

The Monthly Dirt

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

Get Ready!



Although the Construction General Permit does not specify a storm season and BMPs need to be in place 365 days a year, there is still the reality of the dry season coming to an end and the wet season about to begin. Traditionally, **October 1** is the date that the storm water community in California considers to be the official start of the rainy season. Let's face it, compliance with storm water regulations are far more pressing when the wet stuff begins to fall from the sky and run across our construction projects. We have dedicated this edition of **The Monthly Dirt** to help prepare your project for the wet season. Don't be caught by surprise when that first rain storm rolls in from the Pacific! This newsletter will provide QSPs with a bit of a refresher in which we will review the forms and documentation that needs to be completed; the definition of a qualifying rain event; the rules of engagement for sampling; tips on getting your sampling and testing equipment ready; as well as, pre-storm season BMP maintenance ideas.

Definition of a Qualifying Rain Event:

"Any event that produces 0.5 inches or more precipitation with a 48 hour or greater period between rain events."

In other words, it is a period of rain receiving as least 0.5 inches which is "bookended" before and after with dry weather that is at least 48 hours long.

Rules of Engagement for Sampling:

Risk Levels 2 & 3 and LUP Types 2 & 3 must sample storm water discharges from "qualifying rain events". We have found the following rules of engagement helpful in knowing when and where to sample.

- 1. No discharge, no sample.**
Only sample discharges of storm water.
- 2. Collect a minimum of 3 samples per day for the entire site.**
This is a minimum number. There is no specification in the permit about timing and frequency.
- 3. Every point of discharge must be sampled at least once.**
If you have one outfall, you will sample it at least 3 times. If you have 5 outfalls, you will sample each one at least once.

Sample Kit Checklist:

Here is a handy checklist to make sure you have your sampling equipment and supplies ready for action. Take a moment to check the condition of your kit.

For all Risk Levels:

- Request a State-certified laboratory to supply you with a non-visible sample kit to analyze for the following possible constituents: oil & grease, VOCs, SVOCs, TPHd, total & fecal coliform, heavy metals, nitrates, ammonia, TKN, BOD, COD, and phenols. Ask the laboratory to provide enough bottles for **two samples**.
- A dedicated ice chest for the samples

For Risk Levels / LUP Types 2 & 3:

- pH field meter with calibration standards (make sure standards are not expired, check battery, test meter for proper operation, and include clean sample cups)
- Turbidity field meter with calibration standards (make sure standards are not expired, check battery, test meter for proper operation, check glass sample vials for scratches and replace if necessary)
- A supply of clean collection equipment as appropriate to your site including buckets, telescoping sample booms, dust pans, pitchers, and rope
- A fresh supply of nitrile gloves
- Field note pad, grease pens, markers, pens / pencils
- Weather station / rain gauge
- Rain gear and mud boots

Pre-Storm Season BMP Maintenance

After a long hot summer, September is an ideal time to inspect and maintain BMPs used at your project. The following is a summary of CASQA recommended maintenance for some common BMPs. For more information, check out the CASQ Construction Handbook & Portal at www.casqa.org.

Fiber Rolls SE-5:

- ✓ Repair or replace split, torn, unraveling, or slumping fiber rolls.
- ✓ If it is as "flat as a pancake", it is time to replace it.
- ✓ Make sure it is keyed in and securely staked down.
- ✓ Remove sediment build up if it reaches a depth of one third of the up-gradient storage side.

Track Out Control TC-1:

- ✓ Inspect local roads adjacent to the site daily. Sweep or vacuum to remove visible accumulated sediment. Remove all sediment deposited on paved roadways within 24 hours.
- ✓ Remove aggregate, separate and dispose of sediment if construction entrance/exit is clogged with sediment.
- ✓ Keep all temporary roadway ditches clear.
- ✓ Check for damage and repair as needed.
- ✓ Replace gravel material when surface voids are visible.
- ✓ Remove sediment buildup from "grizzlies".

Erosion Control Mats EC-7:

- ✓ Areas where erosion is evident should be repaired and BMPs reapplied as soon as possible. Care should be exercised to minimize the damage to protected areas while making repairs, as any area damaged will require reapplication of BMPs.
- ✓ If washout or breakage occurs, re-install the material after repairing the damage to the slope or channel.
- ✓ Make sure matting is uniformly in contact with the soil. Fill in rills and smooth soil.
- ✓ Check that all the lap joints are secure.
- ✓ Check that staples are flush with the ground.

Drain Inlet Protection SE-10:

- ✓ Silt Fences. If the fabric becomes clogged, torn, or degrades, it should be replaced. Make sure the stakes are securely driven in the ground and are in good shape. Replace damaged stakes. At a minimum, remove the sediment behind the fabric fence when accumulation reaches one-third the height of the fence or barrier height.
- ✓ Gravel Filters. If the gravel becomes clogged with sediment, it should be carefully removed from the inlet and either cleaned or replaced. Since cleaning gravel at a construction site may be difficult, consider using the sediment-laden stone as fill material and put fresh stone around the inlet. Inspect bags for holes, gashes, and snags, and replace bags as needed. Check gravel bags for proper arrangement and placement.
- ✓ Sediment that accumulated in the BMP should be removed in order to maintain BMP effectiveness.
- ✓ Inspect and maintain temporary geotextile insert devices according to manufacturer's specifications.

Upcoming Training ...

