South Carolina
Department of Transportation

MEMORANDUM

To: District Engineering Administrators
District Construction Engineers

From: Clayton W. Richter, P.E., Director of Construction
Chad C. Long, Director of Environmental

RE: Environmental Escalation Procedure and Erosion Control Update

Date: August 1, 2026

Please see attached to this memorandum the updated Construction Manual sections:

- Section 107.26.10 – Environmental Escalation Procedures
- Section 815 – Erosion Control

This update provides guidance for sediment and erosion control responsibilities as well as procedures to transition environmentally non-compliant projects into compliance.

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File:Con/Construction Manual/2004 Updates

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107.26.10 Environmental Escalation Procedure

Purpose:

This section is to provide Resident Construction Engineers (RCE) with the framework necessary to efficiently transition environmentally non-compliant projects into regulatory compliance.

Definitions:

Regulatory Agencies - South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES), Bureau of Coastal Management (BCM), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Environmental Compliance – Abiding by all permits, subsequent permit conditions, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) commitments during construction. SCDOT construction projects may include USACE permits, SCDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) land disturbance permits, FHWA NEPA commitments, SCDES BCM coastal zone consistency certifications, critical area permits, and SCDES or USCG navigational permits. All projects vary and may include various permits.

Restrict Work - Restricting all earth-moving activities, cut/fill operations, clearing, grubbing, concrete, and paving operations at a specific location(s) on the project. Specialized Bridge Crews can continue to work on unrelated bridge work. Only erosion and sediment control and other safety-critical work (as determined by the RCE) may continue within the restricted area. Safety-critical work may include barrier walls, traffic markings, and guardrails. The Director of Construction (DOC) & Director of Environmental (DOE) may alter restrictions as needed.

Stop Work – Stopping all work, including specialized bridge crews and other subcontractors except erosion control and safety-critical items. The RCE can choose to stop all work at any time, rather than the recommended restricted Drainage Area (DA) due to deficiencies not being maintained or adequately addressed within the priority timeframe.

Good Faith Effort (GFE) - Contractor has mobilized personnel and is actively working expeditiously with appropriate equipment and personnel until the non-compliant area is corrected in accordance with the Corrective Action Plan.

Corrective Action Plan – A plan submitted by the contractor to the RCE addressing all environmental non-compliant restricted areas outlining their approach to achieve environmental compliance. This plan shall include a list of all areas of concern detailing method of repair, manpower, and anticipated timing for each resolution. This plan will include measures to determine if the contractor is making a Good Faith Effort.

Priority 1 Deficiency (P1D) - A situation where sediment has left the project, the perimeter Best Management Practice (BMP) has failed and/or the perimeter BMP has reached its capacity. The request to install a BMP may warrant a P1D deficiency. Correct in 48 hours (2 days).

Priority 2 Deficiency (P2D) - When a BMP requires maintenance or a BMP has failed, or may fail, but functioning downstream BMPs protect the site from offsite sediment releases. The request to install a BMP may warrant a P2D deficiency. Correct in 7 days.

Non-Compliant Scenarios:

1) **NPDES Land Disturbance Permit** - Per the SCDOT Construction Manual Section 815 [Latest Version] and 2025 SCDOT Standard Specification 812.3, all deficiencies must be corrected within the time frame of the assigned priority (P1D: 48 hrs / P2D: 7 days) during each weekly erosion control inspection. Any deficiency not corrected within the assigned time frame, the RCE will initiate escalation procedures.

2) **NEPA Commitment -** Contractor responsible NEPA commitment not in compliance. These unique commitments will be stated within the contract documents as a Special Provision or shown on plans. The RCE will initiate escalation procedures when any contractor responsible NEPA commitment is not achieved per contract documents.

3) **USCG / SCDES Navigational Permit –** The RCE will initiate escalation procedures when any contractor responsible activity is not in compliance with permit conditions or requirements.

4) **USACE Permit –** Any impacts occurring outside of the permitted limits or any contractor responsible special condition of the permit is not met, the RCE will initiate escalation procedures.

5) **Critical Area Permit or Coastal Zone Consistency Certification** – The RCE will initiate escalation procedures when any contractor responsible activity is not in compliance with permit conditions or requirements.

If any of the above five (5) scenarios occur, the escalation process is to be initiated, in writing, in the following sequence:

1) **Scenario 1** will require the RCE to “restrict work” within the entire DA leading to, and within, the area(s) of deficiency until the problem is resolved.

2) **Scenarios 2-5** will be treated as a P1D.

3) The RCE will request, in writing, the contractor to provide a **Corrective Action Plan** once the priority timeline has expired or when it is known that the timeline cannot be achieved.

   Corrective Action Plan Criteria:

   a. Explanation of what occurred. Include rainfall amount & series of events.

   b. Contractor means and methods of correction – means and methods of sediment removal & BMP repair may be limited due to the sensitivity of the property/area.

   c. Clear understanding of the limits of removal.

   d. Manpower required and/or machinery requested.

   e. Timing (anticipated start and finish date). Significant offsite releases may require milestones to be achieved to ensure a GFE by the contractor.

   Corrective Action Plan Guidance:

   a. RCE will review the contractor’s Corrective Action Plan within 2-business days.

b. Repair of the non-compliant areas and development of the corrective action plan can occur concurrently as long as this is verbally communicated with the RCE. Some minor situations may be able to be resolved prior to a plan being developed.

c. RCE is to determine if the contractor shall be provided additional time to resolve non-compliant areas due to extreme weather or safety is a concern. These exceptions shall be recorded in the Daily Work Report and the weekly sediment and erosion control report.

d. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) - If a committed DBE is non-responsive or cannot supply adequate resources for Sediment & Erosion Control (S&EC) work, then the RCE can authorize the prime contractor to do what is necessary to get the project back into compliance. The RCE will need to contact the DBE/SBE Field Technical Assistance unit for support and concurrence prior to granting authorization.

e. The Corrective Action Plan can be submitted by written hard copy or email.

f. Alternate, more robust BMPs shall be considered in problematic areas to prevent recurrence. Reinstalling the same BMP is often not the solution.

g. Compliance with the Corrective Action Plan will be the RCE's guide to determining if the contractor is providing SCDOT a GFE.

4) During a DA restriction, the contractor must demonstrate a GFE to resolve the area of non-compliance. The RCE may decide to stop work should the contractor be out of compliance with the plans, permits, specifications, and/or a GFE is not being achieved.

5) After priority +7 days (**P1D**:2+7=9 total days lapsed or **P2D:**7+7=14 total days lapsed) of environmental non-compliance the RCE will notify the District Construction Engineer (DCE), Stormwater Manager (SWM), and Environmental Compliance Manager (ECM). The DCE will determine if the contractor is providing the SCDOT with a GFE.

   a. If a GFE is not achieved per the Corrective Action Plan, the DCE will expand the DA restriction to other project areas as deemed necessary or stop work.

   b. If a GFE is being executed, then continue with restricted DA until resolved. Only S&EC work or safety items may be completed within the restricted DA.

6) After priority +14 days of environmental non-compliance, the DCE will notify the DOC – Road/Bridge Engineer, and District Engineering Administrator (DEA). DOC-Road/Bridge Engineer and DEA, or designee, will collectively determine if the contractor is providing a GFE.

   a. If a GFE is not achieved per the Corrective Action Plan, the DEA, or designee, will expand the DA restriction to other project areas as deemed necessary, or stop work.

   b. If a GFE is being executed, then continue with restricted DA until resolved. Only S&EC work or safety items may be completed within the restricted DA.

7) After priority +21 days of environmental non-compliance, the DOC – Road/Bridge Engineer & DEA will notify the DOC & DOE. The DOC & DOE will determine if the contractor is providing the SCDOT with a GFE.

   a. If a GFE is not achieved per the Corrective Action Plan, the DOC and DOE will expand the DA restriction to other project areas as deemed necessary or stop work.

   b. If a GFE is being executed, the GFE will be monitored every day, and the project team may need to re-evaluate the Corrective Action Plan.

   c. DOE will evaluate the need to self-report to the appropriate regulatory agency.

8) After priority +28 days of environmental non-compliance, the DOC & DOE shall make recommendations and elevate the issue to Chiefs/Deputies, if necessary. DOE to update the regulatory agencies as necessary.

Additional Resources and Information:

- Follow the Environmental Resolution & Escalation Flow Chart [FIGURE 1]. The flow chart is designed to be a quick visual reference for the RCE to follow.
- SCDOT Environmental Compliance Office and Preconstruction Support Stormwater Manager can assist the RCE with determining the best approach for remediation.
- For projects managed by the Office of Alternative Delivery (OAD), references to DOC-Road/Bridge Engineer are replaced with OAD Construction Manager, and references to DOC are replaced with Director of Alternative Delivery.

[FIGURE 1]
Environmental Resolution & Escalation Flow Chart

START HERE

Weekly CEPSCI Inspection (Identify Priority 1 & 2 items)

2 or 7 Days

Priority Items Complete?

If 'No'

Inspector to Notify RCE:

- Non-compliant NPDES (Priority 1 or 2) items not Complete in 2 or 7 days, or
- Offsite release of sediment into uplands/wetlands, or
- Other non-compliance scenarios (2-5) that are included in the contract

- At a minimum the RCE will restrict work in non-compliant Drainage Areas (DA)
- If no work is planned in DA, then RCE will stop all work or restrict other work on project
- Contractor shall provide the RCE with a Corrective Action Plan.
- If sediment is in jurisdictional areas, shovel & bucket or reaching equipment from ROW is acceptable. Other methods, and required off ROW access, shall be discussed with RCE prior to execution.

If 'YES'

Resume Work Unrestricted

If 'Yes'

All Items Resolved?

+7 Days

If 'NO'

- RCE to Notify DCE, SWM, and ECM
- Is the contractor providing a Good Faith Effort (GFE)?
- Has contractor submitted an acceptable Corrective Action Plan?

If 'NO'

- RCE will expand the DA restriction to other project areas until Corrective Action Plan submitted and GFE resume.

If 'YES'

- Continue with the DA only restriction

If 'Yes'

All Items Resolved?

+7 Days

If 'NO'

- RCE to notify DOC Road/Bridge Engineer, and DEA
- Is contractor providing a GFE?

If 'NO'

- RCE will expand the DA restriction to other project areas until Corrective Action Plan and GFE resume.

+7 Days

- Notify DOC & DOE
- DA restriction(s) to continue while DOC & DOE to determine project shutdown (Stop all Work)
- DOE to determine if Self-Reporting to Reg. Agency is required

If 'YES' + 7 Days

All Items Resolved?

If 'NO'

If 'YES'

Resume Work Unrestricted

- Monitor GFE every day
- Revisit Corrective Action Plan as needed

+7 Days

All Items Resolved?

If 'YES'

If 'NO'

- DOC & DOE to elevate the issue to Chiefs/Deputies as necessary

Deficiency Not Corrected With-In	Notify:
Assigned Priority Time Frame	RCE
Assigned Priority Time Frame + 7 days	DCE, SWM, ECM
Assigned Priority Time Frame + 14 days	DOC-RD or BR Engineer, DEA,
Assigned Priority Time Frame + 21 days	DOC & DOE
Assigned Priority Time Frame + 28 days	CEADC, CEPD

NOTES:

1) RCE can choose to stop all work if deficiency is not completed within the assigned priority timeframe.
2) Alternative Delivery projects that escalate to SCDOT headquarters will be managed by the Office of Alternative Delivery. Bid/build projects will be escalated through the Director of Construction Office as outlined in this document.

Section 815
Erosion Control

815.1 DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Erosion is a natural process whereby soil materials are detached, transported and then deposited from one location to another by the action of water, wind, ice and gravity. Erosion can take the form of sheet erosion, rill erosion, gully erosion and channel erosion. The erosion potential of any area is determined by interrelated factors, including soil characteristics, vegetative cover, topography and climate. Highway construction projects disturb large areas of natural vegetation that can accelerate the rate of erosion and cause unwanted sediment to be deposited into adjacent waterways. As such, erosion and sediment control is required on all SCDOT construction projects. All projects with 1 acre or more disturbed area are governed under the provisions of the NPDES permit. The primary legal reference is the Erosion and Sediment Reduction Act of 1983 (SC Code Annotated, Section 48-18-10, et. seq.). In compliance with this Act, SCDOT requires that all land disturbing activities under the jurisdiction of SCDOT will be performed in such a manner that erosion is controlled and sediment is retained on-site to the maximum extent feasible, and stormwater is managed in such a manner that neither any significant on-site nor off-site damage or problem will be caused or increased.

Stormwater run-off, erosion and sediment will be controlled so that off-site run-off will pass directly across the construction site through appropriate drainage structures and on-site drainage will be retained on-site until it has been properly treated before it is released. If run-off will be released from any disturbed areas in a concentrated form, such as at the outlet from a median drain or ditch, the area downstream will be assessed during project development for environmental sensitivity. Environmentally sensitive areas are defined as regulated wetlands and areas where the deposition of sediment would deprive a property owner of the intended use of the land or cause significant financial loss to the property. If the downstream area is environmentally sensitive, the Contract will specify the need for mitigation. See Section 107.26 for additional information on environmental protection and water pollution control.

815.2 PRECONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

815.2.1 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (BMPs for Water Quality Control)

Omitted from the Construction Manual on 8/1/2026. See Section 815.3.1.

815.2.2 Notice of Intent (NOI)

Omitted from the Construction Manual on 8/1/2026. See Section 815.3.1.

815.2.3 Notice of Termination

Omitted from the Construction Manual on 8/1/2026. See Section 815.3.1.

815.2.4 NPDES Areas

815.2.4.1 Purpose and Location of NPDES Areas

NPDES areas on the Contract Plans are designated for the construction and maintenance of erosion and sediment control and stormwater run-off management features. NPDES areas can and frequently extend not only beyond the construction lines but also the project right-of-way lines. Where warranted, NPDES areas for temporary features may be located off project right-of-way on adjacent property, as permitted through a landowner agreement. NPDES areas for permanent features must be maintained after completion of the project and will be located on project right-of-way. Project right-of-way will also be used for both temporary and permanent sediment control basins.

815.2.4.2 NPDES Lines

The NPDES lines on the Contract Plans will designate the NPDES areas extending outside the construction lines (i.e., beyond the cut/fill slope line) on the Contract Plans. The Contract Plans will also include offset distances at each station from the construction centerline to the NPDES line, as measured at right angles from the centerline. NPDES lines will be designated on the Contract Plans as shown in Figure 815A.

– – – – – NPDES – – – – – NPDES – – – – – NPDES – – – – –

SYMBOL FOR NPDES LINES ON CONTRACT PLANS
Figure 815A

815.2.4.3 Treatment of NPDES Areas

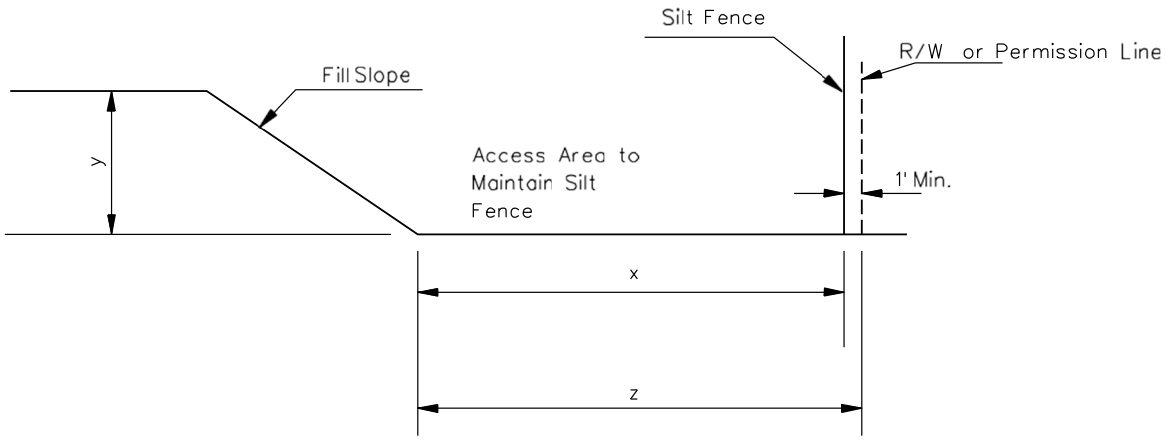
During construction, treatment of NPDES areas will be as follows:

1. Clearing and Grubbing. All NPDES areas require clearing and grubbing. See Section 201 for additional information on clearing and grubbing.

2. Seeding. All NPDES areas require seeding during construction. Use the normal seeding schedule for all permanent NPDES features. For seeding of NPDES areas on adjacent properties, use the temporary seeding schedule at the time of installation and the permanent seeding schedule during land reclamation. Measure and pay for this work based on the seeding schedules specified in the Contract. See Section 810 for additional information on seeding.

3. Reclamation. The quantity of soil for regrading NPDES areas to be reclaimed will be included in the total quantity for silt basins. The work for removing and disposing of appurtenances for temporary sediment control basins (e.g., rip rap, pipe, anti-seep collars, fence, gate) will be included in its respective pay item.

FILL HEIGHT (y – feet)	FILL SLOPE	MINIMUM OFFSET FROM TOE OF FILL SLOPE	
		Silt Fence (x – feet)	Right-of-Way (z – feet)
<6	2:1 4:1 6:1	2	3
6-10	2:1	12	13
	4:1 6:1	3	4
>10	2:1	12	13
	4:1 6:1	4	5



MINIMUM OFFSET OF SILT FENCE FROM TOE OF FILL SLOPE
Figure 815B

4. Silt Fence. Verify that all required silt fence is installed beyond the toe of fill slopes as shown in Figure 815B. The area between the NPDES line and the toe will be cleared and grubbed and seeded using the temporary seeding schedule. The area between the toe and the silt fence is needed to accommodate equipment necessary to remove sediment collected by the silt fence and basins. Where this area cannot be obtained, maintenance will be performed using some other practical means. Ensure that silt fence is cleaned or replaced as needed and silt basins are cleaned when they are half full.

815.2.5 Materials Considerations

815.2.5.1 Geotextile Fabric for Silt Fence and Filter Fabric

The geotextile fabric used for silt fence and filter fabric must be supplied from a source listed on SCDOT Qualified Products List 34. Obtain from the Contractor and submit to the Research and Materials Engineer for approval the manufacturer's certification for the geosynthetic material, which should include the manufacturer's name, fabric type or trade name, the project, the intended application on the project and the required test results (e.g., Minimum Average Roll Value). Verify that the material delivered to the project is labeled with the manufacturer's name, fabric type or trade name, Lot Number and the quantity of shipment. Retain these labels in the project file, referencing the information in SCDOT Form 100.10 – Materials Certification Log.

815.2.5.2 Corrugated Metal Pipe and Pipe Underdrain

The Research and Materials Laboratory does not inspect or pre-approve metal pipe culverts used for sediment dams and other types of facilities. The Resident Construction Engineer will require the Contractor to furnish Mill Test Reports, which will be forwarded to the Research and Materials Engineer for evaluation. It will not be necessary to submit samples for testing, unless the Resident Construction Engineer feels that a problem exists. See Section 802.2.1.2 for information on pipe underdrain materials used in erosion and sediment control facilities.

815.2.5.3 Seed, Fertilizer and Lime

See Section 810.2.3 for information on seed, fertilizer and lime materials used for temporary seeding.

815.2.5.4 Other Erosion and Sediment Control Materials

Many other types of materials may be specified in the Contract for use in erosion and sediment control facilities, including fiberglass and polymer roving, erosion control mats and blankets and floating turbidity barrier. Verify compliance of these materials and submit to the Research and Materials Engineer the manufacturer's certification for the materials.

