

THE ENVIRO-SOURCE

The Columbia County Source for News and Information on Development

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HELP KEEP OUR WATERS HEALTHY

The Enviro-Source newsletter is published to comply with the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit. It offers builders, developers, and contractors throughout the County some insight and guidance on water quality and associated regulations.

Since land disturbance for commercial and residential development has the potential to impact the water quality of our creeks and streams, we aim to promote education and compliance for sustainable growth. We hope you will take a



few minutes to read through this newsletter and also work with us to keep Columbia County waters clean.

Every action makes a difference! Our contact information is on page 4.

Enviro-Source's Mission:

Promote environmental education and compliance for sustainable growth.



Georgia EPD Online System

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) recently introduced an online portal for electronic permit applications, the Georgia EPD Online System (GEOS). In October 2017 Construction Stormwater Notice of Intent (NOI), Notice of Termination (NOT), and sampling report submittals began. Currently, the use of GEOS is encouraged but not required. EPD is planning to implement this system as a requirement when the new Construction Stormwater Permits cycle in July 2018. When you submit an NOI in GEOS you will be provided with a submittal receipt which will serve as proof of submittal for Columbia

County permit processing until your 14-day review period is up and/or your permit has been issued by EPD. Once issued, you will need to provide a copy of the permit, which will now have a permit ID added by EPD, to Columbia County for our land disturbance permit issuance. Pertinent links below:

<https://epd.georgia.gov/geos/documents/construction-stormwater-instructions>

<https://geos.epd.georgia.gov/GA/GEOS/Public/GovEnt/Shared/Pages/Main/Login.aspx>



Keep the fish abundant.
We're in!
Are you?

DID YOU KNOW...

Storm drains are **directly** connected to our water resources. These storm drains are designed to capture and manage runoff during rain events. Sweeping grass clippings, leaves, dirt, or other debris into the road and storm drain is not acceptable because:

- Debris can clog storm systems which may cause flooding.
- Pollutants in our waters degrade aquatic life and recreational resources.
- Only rain belongs in the storm drain. Any other items may be considered an illicit discharge.

Please Remember:

What each individual does adds up and makes an impact in our Community.

Only Rain Down The Drain!



THE ABCS OF PASSING A REQUIRED INSPECTION

Notice of Termination (NOT) requirements:

According to the 2016 Edition for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia (Green Book), final stabilization means all soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed, and, for unpaved areas not covered by permanent structures, 100% of the soil surface is uniformly covered in permanent vegetation with a density of at least 70%, or the site has been landscaped according to the approved landscape plan.



Tips and Tricks for compliance throughout construction:

- Always have your permit posted.
- For sites with an ES&PC Plan, site work should comply with the approved Plan.
- Silt fence must be properly trenched in and located per Plan (as applicable).
- For questions call our office, 706-855-7246, or your site E&S Inspector.

Common Q&A:

How soon can I get an inspection?

Inspection requests received by 4:30pm will be scheduled for the following business day unless you specify a later date.

NOT Inspections

How do I schedule an NOT inspection?

If the project had an NOI, provide the County with an EPD stamped NOT form or NOT form with certified mail receipt of your NOT submission to EPD. NOT inspections are scheduled through the Stormwater Utility main office, 706-855-7246.

My lot didn't require an NOI. Do I still need an NOT inspection?

Yes! Permit requirements and inspection requirements are two separate categories. Though the NOI permit was not required, E&S inspectors still need to visit the site to determine that stabilization best management practices have been followed (e.g., silt fence removal, permanent seeding and mulch, etc.).

How do I schedule an NOT re-inspection?

Call the Stormwater Utility main office, 706-855-7246.

Do pine straw or mulch beds count as permanent stabilization?

No. Pine straw and mulch are considered temporary stabilization and therefore require trees, shrubs, or perennial vines planted throughout. Please see the Green Book's Table 6-5.3 for ground cover recommendations. This table also includes guidance on plant spacing, coloration, and water and sunlight needs.



7-Day Inspection by Design Engineer, E&S Inspector, and Grading Contractor

For sites with an NPDES required ES&PC Plan, the permit states that the design professional who prepared the ES&PC Plan perform an inspection of the initial sediment storage requirements and perimeter control BMPs within 7 days after installation. We strongly recommend this inspection be coordinated with the E&S inspector and grading contractor. Failure to properly conduct this initial inspection requirement is a permit violation and could result in fee accrual.



STABILIZATION THROUGH VEGETATION

A GREEN Selling Point - Reducing erosion is cheaper than trying to control and capture sediment.

Throughout the life of a project, exposed areas may require stabilization. Vegetation is often used because it reduces erosion by absorbing the impact of raindrops and slows runoff.

Ds2 – Disturbed Area Stabilization: With Temporary Seeding Temporary stabilization is required for any exposed area expected to be left undisturbed for longer than 14 days. Fast-growing species of vegetation are used for seasonal protection.



Ds3 – Disturbed Area Stabilization: With Permanent Vegetation Permanent stabilization is required in order to achieve final site stabilization but, also, any time an exposed area is expected to be left undisturbed for longer than 6 months.

When making your plant selection it is important to consider the location, soil conditions, planned land use, season, coverage provided, and compatibility of other vegetation used or already present. Follow the vegetation instructions provided in your ES&PC Plans or, if not provided, consult the “Green Book.”



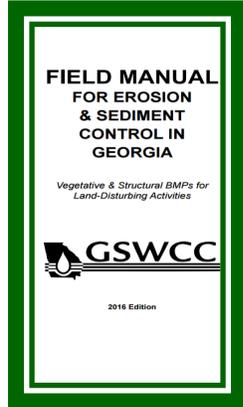
CONCRETE WASHOUT



Concrete washouts are used to collect and retain all the concrete washout water and solids in a leak proof container so these caustic materials do

not reach water resources. Washout water contains toxic metals and has a pH of 12 (to put this in perspective, bleach has a pH of 13). For freshwater aquatic habitats the safe pH range is 6.5-9. When a concrete washout is needed it should be placed away from sensitive resources, in a convenient location for concrete

trucks, have adequate signs, and be accompanied with a gravel/rock approach. Once installed, washouts should be inspected daily and after heavy rains. Damages to the container should be repaired promptly. *Tip:* prior to heavy rains cover the washout to prevent overflowing.



How do I find the Green Book online?

Follow these steps:

Go to <https://gaswcc.georgia.gov/>

Then drill down...



Click on Urban Lands— Erosion and Sediment Control



Technical Guidance



Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia 2016 Edition

MEET OUR EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL TEAM

County E&S Inspectors spend each day inspecting subdivision, commercial, and individual lot construction sites for compliance with applicable Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control Plans, State Water Plans, and the Green Book. These inspectors work diligently to prevent impacts to our natural resources and keep roadways safe and clear of construction-related debris. While their message may seem inconvenient at times please understand that they serve to keep the waters of our community clean and healthy.



Top row from left—Dennis Anderson, Steve Abbott, Rachael King, and Jason Alicea. Bottom row from left— Scott Gordon, Clayton Whittle, Mike Anderson, Katie Beth Jennings, Tracey Shoemaker, and Wheeler Cowart.

**Columbia County
Stormwater and
Environmental Services
Department**

Mailing address:
PO Box 498
Evans, GA 30809

Phone 706.855.7246
Fax 706.868.4226
You can email us at:
kjennings@columbiacountyga.gov



We're on the Web!
www.columbiacountyga.gov
Environmental Services

Enviro-Source Staff

- Katie Beth Jennings.....Environmental Services Manager
- Rachael King.....Environmental Permit Coordinator
- Mike AndersonEnvironmental Compliance Supervisor
- Randy Fisher.....ES&PC Plan Reviewer
- George Eastman.....SW Plan Reviewer
- Connie Smith.....Floodplain Manager
- Mike Zahner.....SW Operations Manager
- Jac Palmer.....Infrastructure Inspection Supervisor
- Margaret Alligood.....SW Public Education Coordinator



Only Rain Down The Drain!

