
Storm Water Requirements for Construction Sites

Storm water runoff from construction sites is a major contributor to urban runoff pollution. Sediment, cement, construction waste, vehicle fluids, paints, and solvents are examples of storm water pollutants. Construction personnel can reduce or eliminate their contribution to storm water pollution by making modest changes to routine practices.

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) regulates storm water discharges from construction sites, including **clearing, grading, and excavation** activities. In accordance with the Clean Water Act and the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) program, Pima County implements a storm water management program. A key element of this program includes inspection of construction sites to verify compliance with storm-water requirements.

Pollution from Construction Sites

Sediment is the most common pollutant at construction sites. Grading activities remove trees, cactus, grass, rocks, and other protective ground covers, leaving the underlying soil exposed.

In doing so, the soil surface becomes unprotected and soil may be easily washed away by rain. Additional construction site pollutants include:

- paints
- solvents
- asphalt
- sealants
- concrete
- fertilizers
- pesticides

These pollutants can be mobilized by rainfall and then transported to storm drains or washes.

But it hardly ever rains...

Although flowing streams are rare in southern Arizona, pollutant-laden runoff from construction sites may adversely impact the desert environment and clog drainage systems.

Arizona State Storm Water Requirements

Arizona state requirements require construction site operators to obtain coverage under ADEQ's *AZPDES General Permit for Discharge From Construction Activities to Waters of the United States*, dated February 28, 2008. A PDF-version of this permit may be found at the following ADEQ address:

[http://www.azdeq.gov/function/
forms/appswater.html#cgp](http://www.azdeq.gov/function/forms/appswater.html#cgp)

A fact sheet explaining the permit conditions may be found at the following ADEQ address

[http://www.azdeq.gov/function/
forms/appswater.html#cgp](http://www.azdeq.gov/function/forms/appswater.html#cgp)

To obtain coverage under the general permit, operators must file a Notice of Intent (NOI) and develop & implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). *As of March 10, 2003, these requirements apply to all construction sites disturbing one acre or more.*

Notice of Intent (NOI)

To obtain coverage under the construction general permit, a Notice of Intent (NOI) form must be filled out and submitted to ADEQ. A copy of the NOI form may be downloaded from the following ADEQ address:

[http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/
permits/download/constnoi.pdf](http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/constnoi.pdf)

A completed NOI indicates that the operator will comply with the terms of the general permit. The NOI must be submitted at least two days before the start of construction.

If the operator of the construction site changes during the course of the project, a new NOI must be submitted.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

The AZPDES construction general permit requires operators to prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP must identify appropriate storm-water pollution prevention measures, or best management practices (BMPs), to reduce the amount of pollutants in storm water discharges. Information describing the basic requirements of a SWPPP may be found at the following Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website:

<http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swppp.cfm>

A SWPPP identifies structural and non-structural controls that will be put in place to minimize impacts caused by offsite storm water discharges. The SWPPP must be implemented at the time a project breaks ground. It must be revised as construction activities proceed.

A copy of the SWPPP must be kept at the site or readily available at all times. Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies have the authority to review the SWPPP at any time.

Notice of Termination (NOT)

ADEQ requires the filing of an NOT, which certifies that specific activities in the SWPPP have ended and that one of the following conditions is true:

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- final stabilization is complete and temporary erosion and sediment controls have been removed; **or**
 - all discharges from the construction area have been eliminated; **or**
 - the owner/operator has changed and the new owner/operator is responsible for compliance.

A copy of the NOT form may be downloaded from the following ADEQ address:

<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/constnot.pdf>

FOR MORE INFORMATION—

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency:
Environmental Information Center
1-866-EPA-WEST
<http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/npdes/stormwater.html>

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality:
Christopher Henninger / 602-771-4508
<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/stormwater.html>

Pima County Department of Environmental Quality:
Stormwater Program
520-724-7400
<http://www.deq.pima.gov/water/stwmgmprog.html>

City of Tucson / Storm Water:
<http://dot.tucsonaz.gov/stormwater/>

STORM WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION SITES IN UNINCORPORATED PIMA COUNTY



Pima County
Department of Environmental Quality
33 North Stone Avenue, Suite 700
Tucson, Arizona 85701
520-724-7400
<http://www.deq.pima.gov/water/stwmgmprog.html>