815.3 INSPECTION DURING CONSTRUCTION

815.3.1 Responsibilities

The SCDOT construction plans, with the appropriate sediment and erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) included, are the official Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the project.

- **Preconstruction Meeting** – The Resident Construction Engineer (RCE) will hold a Preconstruction Meeting which the prime contractor must attend. During the Preconstruction Meeting, the SWPPP will be explained. Recommended that any Sediment and Erosion Control/Seeding Contractors, and the CEPSCI erosion control inspector attend.

- **Contractor Certification Form** - The prime contractor must sign a Contractor Certification Form, Form 800.06 prior to any work being performed on the project. It is preferred that it be signed at the Preconstruction Meeting.

- **NPDES Land Disturbance Permit** – If a project disturbs 1 acre or more anywhere in the State, an electronic Notice of Intent (NOI) will be submitted to the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) for coverage under the NPDES Transportation Construction General Permit SCR160000 (TCGP). For traditional bid/build projects, the electronic NOI will be submitted by the Project Manager (PM) in the Pre-Construction Office. For alternative delivery projects, the alternative delivery construction manager will coordinate with the contractor for NOI submittal. The certifier credentials in E-permitting will serve as the official signature upon submittal of the electronic NOI.

- **DES Coverage Letter** - DES issues a Coverage Letter once the electronic NOI has been reviewed. This approval letter will be sent to the SCDOT PM granting permit coverage. The PM will forward a copy of the electronic NOI and DES Coverage Letter to the RCE within ProjectWise.

- **Roles and Responsibilities –** The Project Inspector is responsible for conducting the day-to-day inspections requirements on the project. This includes monitoring the installation of sediment control and erosion control BMPs and performing the weekly inspection of erosion control measures to ensure compliance with the plans, specifications and permits. The Project Inspector will report all issues of non-compliance to the RCE who is responsible for all activities on the project and has day to day operational control. The RCE reports to the District Construction Engineer (DCE) depending on the county and Engineering District in which they are assigned. The DCE is responsible for ensuring that all of the RCEs in their District manage their projects effectively and comply with all rules and regulations. The RCE will keep the DCE informed of erosion control issues on projects. The DCE reports to the District Engineering Administrator (DEA) who manages all Construction, Maintenance and Traffic issues in their respective engineering district. The DCE will keep the DEA informed of any issues that are not being resolved in a timely manner. The Director of Construction (DOC) provides general oversight and support of the statewide construction program for all Districts. The RCE will inform the DCE, Stormwater Manager (SWM), and Environmental Compliance Manager (ECM) of all issues as they arise. The DOC, DEA, and Director of Environmental (DOE) will coordinate information with the Chief Engineer for Project Delivery

- (CEPD), and Chief Engineer for Alternative Delivery and Construction (CEADC), as necessary, depending on the issue.

- **Sediment and Erosion Control Site Inspection Report** – A Sediment and Erosion Control Site Inspection will be performed on all projects that have land disturbing activities, regardless of whether an NOI is required. These inspections will be recorded on the Sediment and Erosion Control Site Inspection Report, Form 800.02. These projects will be inspected a minimum of every 7 calendar days by a Certified Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Inspector (CEPSCI) or by a Registered South Carolina Professional Engineer (PE). One of these certified SCDOT representatives will perform the inspections and will sign the inspection report at the conclusion of the inspection. If a deficiency is found, the SCDOT representative will bring the deficiency, and the time frame of correction, to the contractor representative's attention at the conclusion of the inspection. The SCDOT representative will provide a copy of the inspection report to the contractor's representative in a timely manner. The inspection frequency may be increased if additional erosion control deficiencies develop within the normal 7 calendar day time frame.

NOTE: The contractor's representative is <u>not</u> required to attend the inspections, but will be encouraged to do so.

BMPs will be recorded on the inspection report as the devices are installed on the project. BMPs will be assigned an Item Number as they are recorded on the inspection report. The assigned Item Number will correspond to that particular BMP for the life of the project. When inspections are performed, each BMP will be inspected, and it will be noted if it is deficient or not deficient. All deficiencies will be assigned a Priority 1 or 2. A Priority 1 deficiency is defined as a situation where sediment has left the project, the perimeter BMP has failed and/or the perimeter BMP has reached its capacity. A Priority 2 deficiency is when a BMP is in need of maintenance or a BMP has failed, or may fail, but functioning downstream BMPs protect the site from offsite sediment releases. Priority 1 deficiencies will be corrected within 48 hours, and Priority 2 deficiencies will be corrected within 7 days. The correction of deficiencies must be done within the designated time frames unless deemed impossible by the RCE due to extra-ordinary/extreme weather and site conditions. If such extreme conditions are encountered the deficiencies will be corrected as soon possible. When deficiencies are corrected, the date the deficiency was corrected will be recorded on the inspection report in which the deficiency was noted.

