

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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**INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE**

**DATE** July 14, 2014

**FROM** Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Chief Engineer 

**TO** All Divisions

**SUBJECT** **Silt Fence Fabric Check Dam use on GDOT projects**

This is to follow-up on the attached letter dated April 8, 2014 (Discontinuing the use of Silt Fence Fabric Check Dam).

It has been determined that the Silt Fence Fabric Check Dam installation as currently shown on GDOT Construction Detail [D-24D](#) may continue to be used as a BMP on GDOT projects until further notice.

Over the next several months GDOT will be working with our partners at GSWCC and EPD to test and incorporate enhanced control measures into Construction Detail D-24D. Depending on those results a modification to this construction detail may be forthcoming.

Should you have any questions please contact Brad McManus, P.E., at (404) 631-1630 or by email at [bmcmanus@dot.ga.gov](mailto:bmcmanus@dot.ga.gov) or Dylan Eagleton at (404) 631-1741 or by email [deagleton@dot.ga.gov](mailto:deagleton@dot.ga.gov).

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**INTERDEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE**

**DATE** April 8, 2014

**FROM** Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Chief Engineer 

**TO** All Divisions

**SUBJECT** Discontinuing the use of “Silt Fence Fabric Check Dam”

Recently the Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Environmental Protection Division (EPD) notified the Department that “silt fence fabric check dams” would no longer be allowed as a BMP on infrastructure construction projects. Fabric check dams are typically Type C silt fence installed in ditches and arranged in either upstream V shapes or W shapes (as shown on GDOT Construction Detail [D-24D](#)).

EPD’s decision comes after testing by the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) yielded failing results on the effectiveness of silt fence fabric check dams. The issues noted were: (1) ineffective at retaining silt on the upstream side, and (2) excessive scour to the ditch on the downstream side due to water running around the ends and top of the fabric check dams.

Therefore, effective immediately, the Georgia Department of Transportation has decided to discontinue the use of silt fence fabric check dams regardless of whether or not the land disturbing activity is exempt from the [NPDES General Permit No. GAR 100002](#). Acceptable options for check dams in ditches are:

- **Stone Check Dam** (Cd-S) (Pay-Item 163-0527) (refer to [GDOT Standard 1031](#))
- **Baled Straw Check Dam** (Cd-Hb) (Pay-Item 163-0529) (no current GDOT detail available - refer to the GSWCC [Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia 6<sup>th</sup> Edition](#))
- **Compost Filter Sock Check Dam** (Cd-Fs) (no current GDOT pay-item or specifications for installation and maintenance available - refer to the GSWCC [Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia 6<sup>th</sup> Edition](#)).

To comply with this decision, GDOT projects submitted for upcoming Lettings that do not already have an approved Notice-of-Intent (NOI) will require revisions to Erosion Sedimentation and Pollution Control Plans (ESPCP) by either Revision before advertisement, Amendment after advertisement, or by Use-On-Construction Revision after award. Projects that already have an approved NOI do not require any changes to the ESPCP or modifications during construction.

Revisions to ESPCPs resulting from this decision are not expected to be substantial enough to require shifts to scheduled construction Let Dates.

Should you have any questions please contact Brad McManus, P.E., at (404) 631-1630 or by email at [bmcmanus@dot.ga.gov](mailto:bmcmanus@dot.ga.gov) or Dylan Eagleton at (404) 631-1741 or by email [deagleton@dot.ga.gov](mailto:deagleton@dot.ga.gov).

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