



# ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

## Summer 2010

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

## STORMWATER/EROSION CONTROL

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### Bi-Weekly Stormwater Inspections

The Construction Stormwater General Permit states that inspections must be conducted at least once every fourteen 14 calendar days and within 24 hours of the end of a storm event of 0.5 inches or greater. We've recently had some questions regarding the frequency of inspections when there are rainfall events during the month.

If you are conducting inspections on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of every month and the project receives a 1.5 inch rainfall on the 10<sup>th</sup>, you are not required to inspect again until the 24<sup>th</sup>. However, this will obviously throw off your regular inspection schedule. With this in mind, inspectors will simply do the extra inspection and continue with their regularly scheduled inspections to avoid constantly changing inspection dates. Whatever you prefer will work as long as there is an inspection recorded at least every 14 days and after rainfall events of 0.5 inches or greater.

Remember that all corrective actions identified on the inspection report must be addressed within 7 calendar days. If there is a delay beyond the 7 calendar days, be sure to document the reason why and address as soon as practicable.

### 14 Day Rule

As your project progresses remember what we refer to as the 14 day rule. This management practice and permit condition, requires erosion and sediment control measures be initiated as soon as practicable in portions of the site where construction activities have temporarily or permanently ceased, but in no case more than 14 days after the construction activity in that portion of the site has temporarily or permanently ceased. So if you have areas on the project that will not be worked for a period of time, stabilize them with a cover crop or other BMP as quickly as possible. This includes topsoil berms used for perimeter control as well as stockpiles. The following are exceptions to this requirement:

- Where stabilization by the 14th day is precluded by snow cover or frozen ground conditions, stabilization measures must be initiated as soon as practicable.
- Where construction activity on a portion of the site is temporarily ceased, and earth disturbing activities will be resumed within 14 days, temporary stabilization measures do not have to be initiated on that portion of the site.

## Dust Control

With all of the rain this year, it's hard to think about the topic of "Dust Control". However with the summer heat, projects are drying out quickly and dust can become an issue. The BMP, Bonded Fiber Matrix, does a good job of controlling dust on disturbed slopes. The Roadside Stabilization Unit is currently researching additional products to help with various dust control issues.

Unfortunately most of the concerns related to dust control this year have stemmed from haul roads. Water is the primary item used to settle dust on these sites. It is effective, but once again with the heat it does dry quickly. Another BMP to consider is travel speed. Equipment operators should be encouraged to slow down when traveling on haul roads, as this is another key element to controlling dust from construction sites.

### Featured BMP – Bonded Fiber Matrix

There is an alternative to rolled erosion control products that will likely be showing up on some projects in the future. Why would you want to use something other than standard straw blanket? Well, Bonded Fiber Matrix (BFM) has a few advantages over rolled products in certain situations. Namely BFM requires less labor to install and allows the installation to be done on steep slopes more easily than rolled products. BFM is hydraulically applied and is similar to hydraulic mulch, with the addition of a tackifier, man-made fibers, flocculating agents, plant bio-stimulators, and other performance enhancing additives.



Some things to remember about BFM uses:

- Avoid application if rain is forecasted since the product must dry before it is effective at controlling erosion.
- Concentrated flows can erode BFM fairly easily, so avoid using in channels and ditches.
- Avoid vehicle or pedestrian traffic. BFM creates a protective crust on the soil and if that crust is broken then the BFM should be reapplied.
- BFM should be applied from two directions to get the best coverage.
- Products are available that last from 3-12 months.

Currently BFM is covered under a special provision, but we are currently writing new specifications that will be added for the next edition of the NDOR Standard Specifications.

Contact Information: Ron Poe – (402) 479-4499

## WETLANDS AND SECTION 404 PERMITS

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### September 15th Special Condition

September is just around the corner and those of you with 404 permitted areas on your project may want to start thinking about the September 15<sup>th</sup>, 404 permit special condition. To summarize, this condition requires disturbed areas, adjacent to a 404 permitted channel or wetland, be seeded by September 15<sup>th</sup> (after work is completed). If seeding cannot be accomplished by September 15<sup>th</sup> then erosion control blanket must be placed in those areas. Refer to the 404 permit included in the project SWPPP for additional details on this requirement.

### Seeding over Riprap Special Condition

The Environmental Office has recently fielded several questions regarding this 404 permit special condition. A detailed explanation of this practice was provided in a past environmental bulletin and is available on NDOR's website at:

<http://www.nebraskatransportation.org/environment/e-bulletin/index.html> .

Click on "Spring 2009 Bulletin".

Contact Information: Jason Jurgens - (402) 479-4418

## THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

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### Migratory Birds Still Nesting

Although many migratory birds may be done nesting for the year, some species have multiple broods. As you're out on projects or conducting maintenance remember that nests with eggs or young in them are protected and should not be disturbed. If you have any questions about migratory birds or need a survey prior to starting work please contact Eric Zach at 402-479-4766.

Contact Information: Eric Zach – (402) 479-4766

## UPCOMING TRAINING/MEETINGS

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### NDOR Erosion and Sediment Control for Inspector's Class

The next Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector class is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, in Omaha. It will be held in conjunction with the International Erosion Control Association/City of Omaha fall conference. Visit [www.ieca2010fallconference.com](http://www.ieca2010fallconference.com) for additional information.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Ron Poe at (402) 479-4499 or Dennis Smith with LTAP at (402) 472-0976 for more information. Course information is also available on the LTAP website at: [http://www.ne-ltap.unl.edu/erosion\\_control.html](http://www.ne-ltap.unl.edu/erosion_control.html)

We are currently in our third year with our erosion control inspection certification. What that means to you is that certifications will be expiring and need to be renewed for those that were in our initial classes back in 2008. We are currently working on the recertification requirements and will most likely be handling this through either a class or possibly webinars. We will be sending out more information on recertification later this fall.

### **District Environmental Coordinator's (DEC) Meeting**

NDOR has scheduled a District Environmental Coordinators Meeting for August 17-18 in Lincoln. Project Managers, Contractors, etc., with environmental questions or concerns should pass that information along to the DEC so it can be discussed during the meeting.