

**DATE:** August 1, 2018



**FROM:** Brent A. Story, P.E., State Design Policy Engineer

**TO:** Program Delivery, IPD, TIA, Engineering, Operations, Construction, and Field Districts

**SUBJECT: NPDES General Permit GAR100002, Storm Water Discharge Associated with Infrastructure Construction Projects**

This is notice that the Department of Natural Resources/Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has reissued the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit GAR100002. The permit is effective August 1, 2018. The permit is available on the EPD's website at:

[https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related\\_files/site\\_page/GAR100002%20-%20Infrastructure%20May%202018.pdf](https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/GAR100002%20-%20Infrastructure%20May%202018.pdf)

**The terms of the permit apply to GDOT projects Let to construction after August 1, 2018, and that require a Notice-of-Intent (NOI). A NOI is required for projects disturbing 1 acre or greater of land and are non-exempt as described in the permit.**

**Also, effective July 31, 2018, projects currently under construction without a Notice of Termination (NOT) shall submit a re-issuance of the NOI within ninety (90) days (before midnight on October 29, 2018).**

A summary of the relevant changes to the re-issued permit that affect the Department are listed below. Quotes from the permit are in italic:

1. Part I.C.1.f.: The permit will exempt projects that consist solely of the installation of cable barriers and guardrail for existing roadways within existing rights-of-way...*In order to be eligible for this exemption the project must comply with the following conditions: (1) no mass grading shall occur on the project, (2) the project shall be stabilized by the end of each day with temporary or permanent stabilization measures, (3) final stabilization must be implemented at the end of the project.*
2. Part I.C.1.g.: The permit will also exempt buried utility lines 4 inches or less in diameter that are installed using vibratory trenching methods within stabilized rights-of-way. This may benefit ITS projects with no mass grading, no tree clearing, no change in grade, and where the project is stabilized each day and includes final stabilization.
3. In multiple parts of the permit: NOIs, Sampling Reports, and NOTs will be submitted electronically through the Georgia EPD Online System (GEOS).
4. The following items were added to Part III.C.2. of the permit; and will become part of Appendix-1 of the ESPCP for projects within 1 linear mile of a biota impaired stream watershed:

- A 4<sup>th</sup> requirement below was added to the sign that is posted at each project site. *A large sign (minimum 4 feet x 8 feet) must be posted on site by the actual start date of construction. The sign must be visible from a public roadway. The sign must identify the following: (1) the construction site, (2) the permittee(s), (3) the contact person(s) along with their telephone number(s), and (4) the permittee-hosted website where the ES&PC Plan can be viewed. The permittee-hosted website where the ES&PC Plan can be viewed must be provided on the submitted NOI. The sign must remain on site and the ES&PC Plan must be available on the provided website until a NOT has been submitted. The current plan is for the project sign to reference GDOT's GeoPI webpage.*
  - *Conduct inspections during the intermediate grading and drainage BMP phase and during the final BMP phase of the project by a certified Level II design professional to improve overall site management quality control.*
  - *Install Post Construction BMPs which remove 80% TSS as outlined in the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual known as the Blue Book.*
5. The following items were added to Part III.D. of the permit:
- *6. Whenever a permittee finds that a BMP has failed or is deficient (beyond routine maintenance) and has resulted in sediment deposition into waters of the State, the permittee shall immediately take all reasonable steps to address the condition, including cleaning up any contaminated surfaces so the material will not discharge in subsequent storm events. The permittee shall submit a summary of the violation to EPD in accordance with Part V.A.2. of this permit and shall correct such BMP as follows:*
    - a. *When the repair does not require a new or replacement BMP or significant repair, the BMP failure or deficiency must be repaired by the close of the next business day from the time of discovery.*
    - b. *When the repair requires a new or replacement BMP or significant repair, the installation of the new or modified BMP must be completed and the BMP must be operational by no later than seven (7) days from the time of discovery. If it is infeasible to complete the installation or repair within seven (7) days, the permittee must document why it is infeasible to complete the installation or repair within the seven (7) day timeframe and document the schedule for installing or repairing the BMPs and making the BMPs operational as soon as feasible after the seven (7) day timeframe.*
6. Part IV.D.3.c.(2) of the permit was revised as follows:
- *For building materials, building products, construction wastes, trash, landscape materials, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, detergents, sanitary waste and other materials present on the site, provide cover (e.g. plastic sheeting, temporary roofs) to*

*minimize the exposure of these products to precipitation and to stormwater, or a similarly effective means designed to minimize the discharge of pollutants from these areas. Minimization of exposure is not required in cases where exposure to precipitation and to stormwater will not result in a discharge of pollutants, or where exposure of a specific material or product poses little risk to stormwater contamination (such as final products and materials intended for outdoor use).*

7. Part IV.D.4.a.(2) of the permit was revised as follows:

- *Measure and record rainfall within disturbed areas of the site that have not met final stabilization once every 24 hours except any non-working Saturday, non-working Sunday and non-working Federal holiday until a Notice of Termination is submitted. The data collected for the purpose of compliance with this permit shall be representative of the monitored activity. Measurement of rainfall may be suspended if all areas of the site have undergone final stabilization or established a crop of annual vegetation and a seeding of target perennials appropriate for the region.*

The Office of Design Policy & Support has updated the Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollution Control Plan (ESPCP) General Notes Template to comply with the new permit. GDOT project managers and engineers are directed to refer to the GDOT R.O.A.D.S. webpage for the latest updates. The new permit also requires revisions to GDOT Specifications 161 and 167. GDOT project managers and engineers are directed to contact the Office of Construction for the latest project specific Special Provisions for Specifications 161 and 167 until further notice.

Please address questions related to the NPDES General Permit GAR100002 and other GDOT ESPCP guidelines to the Office of Design Policy and Support, Water Resources Group at [ESPCP@dot.ga.gov](mailto:ESPCP@dot.ga.gov) or contact Brad McManus or Dylan Eagleton.

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