Erosion control and site restoration practices must be followed on all projects, whether the work is on private property or Department right-of-way. Whenever a bulldozer is used to cut an access road for drilling operations, silt fence and/or hay bales may be required to prevent erosion or siltation of nearby creeks or ponds. At the completion of the drilling operations, the areas should be re-graded to remove the access roads, and then covered with grass seed and straw. If drilling equipment leaves deep ruts through soft ground, the ruts should be filled in with native material at the completion of the work, and then covered with grass seed and straw. In addition, the drillers, surveyors, traffic control technicians and all other personnel who will work on the project should be informed that any of their personal trash should be removed from the site. Disturbance to lands owned by the Department must be discussed in advance with the Area Engineer, and an agreement made on the type of disturbance allowed and the restoration required.

For most projects, the disturbed area is not expected to exceed the one (1) acre limit that would trigger NPDES requirements.

An erosion control plan for all projects for the subsurface exploration disturbance shall be submitted to the Geotechnical Environmental Pavement Bureau for approval before the subsurface exploration begins.

Note that these are general guidelines that will apply to most projects. However, for more detailed information and requirements, refer to the “Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia” that is put out by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission.