bit more. This category includes activities such as developing, reviewing, or authoring training classes, documents, or other learning programs. In order to qualify for this category, the certified professional must actively engage in researching and preparing for the event, or actively review and confirm the program/document content and provide substantial feedback to the author. PDH credits are also available for publishing a peer-reviewed book, article, or other document, as long as it undergoes the peer-review process and is published by the profession related to the certification. **Category C: Work Experiences**. The old categories C and D were completely scrapped and replaced with Work Experiences. For those of you

who are CESSWIs, you will recognize this category – it appears that EnviroCert made this change to create more consistency between the different certifications. This category makes it possible for certified professionals to earn PDH credits for work experience that is directly related to the certification.

Yet another important change is the PDH cycle. The old certification process had a three-year cycle, where certified professionals had to earn a certain amount of PDH credits over a three year period. Now, the cycle has changed to one year – CPESCs, CESSWIs, CPSWQs, and CMS4Ss will have only one year to complete their specific PDH requirements.

3 EnviroCert now requires that all PDH credits be documented and recorded in the new certification portal. It's no longer sufficient to merely sign off that you completed all of your professional development hours; all continuing education units must now be documented and submitted to EnviroCert.

4 A few other things to note: First, the new requirements grant a waiver through January 1, 2016 for existing registrants. So if you registered with EnviroCert before October 6, 2014, you can continue on with the old PDU cycle and requirements. However, all new registrants and those who registered after October 6, 2014 will have to follow the new policy. Secondly, it is now possible to carryover extra PDH units to the next cycle, but the amount cannot exceed your annual requirement. Thirdly, EnviroCert now has an extension option available for those who didn't get in all the PDH units they needed.

Keep in mind that we can't hope to cover all of the PDH policy changes in depth in this short article. If you want to see all of the changes to the PDH requirements in depth, you can access the PDH policy from EnviroCert [by clicking here](#). In the meantime, it's never too early to get started earning PDH credits. You only have a year, so you should probably get started – and don't forget to keep good records of your learning activities. **MD**

MAY 18-22, 2015

PDU WEEK

A WEEK OF FREE ONLINE STORM WATER
WORKSHOPS

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**EXAM AND CERTIFICATE
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PLUS, WATCH LAST YEAR'S WORKSHOPS TO
EARN EVEN MORE PDH CREDITS



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WWW.PDUWEEK.ORG

CISEC CDHs

For those of you who hold the CISEC certification, your continuing education requirements are a little different. CISEC-certified individuals must accumulate an average of 12 storm water-related continuing development hours (CDHs) per year, which must add up to 36 CDHs for each 3-year renewal cycle. You can earn these CDHs in a variety of ways, including:

1. Performing sediment and erosion control inspections on active construction sites.
2. Volunteering for activities that advance the storm water field.
3. Attending a professional forum pertinent to CISEC activities
4. Attending educational forums applicable to CISEC activities
5. Presenting or publishing a technical paper, or moderating a panel at a professional forum
6. Other CISEC-related activities.

CISEC has some strict guidelines as to how much of each activity you can claim as a CDH, so make sure to check out their website for more detailed information. *Source: www.cisecinc.org*

Upcoming Training

Got SWPPP? Classes coming to Lodi:

- ✓ QSP/QSD Training, **April 28 – 30, 2015**
- ✓ Need PDUs? We have free PDU workshops online at: <http://pduweek.org/class.html>

For more information about these classes, go to www.gotswppp.com.

Need storm water training at your office or project location? Invite one of WGR's experienced QSPs to come and provide training for your crew.

Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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Need a SWPPP?

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COME SEE OUR SHOWROOM!

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PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Are you ready for the new Industrial General Permit? As of July 1, 2015, dischargers will have to start analyzing pH **within 15 minutes of collecting storm water samples**. Grab your pH quickly and accurately with the **Oakton Waterproof pHTestr 30**, a necessary tool for all storm water samplers. This handy device is completely waterproof, and is designed to float in case it gets dropped in water. The device analyzes to +/- 0.01 pH accuracy, and has a quick and simple calibration process. The **pHTestr** also measures the temperature of your sample, allowing you to record both results simultaneously. Also, the pH sensor can be easily removed and replaced to ensure years of accurate operation.

Product Specifications:

- Accuracy: +/- 0.01 pH accuracy
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- Battery Life: 500 hours under normal conditions
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Dimensions: 4' x 100'
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