- **All deficiencies must be corrected within the time frame of the assigned Priority. If any deficiency is not corrected within the assigned time frame, the RCE will follow the Environmental Escalation Policy which gives step-by-step procedures to achieve environmental compliance.**

- Contractor shall gain permissions to remove material if outside Right-of-Way. If property owner does not allow access, then written documentation shall be provided to RCE, and contractor shall execute SCDOT Form 200.04 (latest version).

- All blanks on the inspection report must be completed for each inspection.

- If a BMP is removed from the project, it may be deleted from the inspection report. If it is deleted, its Item Number will not be reused on that project

- Inspections will be performed until final stabilization has been achieved on all portions of the project. Final stabilization is reached when seventy percent (70%) coverage has been achieved. Seventy percent (70%) coverage is defined as having an established stand of permanent vegetation over seventy percent (70%) of every square foot of the project.

- The frequency of the inspections may be reduced to once every month if the project has been temporarily stabilized as defined in SCDOT Supplemental Technical Specification for Seeding SCM 810 Latest Edition.

- The inspection reports will be stored as a .pdf document on ProjectWise. A Master Report will be established that will be an up-to-date list of all BMP's installed on the project. Prior to an inspection being performed, the Master Report will be printed. This will be the hard copy on which all inspection information will be recorded. All required information on Page 1 will be updated, such as Date, Inspector, Total Rainfall Since Last Inspection, etc. The inspection will be performed and all required information on the remaining pages will be recorded, such as Deficiency, Priority, Corrective Action Needed, etc. Once the inspection report is complete, it will be scanned into Project Wise. The inspection report is defined as complete when one of the following occurs:

1. There are no deficiencies and the SCDOT representative signs the inspection report;
2. There are deficiencies, the Date Corrected is recorded for each deficiency and the SCDOT representative signs the inspection report.

The Master Report will be updated whenever additional BMPs is added to the project.

NOTE: Typically, resurfacing projects are not considered land disturbing projects because there are no land disturbing activities. The activities of placing borrow material to safe-up the shoulders and excavating shoulders/placing pavement to widening the shoulders are excluded from being considered to be land disturbing activities as long as 5.0 acres or less are only disturbed at any given time. See Section 1.4 of the TCGP

- **"Marked Up" Set of Construction Plans** – **On the TCGP, these plans are referred to as the On-Site SWPPP**. The RCE will take a set of plan sheets from the construction plans and mark the location of the erosion control BMP's installed by the contractor. A half size set of plans (small set of plans) may be used. Establish a legend on the first sheet of the plans to indicate how the BMP's will be denoted, such as colored highlighters, symbols, etc. Using the legend, record each BMP at its respective location on the plans along with its Item Number from Form 800.02. The BMPs will be recorded on these plan sheets as they are installed on the project.

- **Rain Log** – An on-site rain gauge will be maintained on the project. A Rain Log, Form 800.03, will be maintained to keep track of the daily rainfall amounts. Record the rain amount for every day. If no rain fell, record a zero. On days in which the contractor did not work and the inspector was not required to be present, record a N/A. For example, if the contractor did not work on Saturday and Sunday, record a N/A for Saturday and Sunday, but include the total for Saturday and Sunday with total amount recorded on Monday. Only one rain gauge is required per project, but the RCE may decide multiple

- rain gauges are needed based the size of the project, expectations of differing rainfall amounts in different areas of the project, etc. If multiple rain gauges are used, a Rain Log will be maintained for each gauge.

- **Grading and Stabilization Log** – A Grading and Stabilization Log, Form 800.05, will be maintained for the project. This form is used to document and track the status of land disturbance and stabilization on the project. The project will need to be broken into sections to correspond to the sections that the contractor is working on. A set of plan sheets will be used to identify the sections. The Grading and Stabilization Log will be attached to the corresponding plan sheet so that the details of the land disturbance and stabilization of that section can be recorded. Depending on the size of these sections, one Log sheet may cover one or multiple plan sheets.

Note: It is important to note that the Grading and Stabilization Log must clearly reflect the status of the project sections that have been disturbed and the status of stabilization measures.

- **Notice of Termination (NOT)** – A NOT, shall be submitted electronically through the SCDES E-permitting system. The NOT will be submitted once final stabilization has been achieved. The NOT will be submitted within 30 days of final stabilization. The NOT must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of the NPDES land disturbance permit (5 years from issuance date of permit). Sediment and Erosion Control Inspections will be performed until the NOT is submitted. The NOT will be submitted by the RCE, Assistant RCE, or the DCE.

- **Critical Area Permit Placard** – If the project requires a Critical Area Permit (CAP), the Bureau of Coastal Management (DES-BCM) will issue a CAP Placard. This Placard will be posted on the project in a visible location, such as the project bulletin board. This requirement only applies to the eight coastal counties in which impacts could occur to the Critical Area. The Critical Area is defined as areas that are salt water-tidal.

- **Document Management** - A copy of the SWPPP, Contractor Certification Form, NOI, DES Coverage Letter, Sediment and Erosion Control Inspection Reports and the "marked-up" set of plans will be kept on file in the RCE's Office for every project that requires a Land Disturbance Permit. One paper copy of the NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from SCDOT Construction Activities (SCR160000) must also be readily available in the RCE's office at all times. If the RCE has a physical office on the project, all of the above documents must be kept in that office.

