



ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

Fall (2013)

A quarterly news bulletin to provide project managers and district environmental staff with current permit requirements, training opportunities and other environmental related guidance.

STORMWATER/EROSION CONTROL

As the winter season quickly approaches, here are a few things to keep in mind regarding erosion control and the Construction Stormwater Permit.

Winter Preparation – Stabilizing a construction site as much as possible now will help you avoid issues in the spring when the ground thaws out and things get too sloppy to install the necessary erosion and sediment control measures. Cover cropping and mulching may be a reasonable option to prepare the site for next spring.

Stormwater Inspection Frequency – During winter months, inspection frequency may be reduced to at least once every month if the ground is frozen and is likely to remain frozen for the next 30 days. When setting up your ECOD inspection report, click the “Winter Conditions” checkbox to reduce your inspection email notices to monthly.

Contact Information: Ron Poe – (402) 479-4499 and Nick Soper – (402) 479-3642.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The Roadside Stabilization Unit just finished up a statewide compliance inspection for projects that have Stormwater Permits.

We had a great opportunity to visit with project staff about concerns and ideas they had. We also got the chance to discuss areas that the Environmental Section here at the Central Complex can improve on. We are looking forward to discussing your concerns, ideas, and issues over the winter and really hoping to make some positive changes that will improve our processes in the future. If you can think of anything that you want to discuss please feel free to call or email Ashley Grossenbacher. We look forward to seeing everyone again this spring!

As we approach the winter months it is a good idea to make sure projects don't have any lingering corrective action items. Corrective actions should be dated out if they were previously taken care of or if they are no longer applicable (Remember, it is always a good idea to use the comments box). As the bi-weekly inspection reports start to slow down from projects finishing up and winter conditions taking effect, Ashley will be reviewing all of the outstanding corrective action items for all State projects. If there is anything that needs addressed she will likely give you a call. If you have any questions about when or how to date out corrective action items please call or email Ashley Grossenbacher.

Contact Ashley Grossenbacher – (402) 479-4839

ECO-DATABASE INSPECTIONS

Below is a compilation of ECO-Database (ECOD) tidbits for Project Managers/Inspectors to be aware of.....

1. Adding Contractors to Report Distribution List

When you submit a report in ECOD, the system distributes an email with links to the inspection report and corrective action list that was generated from the inspection. Keep in mind that you can add contractors to this list so that they automatically receive a copy of your report along with corrective actions that they may be required to address. If you are unsure whether or not contractors are currently receiving your reports, check the “recipients list” located at the bottom of the email when you receive it. If you wish to add someone, please contact gabe.robertson@nebraska.gov with the name and email of the new recipient and for which project they need to be added.

2. Submitting reports in a timely manner

The Stormwater permit allows 7 days for corrective actions to be addressed before they are out of compliance. Then longer you wait to send out the report, the less time a contractor will have to address actions and stay within the 7 day window. Remember that after you sign and seal an inspection report, it still has to be sync'd before anyone will receive it and be able to act on corrective actions. If you want to know if the report was distributed, check your email. Every inspector that submits a report also receives a copy of the notification email. If you do not receive the email, within about 30 minutes of submitting the report, chances are it was not sync'd correctly and you should log back into ECOD and hit the sync button.

3. Removing projects from your ECOD project list

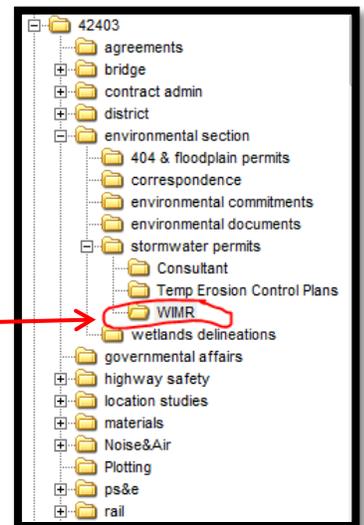
Projects that appear on your ECOD project list follow dates submitted to Site Manager. When the “Notice to Proceed” is issued, a project will be available on your list if inspections are required. Likewise when the “Project Completion Notice” is issued the project will either come off your list (if no Stormwater permit) or will stay on your list until vegetation is established (if Stormwater permitted). If you have questions about this please contact gabe.robertson@nebraska.gov to request a project be added or removed from your project list.

4. Inspection Reports are all available on Falcon

Every time you complete an inspection they are saved to your computer and are available in your ECOD Inspection Tool for up to six months. Reports that are older than six months are deleted from your computer to minimize the amount of space it eats up. If you would like to view older reports, everything is archived on Falcon in the following folder: Environmental Section/Stormwater Permits/WIMR (weekly inspection and maintenance reports).

5. SiteManager Date Out for Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys

Our office has received numerous questions related to the SiteManager date out for Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys. ECOD and SiteManager work independently. Your surveys are entered in ECOD so you no longer have to attach the checklists in SiteManager however, the Construction Office still requires you to fill in the date in SiteManager – just like you used to do – one time a week (typically on a Friday). If you don't SiteManager will show a discrepancy. We are working to eliminate this requirement in SiteManager by adding some additional



features in ECOD but until then please continue to enter those dates. If you have questions related to the SiteManager check-off please contact roy.leach@nebraska.gov in the Construction Office. Any questions related to Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys should be sent to Melissa.marinovich@nebraska.gov.

