
Stormwater Requirements for Construction Sites

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

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) regulates stormwater 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 stormwater 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 that can be mobilized during a rain and flow to storm drains or washes include:

- Paints, solvents, and sealants
- Asphalt
- Concrete and concrete washouts
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides

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 Stormwater Requirements

Arizona state regulations 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 this site:

http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/2008_cgp.pdf

Additional information for the Construction General Permit may be found at this site:

<http://azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/cgp.html>

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). **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. The form can be completed on-line at this site:

<http://az.gov/app/smartnoi/>

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. When construction starts, the NOI Authorization Number must be posted in a conspicuous location near the entrance where the most activity is taking place.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

Operators receiving an NOI must prepare and implement a SWPPP prior to starting construction. The SWPPP must identify appropriate stormwater pollution prevention measures, or best management practices (BMPs), to reduce the pollutants in stormwater discharges.

Information describing the basic requirements of a SWPPP may be found at the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website:

<http://cfpub.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 stormwater flowing off site. The SWPPP must be updated as construction activities proceed. A copy 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)

When construction is complete, file an NOT to certify selected activities in the SWPPP have ended and that one of the following conditions is true:

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

A copy of the NOT form is available at this site:

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

File the NOT with both ADEQ and Pima County at the listed addresses.

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:**
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
Christopher Henninger / 602-771-4508
<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/stormwater.html>

**Pima County
Department of Environmental Quality:**
Marie Light 520-243-7400
Jason Saline 520-243-7342
<http://www.deq.pima.gov/water/stwmgmprog.html>

**City of Tucson
Stormwater Management:**
<http://dot.tucsonaz.gov/stormwater/>

CONSTRUCTION SITES & STORMWATER CONTROL IN UNINCORPORATED PIMA COUNTY



**Pima County
Department of Environmental Quality
33 North Stone Avenue, Suite 700
Tucson, Arizona 85701
520-243-7400
<http://www.pima.gov/deq/water/stwmgmprog.html>**