815.3.2 Primary References

The following sections (i.e., both this *Manual* and the *Standard Specifications*) apply to the inspection of temporary and permanent erosion and sediment controls on the project:

- Section 107.26 – Environmental Protection and Water Pollution Control,
- Section 804 – Rip Rap and Slope Protection,
- Section 810 – Seeding,
- Section 811 – Planting Trees, Shrubs, Vines and Groundcover,
- Section 812 – Sprigging,

- Section 813 – Sodding, and
- Section 816 – Sediment Control Basins and Stormwater Detention Ponds.

815.3.3 Types of Erosion and Sediment Control Facilities

The following provides a brief description of the most common types of facilities that are installed for the purpose of erosion and sediment control:

1. Brush Barriers. Brush barriers are occasionally used during the clearing and grubbing operation, which makes good use of the spoils of the operation.

2. Permanent Erosion Control Mats. Permanent erosion control mats consist of non-biodegradable synthetic fibers. They provide permanent reinforcement of erodible soil areas and promote the root system of grasses and vegetation. Permanent erosion control mats are used primarily on steeper slopes and ditches and in areas where germination is slow.

3. Erosion Control Blankets. Erosion control blankets generally consist of biodegradable materials such as curled wood cellulose, straw, coconut fibers or a combination of these materials. They provide temporary reinforcement of erodible soil areas prior to the establishment of vegetation. They are commonly used on cut and fill slopes.

4. Sediment Tube. The purpose of a sediment tube is to provide a flexible, lightweight and porous sediment control device that conforms to the terrain and dissipates water velocity in concentrated flow areas. The sediment tube is typically installed immediately after ditch grading and construction of catch basin boxes.

5. Silt Fence. The use of geotextile fabric for silt fence, which is a temporary erosion and sediment control measure, is common on SCDOT projects. Where designated in the Contract Plans, or as otherwise directed by the Resident Construction Engineer, the geotextile fabric will be installed in accordance with the Contract Specifications. The function of the silt fence is to remove suspended particles from surface run-off as the water passes through the geotextile fabric. The area provided between the silt fence and the toe of the slope must be wide enough to accommodate the collection and removal of the trapped sediment. Periodic removal of the trapped sediment is required and must be closely monitored during construction. See Section 815.2.4.3 and Figure 815B for additional information.

6. Silt Basins / Silt Ditches. Silt basins and silt ditches are provided to trap and retain silt on the project for later removal. Ensure that basins are cleaned when they become half full.

7. Sediment Dams / Sediment Control Basins / Stormwater Detention Ponds. These facilities are provided on a temporary or permanent basis. The primary purpose of these facilities is to intercept, trap and retain on-site water until sediment has sufficient time to settle to the bottom of the facility. These facilities require monitoring and maintenance during and, in the case of permanent facilities, after construction. Sediment control basins and stormwater detention ponds will be constructed in accordance with the requirements of Section 816 of the *Standard Specifications*.

8. Temporary Seeding. Temporary seeding is provided to establish a root system to hold the soil in place and minimize erosion. See Section 810 for additional information on temporary seeding for erosion control.

9. Wood Chips. The creation and stockpiling of wood chips from material that has been cleared and grubbed on the project is sometimes included in the Special Provisions.
   The wood chips are used as an erosion control measure by spreading the material over disturbed areas.

10. Anionic Polyacrylamides (PAM). Anionic polyacrylamides are non-toxic chemicals used for controlling soil erosion and sedimentation on construction sites by acting as temporary soil binding agents. This temporary practice is intended for direct soil surface application in sites where the establishment of vegetation may not be feasible or where vegetative cover is absent or inadequate. Anionic PAM are available in emulsions, powders, gel bars or logs. The use of seed and mulch for additional erosion protection beyond the life of the anionic PAM is required.

11. Energy Dissipaters. Energy dissipaters may be used at culverts or bridges and in roadway / outfall ditches. They may be temporary or permanent and will require maintenance.

815.3.4 Temporary Facilities

Verify that the temporary facilities required by the Contract (e.g., berms, dikes, slope drains, terraces, earth rolls, sediment basins, seeding) are properly installed at the correct location and that they are operational as soon as practical. Ensure that these temporary facilities are maintained operational until the required permanent facilities are installed. Unless otherwise specified in the Contract, temporary facilities, excluding sediment control basins, fiberglass roving, silt fence, fabric for slope protection, terraces and temporary seeding, will not be measured and paid for separately, but will be included in other pay items.

815.3.5 Permanent Facilities

815.3.6

Verify that the permanent facilities required by the Contract (e.g., culvert pipes, terraces, gutters, asphalt curbs, permanent slope drains, rip rap, vegetation) are properly installed at the correct location and that they are installed as soon as practical without delay.

815.3.7 Additional Facilities (Unscheduled)

Watch for areas that may require installation of additional facilities, such as those with highly erodible soils. The Resident Construction Engineer may require that additional facilities be installed if the scheduled facilities are not sufficient to control erosion and sediment and manage stormwater run-off.

