

How Do I Get Stormwater Permit Coverage for My Construction Site?

A Construction Site Operator's Guide to ADEQ's and Coconino County's Stormwater Permit Programs

Why do I have to get permit coverage?

ADEQ's Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) program regulates stormwater runoff from construction sites. On February 25, 2003, ADEQ's Construction General Permit (CGP) extended coverage to construction sites in Arizona that disturb 1 or more acres, including smaller sites that are part of a larger plan of development. For example, if you are building a house on a half-acre lot in a 10-acre development, you may need permit coverage. Construction site operators need to submit an application called a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be covered under ADEQ's CGP.

Why is stormwater runoff so bad?

Runoff from rainstorms and snowmelt picks up pollutants like sediment, oil and grease, nitrogen and phosphorus, and other chemicals and carries them into storm drains or directly into waterbodies. Because most storm drain systems do not provide any treatment to the water they collect, preventing contamination of stormwater is critically important or polluted runoff will be discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water.

Why is sediment harmful to a waterbody?

Too much sediment in a waterbody can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to receive the sunlight they need to grow. Excess sediment also smothers aquatic habitat, clogs fish gills, and impedes navigation in our waterways, which can lead to expensive dredging.

How to get a stormwater permit

The operator needs to develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and complete a Notice of Intent (NOI). Coconino County requires that the operator submit a copy of the SWPPP and the NOI to the County. The County stormwater mailing address is:

**Coconino County Public Works Department
Stormwater Compliance
2500 N. Fort Valley Road, Building No. 1
Flagstaff, AZ 86001**

If the construction activity will take place within a County designated SMS4, maps of the County SMS4s can be viewed at:

www.coconino.az.gov/stormwater.aspx?id=1114

The County must review and approve the SWPPP and conduct a pre-construction inspection/meeting. The purpose of the pre-construction inspection is to evaluate the installation of BMPs, to verify that there has been a contractor's representative assigned to site stormwater BMP inspections and maintenance, and to secure final agreement with the operator on the post-construction runoff control plan and any long-term maintenance agreements. ADEQ will review the NOI and issue the CGP coverage.

Who needs permit coverage?

If your construction project disturbs 1 or more acres of land through clearing, grading, excavating, or stockpiling of fill material, you may need permit coverage. This includes smaller sites that are part of a larger, common plan of development (e.g. a 1/4 acre project in a 4 acre development). Please carefully read ADEQ's CGP to determine if your project needs permit coverage at:

www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/constgp.pdf

I need permit coverage. Where do I start?

I. Read ADEQ's Construction General Permit (AZG2003-001)

You can download a copy of ADEQ's permit at the above website. Read ADEQ's permit carefully, and remember that operators are legally responsible for complying with all its provisions.

Who submits an NOI?

The "operator" submits a Notice of Intent (NOI) form. The operator is the entity (generally company, corporation, etc.) that has operational control over the construction plans or day-to-day activities that are necessary to implement the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) (see below). On some sites, several entities may meet the definition of operator and all must file NOIs. Operators may include owners, general contractors, and subcontractors.

It is the responsibility of the operator(s) to develop and implement a SWPPP and maintain all best management practices (BMPs) during each stage of the project. Best management practices are the techniques (buffers, silt fences, detention ponds, swales, etc.), schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, and maintenance procedures to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants.

Stormwater and the C

Please carefully read ADEQ's CGP to determine if your project needs permit coverage at: www.azdeq.gov/enviro/water/



Protect Natural Features



Bad



Good

- Minimize clearing.
- Minimize the amount of exposed soil.
- Identify and protect areas where existing vegetation, such as trees, will not be disturbed by construction activity.
- Protect streams, stream buffers, wild woodlands, wetlands, or other sensitive areas from any disturbance or construction activity by fencing or otherwise clearly marking these areas.

Construction



Bad

- Sequence construction activities to minimize soil exposed for long periods of time.
- Schedule or limit grading to short periods.
- Install key sediment control practices before construction begins.
- Schedule site stabilization activities to be completed immediately after grading to its final contour.

Silt Fencing



Bad



Good

- Inspect and maintain silt fences after each rainstorm.
- Make sure the bottom of the silt fence is buried in the ground.
- Securely attach the material to the stakes.
- Don't place silt fences in the middle of a waterway or use them as a check dam.
- Make sure stormwater is not flowing around the silt fence.

Maintain y

www.epa.gov/nps



Construction Entrances



Bad



Good

- Remove mud and dirt from the tires of construction vehicles before they enter a paved roadway.
- Properly size entrance BMPs for all anticipated vehicles.
- Make sure that the construction entrance does not become buried in soil.

Slopes



Bad



Good

- Rough grade or terrace slopes.
- Break up long slopes with sediment barriers, or under drain, or divert stormwater away from slopes.



COCONINO COUNTY
Public Works Department

Construction Industry

Phasing



Good

ies so that the soil is not
me.

small areas.

practices before site grading

ivities, such as landscaping,
after the land has been

Vegetative Buffers

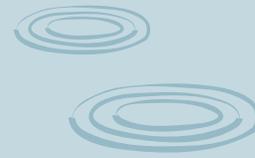


Bad



Good

- Protect and install vegetative buffers along waterbodies to slow and filter stormwater runoff.
- Maintain buffers by mowing or replanting periodically to ensure their effectiveness.



Your BMPs!

des/menuofbmps



Site Stabilization



Bad



Good

- Vegetate, mulch, or otherwise stabilize all exposed areas as soon as land alterations have been completed.

Storm Drain Inlet Protection



Bad



Good

- Use rock or other appropriate material to cover the storm drain inlet to filter out trash and debris.
- Make sure the rock size is appropriate (usually 1 to 2 inches in diameter).
- If you use inlet filters, maintain them regularly.

Dirt Stockpiles



Bad



Good

- Cover or seed all dirt stockpiles.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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tsmith@coconino.az.gov



TO LEARN MORE:

Information involving Coconino County's **Clean Stream Program** is provided in the public education and involvement link on the County's stormwater website at:

www.coconino.az.gov/SWMP

www.epa.gov/watershed
www.azdeq.gov/environ/water
www.ag.arizona.edu/watershedsteward

2. Develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

The SWPPP is a plan for how you will control stormwater runoff from your construction site. It is broader and more complicated than a typical erosion and sediment control plan (although the ESCP is an integral part of the SWPPP), so operators might want to enlist the assistance of a professional to save time. The SWPPP must be completed before you file an NOI to apply for coverage under ADEQ's permit. You don't have to submit the SWPPP to ADEQ with your NOI to obtain permit coverage, but the plan must be submitted to the County and must be available on-site for review during inspection.

Because every site is unique, every SWPPP is unique. The SWPPP needs to be updated as your work progresses. For more information on how to develop your SWPPP, please visit the following web sites:

www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/sw_swppp_guide.pdf

www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/download/cswppp.pdf

Basic SWPPP Principles

- Divert stormwater away from disturbed or exposed areas of the construction site.
- Install BMPs to control erosion and sediment and manage stormwater.
- Inspect the site regularly and properly maintain BMPs, especially after rainstorms.
- Revise the SWPPP as site conditions change during construction and improve the SWPPP if BMPs are not effectively controlling erosion and sediment.
- Minimize exposure of bare soils to precipitation to the extent practicable.
- Keep the construction site clean by putting trash in trash cans, keeping storage bins covered, and sweeping up excess sediment on roads and other impervious surfaces.

3. Endangered species determination for the project site

No condition of this CGP releases the operator from any responsibility or requirements under other environmental regulations. Information regarding the location of endangered and threatened species and guidance on what activities constitute a "take" are available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at:

www.fws.gov

4. File a Notice of Intent (NOI)

The Notice of Intent (NOI) form lets ADEQ know that you are filing for permit coverage. It is also your certification that you have read, understood, and implemented the requirements of ADEQ's CGP. You can submit your NOI either through the electronic Smart NOI system, or you can mail or fax your NOI to:

Stormwater Program-Water Permits Section/NOI
Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality
1110 West Washington, 5415B-3
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Fax (602) 771-4674

www.az.gov/webapp/noi/main.do

ADEQ's permit requires a 48-hour waiting period after an NOI has been received by ADEQ at their office.

Your completed NOI should be posted at the construction site in a place accessible to the public.

5. Implement all BMPs outlined in your SWPPP

Remember to follow your SWPPP. All BMPs must be inspected and maintained regularly. Inspections are required either (1) at least once every 7 days or (2) at least once every 14 days and within 24 hours of the end of a rain event of 1/2-inch or more. The plan must also be updated as site conditions and BMPs change. Remember to keep records of your maintenance activities and any SWPPP modifications for review during inspection.

6. File an electronic Notice of Termination (NOT)

You should terminate permit coverage when your project is completed (generally, when 70% of the density of the original vegetation is reestablished on unpaved areas), when the property has been stabilized and ownership has been transferred to the homeowner (residential projects only), or when another operator has assumed control over the site (new operators will need to file an NOI and meet the requirements of ADEQ's permit). The NOT form informs ADEQ that your construction project is complete and ends your responsibilities under the permit. The form can be completed and filed using the above referenced Smart NOI system web address, the ADEQ fax number or ADEQ's stormwater correspondence address. A copy of the NOT will need to be forwarded to Coconino County at their previously referenced stormwater address.