

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION  
MN-5. POLLUTION CONTROL

1. SCOPE

The work consists of installing measures or performing work to control erosion and minimize the production of sediment and other pollutants to water and air from construction activities.

2. MATERIAL SPECIFICATION

All material furnished shall meet the requirements of the material specifications listed in the Construction Details or on the drawings.

3. EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES AND WORKS

The measures and works shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

Staging of earthwork activities - The excavation and moving of soil materials shall be scheduled to minimize the size of areas disturbed and unprotected from erosion for the shortest reasonable time.

Seeding - Seeding to protect disturbed areas shall occur as soon as reasonably possible following completion of that earthwork activity.

Mulching - Mulching to provide temporary protection of the soil surface from erosion.

Diversions - Diversions to divert water from work areas and to collect water from work areas for treatment and safe disposition. They are temporary and shall be removed and the area restored to its near original condition when the diversions are no longer required or when permanent measures are installed.

Stream crossings - Culverts or bridges where equipment must cross streams. They are temporary and shall be removed and the area restored to its near original condition when the crossings are no longer required or when permanent measures are installed.

Sediment basins - Sediment basins collect, settle, and eliminate sediment from eroding areas from impacting properties and streams below the construction site(s). These basins are temporary and shall be removed and the area restored to its original condition when they are no longer required or when permanent measures are installed.

Sediment filters - Straw bale filters or geotextile sediment fences trap sediment from areas of limited runoff. Sediment filters shall be properly anchored to prevent erosion under or around them. These filters are temporary and shall be removed and the area restored to its original condition when they are no longer required or when permanent measures are installed.

Waterways - Waterways for the safe disposal of runoff from fields, diversions, and other structures or measures. These works are temporary and shall be removed and the area restored to its original condition when they are no longer required or when permanent measures are installed.

Other - Additional protection measures as specified in Section 7 of this specification or required by Federal, State, or local government.

4. CHEMICAL POLLUTION

The contractor shall provide watertight tanks or barrels or construct a sump sealed with plastic sheets to dispose of chemical pollutants, such as drained lubricating or transmission fluids, grease, soaps, concrete mixer washwater, or asphalt, produced as a by-product of the construction activities. At the completion of the construction work, sumps shall be removed and the area restored to its original condition as specified in section 7 of this specification. Sump removal shall be conducted without causing pollution.

Sanitary facilities, such as chemical toilets, or septic tanks shall not be located next to live streams, wells, or springs. They shall be located at a distance sufficient to prevent contamination of any water source. At the completion of construction activities, facilities shall be disposed of without causing pollution as specified in section 7 of this specification.

5. AIR POLLUTION

The burning of brush or slash and the disposal of other materials shall adhere to state and local regulations.

Fire prevention measures shall be taken to prevent the start or spreading of wildfires that may result from project activities. Firebreaks or guards shall be constructed and maintained at locations shown on the drawings.

All public access or haul roads used by the contractor during construction of the project shall be sprinkled or otherwise treated to fully suppress dust. All dust control methods shall ensure safe construction operations at all times. If chemical dust suppressants are applied, the material shall be a commercially available product specifically designed for dust suppression and the application shall follow manufacturer's requirements and recommendations. A copy of the product data sheet and manufacturer's recommended application procedures shall be provided to the engineer 5 working days before the first application.

6. MAINTENANCE, REMOVAL, AND RESTORATION

All pollution control measures and temporary works shall be adequately maintained in a functional condition for the duration of the construction period. All temporary measures shall be removed and the site restored to near original condition.

7. NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT EXCEPTION

Conservation projects with more than one acre of non-cropland soil disturbance are operating under an exclusion from National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirements for construction site stormwater discharges. The following provisions must be implemented to provide construction site erosion and

sediment control for these projects to avoid the need for an NPDES permit. For all smaller conservation practice construction projects, these provisions should be implemented to the extent practical and feasible.

1. Locate topsoil or other temporary stockpiles of soil in locations where they will not be subject to erosion from concentrated flow.
2. When permanent vegetation must be disturbed, limit the area of disturbance to the minimum required for the project.
3. Seed, or otherwise stabilize, disturbed areas in accordance with the planting and erosion control specifications for the project. Stabilization must be done within the following time frames after final grading, unless work is completed after the fall seeding cutoff date:
  - Slopes 3:1 or steeper - 7 days
  - Slopes 10:1 to 3:1 - 14 days
  - Slopes 10:1 or flatter - 21 days
4. If a grassed waterway or diversion will be completed after the fall seeding cutoff date, do not leave a loosened soil surface over winter. Track the finished grade to compact the soil surface for temporary erosion protection. Implement seeding and stabilization as soon as feasible the following spring.

Projects operating under this NPDES permit exclusion may be required to obtain a permit if these construction site erosion and sediment control provisions are not met. Sediment discharges from any construction project that impact water quality may result in enforcement action under state water quality protection requirements.

