

STORMWATER PERMITTING FOR CONSTRUCTION SITES

This information comes from the Washington State Department of Ecology and was revised in January 2006. For additional information call (360) 407-7229 or visit Ecology's website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction/>.

Background

In accordance with National Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements, the Department of Ecology has issued a stormwater general permit for construction to help reduce construction related stormwater impacts. Owners are required to prepare and implement erosion and sediment control measures to control runoff during construction.

Objectives

The objectives of the construction stormwater permit are to minimize erosion and sediments from rainfall runoff, and to identify, reduce, eliminate or prevent pollution of stormwater. These objectives are met through the implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP must be developed and implemented before construction can begin.

Construction sites requiring stormwater permit coverage

Construction activities that require this permit are *any land disturbing activities such as clearing, grading excavating, and/or demolition* that:

1. Disturb *one or more acres of land area*, OR
2. Are "part of a *larger common plan of development or sale*" that will ultimately disturb one or more acres of land, AND
3. *Discharge stormwater* from the site into *state surface water(s)* or into storm drainage systems, which discharge to state surface waters.

Ecology can also require a permit for any size construction site, if it determines the site has a *significant contributor of pollutants* to waters of the state.

Construction activities that require a permit also include clearing forested areas, if the clearing is in preparation for construction activities.

This permit is required in addition to any other local or state government permits for erosion and sediment control.

Who needs to apply?

The operator of the construction site must apply for permit coverage. The operator can be either the party with operational control over construction plans and specifications or the party in charge of day-to-day activities related to the *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)*. The operator, also known as the permittee, is responsible for applying and following the terms of the Construction Stormwater General Permit.

All municipal governments must apply for permit coverage for construction projects with one acre or more of disturbed area that discharge stormwater to state waters.

How and where to apply

Applicants must submit the permit application called a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Ecology before going out to the first public notice and at least 60 days prior to the start of construction activities. You may download a NOI (application form) from the website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction/>.