815.3.8 Weekly Inspections

Omitted from Construction Manual on 8/1/2026. See Section 815.3.1.

815.3.9 Borrow Pit Excavation

When material is excavated from pits, verify that temporary and permanent erosion, sediment and stormwater run-off control facilities are installed and maintained so that sediment run-off does not enter streams, wetlands or other bodies of water. This provision applies during excavation and when the land is reclaimed. See Section 106.11 for additional information.

815.3.10 Haul Roads

Where haul roads are constructed, ensure that they are located and treated to prevent sediment from entering streams or other adjacent bodies of water. If any sediment is observed, notify the Contractor immediately. See Section 104.6 for additional information on haul roads.

815.3.11 Cut and Fill Sections

Verify that cut and fill sections are graded to the typical section without delay and that the required erosion and sediment control measures are promptly installed.

815.3.12 Drainage Profiles

Check existing and proposed drainage profiles to ensure existing drainage has not

changed, proposed drainage will not flow onto adjacent property and natural drainage has not been altered to impact landowners or structures. Impacts can extend a considerable distance from the point of soil disturbance.

815.3.13 Clearing and Grubbing

Sediment basins should be used in areas of concentrated flow to capture and retain drainage before it exits the project right-of-way. To reduce the size of the basin, off-project water should not be allowed to enter the basin. Ensure that the Contractor clears areas and constructs sediment basins prior to initiating other work. Verify that silt fences are installed in areas of fill as the clearing progresses and that access is provided to maintain the fence. Ensure that a sufficient buffer is placed between the fence and the toe of the fill to retain the silt. Because silt will migrate along the fence to low areas and areas with a flat slope, ensure that silt basins are provided at these locations. Allow the Contractor to clear only a limited area. The provisions of the Contract (see Section 107.26) permit only 750,000 square feet (i.e., approximately 17 acres) to be disturbed at a time. Consider the location of the project, nature of the soil, topographic features and proximity to watercourses when imposing this restriction. Verify that steep slopes that will not be immediately graded are temporarily seeded. See Section 201 for additional information on clearing and grubbing.

815.3.14 Grading and Drainage

Ensure that the Contractor properly places and extends temporary slope drains as the construction of the embankment fill section progresses. Verify that filter structures are provided at basins located in ditches (i.e., Type 12 and 14 catch basins, drop inlets). Verify that the drainage features are efficient enough to keep the water from bypassing the basin causing erosion downstream or water to back up onto the roadway (e.g., inlet sediment filters, inlet filter pads, basin box acting as a standpipe). The Contractor should construct asphalt and concrete ditch paving as soon as practicable. Verify that permanent seeding is provided as the grading operation progresses, scheduling at regular intervals on large projects. Ensure that temporary seeding is used where needed.

815.3.15 Curb and Gutter / Valley Gutter Construction

The most effective way to mitigate sediment is by locating sediment basins at the storm drain outlets. Inlet filters should be used at the inlet of catch basins, but they must not cause water to back up into the traveled roadway. Verify that a 12-square inch opening is provided in the face of box masonry to allow the water to flow into the storm drain system as soon as practicable. Check that earth rolls are provided where necessary to direct water into the opening. Continually monitor the operation to ensure that the Contractor maintains other erosion and sediment control measures, as needed (e.g., sediment basins, silt fence, permanent and temporary seeding, filter structures). See

Section 720 and Section 721 for additional information on curb and gutter construction.

815.3.16 Subbase and Base Course Construction

Verify that the Contractor maintains the 12-square inch openings provided in the faces of box masonry in curb and gutter and valley gutter sections and that the water is properly diverted into the openings with sand bags, asphalt rolls, etc. Ensure that slope drains in shoulder-ditch sections are properly maintained. Continually monitor the operation to ensure the Contractor maintains other erosion and sediment control measures, as needed (e.g., sediment basins, silt fence, permanent and temporary seeding, filter structures). See Division 300 for additional information on subbase and base courses.

815.3.17 Surface Course Construction

Check to make sure the Contractor closes up the 12-square inch openings in the curb and gutter and valley gutter sections and removes the slope drains provided in the shoulder-ditch sections. See Division 400 and Division 500 for additional information on surface course construction.

815.4 POST-CONSTRUCTION CONSIDERATIONS

After the seeding has been established and all permanent control devices are in place, verify the proper removal of silt fence and the reclamation of sediment basins. After the project has been completed and accepted, SCDOT maintenance forces will maintain the NPDES areas with top priority to the continuance of proper erosion and sediment control and stormwater management measures to prevent on-site and off-site damage or contamination of water courses and impoundments. The As-Built Plans will note all permanent erosion control measures and a copy will be provided to the Resident Maintenance Engineer.

815.5 DOCUMENTATION AND PAYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

See Section 815 of the *Standard Specifications* for the method of measurement and basis of payment for erosion and sediment control. Document measurements in the Daily Work Report. Payment will be based on acceptance and the Contract unit price.