6. Highlights of Recent ECOD Update

- A. The “no longer used” text that was showing up for corrective actions has been removed.
- B. The summary section in the inspection tool now has “yes/no/na” checkboxes for all the questions. The comment box will be optional.
- C. A “Winter Conditions” option is available now when setting up your project inspection. If this option is checked it switches the inspection frequency to monthly.
- D. New functionality added to only display species when surveys may be applicable.

We are again planning to visit each district over the winter months to further discuss these and other changes to ECOD and the Environmental Program in general.

Contact Information: Gabe Robertson – (402) 479-4685

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Project Seeding Record form is electronic

The yellow half-page paper form that documents seeding dates is going away. Instead, DR Form 61 “Project Seeding Record” is available on NDOR’s dorimage1 server.

When Project Managers receive “mixed with permission” memos from Carol Wienhold, the memo will no longer include a yellow form to fill out and return to RSU. Instead, the instruction below directs the PM to open DR Form 61, fill it out, and e-mail it to Carol (see below). She will read through it and save the form on Falcon (NDOR’s electronic document storage system).

Following seed application, the Construction Project Manager is requested to return the completed “Project Seeding Record” (DR Form 61, available on dorimage1/dorforms/dr61) to Carol Wienhold (carol.wienhold@nebraska.gov) at NDOR’s Environmental Section, Lincoln.

The form still has a section to provide your comments about the seeding/erosion control sub-contractor and about the project. RSU values receiving this information. Please type a comment when you are preparing the form.

Contact Information: Carol Wienhold – (402) 479-3917

WETLANDS AND SECTION 404 PERMITS

If there is a channel marked on the project 2Ws, driving across the channel is absolutely not allowed unless a temporary crossing is approved by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The only exception is if the channel is bone dry. However, if there is any surface water, the channel is muddy, or if you have to divert water through a pipe, equipment is not allowed to cross the channel unless a temporary crossing is approved. To get a temporary crossing approved by the US Army Corps of Engineers the contractor needs to submit their proposed crossing in an email or letter. Approval should be granted within a minimum of two weeks. This is an important area that the PMs can bring up at the pre-cons to avoid delays and keep us in compliance with our 404 permits.

Contact Information: Tony Ringenberg – (402) 479-4410.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Whooping Crane Late Migration

Every fall, beginning as early as July, several species of migratory birds begin making their annual pilgrimage south to warmer and more temperate climates for the winter. While this migration is a massive effort covering thousands of miles for some birds, it often does not occur in as large and spectacular visual show as in the spring migration north when birds are making their way to their summer breeding grounds. The fall migration often begins and continues as a trickle until the wintery cold fronts begin moving through in October/November, then birds begin flocking south in larger, concentrated, and faster-moving groups.



Typically the whooping cranes, a federally-protected endangered species, which nest in Canada, begin their fall migration in early-September and are finished migrating through Nebraska by mid-November. This year, the northern states and Canada, much like Nebraska, have experienced a mild Autumn with warmer temperatures lasting into September and early October. Because of the relatively

mild climate, the radio-tagged whooping cranes have taken their time migrating south. The first groups of whoopers were reported in Nebraska in mid-October (almost a full month after they are typically starting to show up). Since that date, they have continued to trickle down through the flyway into November, with a family group reported as late as November 19, 2013 on the northern edge of Nebraska! Typically, NDOR requires contractors to conduct fall surveys for whooping cranes on active Projects from September 16 to November 16; however, this year, due to the late migration and the sensitivity of this species, contractors and construction Project Managers have extended the survey time-frame until December 15. Hopefully, with the cold front moving through and the S-word in the forecast, the whooping cranes will be completing their migration through Nebraska soon. We appreciate all of the support the NDOR Project Managers and District Environmental Coordinators continue to provide at monitoring for this species!

Contact Information: Melissa Marinovich – (402) 479-3546

UPCOMING TRAINING

NDOR Erosion and Sediment Control for Inspectors - Certification Classes

ONLINE TRAINING COMING SOON.....NDOR is working with UNL-LTAP to offer the erosion and sediment control for inspectors - recertification class, in an online format. This may be available for use early this spring. New inspectors will still be required to take the classroom training the first time around. Those wishing to recertify will have both classroom or online options available to take. All certifications starting in 2014 will last for 5 years, a change from the current 3 year certification. We will send out notifications to everyone when the online class is available for use.

In addition to the online training we are currently scheduling the classroom training dates for 2014. As soon as they are finalized we will notify everyone with the dates and locations.

Contact Information:

Ron Poe – (402) 479-4499

Dennis Smith; UNL-LTAP – (402) 472-0976

Course information is also available on the LTAP website at:

http://www.ne-ltap.unl.edu/erosion_control.html