- **Storm Water Awareness Week Sep. 24 – 27**
Check out the attached flyer! Refresher classes on QSP inspections, field monitoring, and BMP installations are being offered. This is a great opportunity for CPESCs and CESSWIs to get Professional Development Units (PDUs). Best of all ... the classes are FREE!
- Next Got SWPPP? Class:
 - ✓ **Oct. 2-4 – QSD/QSP Certification (in Lodi)**

For more information or to register for a class go to www.gotswppp.com

Forms and More Forms ...

Don't forget to refresh your project's inspection book with new forms. Here is a list of the forms you should have on hand. Make plenty of copies! Once again, we recommend you go to www.casqa.org to obtain most of these forms.

- ⇒ Site inspection form for weekly; pre-, post-, and during-storm events; and quarterly inspections (CSMP Attachment 3).
- ⇒ Rain gauge log sheet (CSMP Attachment 3)
- ⇒ NAL exceedance evaluation report (CSMP Attachment 3)
- ⇒ Chain-of-custody document for non-visible pollutant sampling (from your laboratory)
- ⇒ BMP inspection form (CASQA SWPPP Appendix I)
- ⇒ Rain Events Action Plan form (CASQA SWPPP Appendix J)
- ⇒ Training log form (CASQA SWPPP Appendix K)
- ⇒ For Caltrans jobs, Form CEM-2030 Storm Water Site Inspection Report, as well as other storm water forms.
www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/forms.htm

Calling All QSPs ... We Need You!

Do you need work? Join our network of QSPs for opportunities to get project referrals local to you.

www.FINDaQSP.com

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Please contact us if you have any questions ...

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Newsletter Editor:

John Teravskis, QSD/QSP, CPESC

jteravskis@wgr-sw.com

(209) 334-5363 ext. 110 or (209) 649-0877

Technical Questions about Environmental Compliance?

Call ...

Jeff Wait, QSP, CESSWI

jwait@wgr-sw.com, (209) 649-0069

Chris Strong, QSD/QSP, PG

cstrong@wgr-sw.com, (209) 334-5363 ext. 106

STORM WATER AWARENESS WEEK 2012

September 24 – 28, 2012

Coming to
Northern California

Join other storm water professionals for a week of educational workshops, field BMP demonstrations, and learning opportunities scheduled at locations throughout Central and Northern California. Various one-hour workshops will be presented by industry experts and will include topics relevant to construction, municipal, and industrial storm water permittees. Many of the workshops will be in the field where you can “kick the BMPs” and talk to the guys who installed them. Look on our website for workshops happening near your location. Whether you attend all of the workshops or just one, the event is free and open to anyone interested in furthering their knowledge about storm water management and pollution prevention.

Workshops include the following:

- ✓ The BMP Toolbox
- ✓ QSP Refresher Class
- ✓ Field Instrumentation Use and Calibration
- ✓ Annual Industrial General Permit Training
- ✓ Kick-the-Bucket Spill Drill
- ✓ BMP Installation, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
- ✓ Drain Inlet Protection Installation and Maintenance
- ✓ Controlling Odors from Sewer System Piping
- ✓ Performing MS4 Construction and Commercial Inspections
- ✓ Using Soil Binders
- ✓ LID Landscaping and Using Native California Grasses
- ✓ Lodi's Storm Drain Detectives Citizen Monitoring Group

View class options and locations and register for classes at

www.stormwaterawareness.org

For questions about the event, send an email to Info@StormwaterAwareness.org or call 209-334-5363, extension 110.



www.stormwaterawareness.org



September Special

pH Solution Packets
(4.0,7.0,& 10.0 X 5)

\$28.00

Single use pH solution packets. This box set includes 5 of each buffers (4.0, 7.0, & 10.0). The set also includes bonus rinse packets.

Model: WD-35653-04



BMP OUTLET'S Product Spotlight

Oakton Turbidity Standards



NEW PRODUCT...

The Sifter® Pipe End Filter

\$44.00 each

Designed for end of pipe filtration. Built for durability, the pipe end filter is encased in a high density polyethylene fabric, secured with 4 thread poly lock stitching and an 85% U.V. rating designed to handle even the most severe of climates. The inner workings consist of tightly rolled Aspen wood excelsior and nonwoven geotextile fabric.



Specifications:

- Standard size fits up to 9" diameter pipe.
- Filter is approximately 4' total length.
- Custom sizing is available.
- Part #: SiftPEF

Recently Oakton redesigned how it packages and retails its Turbidity replacement standards for the T-100 Turbidity Meter. Previously, the replacement standards were packaged as four 10 ml cuvettes with the shelf life lasting only 4-6 months. The newly packaged replacement standards (pictured above) come in four 60 ml poly containers and have a shelf life of 10 - 12 months. The turbidity standard's price has increased with this change from \$238 to \$289. This may seem like a significant increase, but the standard's shelf life is twice the previous standards shelf life. Plus, the increased 60 ml size allows up to 6 T-100 unit's standards to be replenished. That is less than \$50 per unit.

If you are interested in purchasing a set of these replacement standards, visit us at www.bmpoutlet.com, or email us at sales@bmpoutlet.com. In order to ensure the freshest possible standards from the factory please allow up to 2 weeks for delivery.

Product Specifications:

- Includes one each of 60-mL HPDE bottle of four NTU standards: 0.02, 20.0, 100 and 800 NTU.