GSWCC Level 1-A Certification

The EPD Notice of Intent requires site inspections (see Construction Stormwater NPDES Permit) be completed by certified personnel. The Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission (GSWCC) offers a Fundamentals 1A seminar for builders, developers, site superintendents, contractors, grading and utility contractors, and monitoring consultants on the proper installation, maintenance, and inspection of BMPs on construction sites.

An individual seeking certification must attend a training class and pass an examination. Several organizations throughout the state teach classes and administer certification exams. For more information, visit the GSWCC website at <http://gaswcc.georgia.gov>

LAND DISTURBANCE PERMIT APPLICATION – HELPFUL TIPS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| PROJECT | Project Description: <u>Pool</u> Lot: <u>33</u> |
| | Project Address: <u>288 Yuma Trail</u> Parcel ID: <u>077G933</u> |
| | Land Disturbance Permit Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Clearing & Grading <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Major <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt |
| | Project Details: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part of Common Dev <input type="checkbox"/> Stand Alone Res <input type="checkbox"/> Stand Alone Com |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Common Dev <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| | Total & Disturbed Project Acres: <u>0.3/0.12</u> Proposed Date of Construction: <u>1 Jan 2018</u> |

- Use “Maps Online” on the Columbia County site to verify **Address, Lot, and Parcel** info.
- The **Land Disturbance Permit Type** is based on disturbed acreage.
- Consult the “LDP Table” provided on the Columbia County [“Land Disturbance Permit”](#) page to determine permit type, project details, and required documentation.

| | |
|---|---|
| OWNER & APPLICANT & ENGINEER | Property Owner of Record: <u>Troy King</u> Phone #: _____ |
| | Mailing Address: <u>- same -</u> City/State: <u>Martinez, GA</u> |
| | Contractor: <u>Company must be licensed to work in Columbia County</u> Phone #: _____ |
| | Mailing Address: <u>Use address on record with Licensing & Permitting</u> City/State: _____ |
| | Email: <u>This is our main means of communication during permit review</u> |
| | 24-Hr Contact Name: <u>Identify GSWCC 1A Cert. Holder Here</u> 24-Hr Contact #: _____ |
| | 24-Hr Email: <u>This info will be identified on the site's permit placard.</u> |
| | Engineering Firm: _____ Phone #: _____ |

- Contractors need to be licensed to work within Columbia County.
- Contact info should match the info on file with the Licensing & Permits office. If known, include the Contractor ID (CID). Call Licensing & Permits at (706) 868-3420.
- The 24-Hour Contact should be the site's GSWCC 1A Certified person. Include Cert # if known.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| ENVIRONMENTAL | Notice of Intent (NOI): <input type="checkbox"/> Primary <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| | Date NOI submitted to Georgia Environmental Protection Division*: <u>N/A</u> |
| | *Must show proof of submittal date either by certified mail receipt or an EPD-received stamp on the front page of the NOI |
| | NOI fee: acres disturbed (round off to the nearest tenth) x \$45/acre = \$ <u>N/A</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Check attached |
| | Limits of Disturbance within 200-ft of State Waters: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Flood Plain: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| | <i>For residential projects, if you are building a livable structure and have flood plain on the property an elevation certificate is required. Elevation Certificate Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</i> |

Reminder: If building a livable structure on a property with flood plain, two elevation certificates will be required. The first is required prior to rough-in inspection and the second prior to final inspection.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| REQUIRED DOCUMENTS | Plan type: <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grading Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Plot Plan |
| | Attachments included (per the permit table found in Chapter 34-70 of the Ordinance) – <i>check ALL that apply:</i> |
| | GSWCC Erosion, Sedimentation & Pollution Control Plan Checklist for: |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Stand Alone Construction Projects <input type="checkbox"/> Common Development Construction Projects |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grading Checklist |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater Checklist |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> NOI |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proof of GSWCC Certification (required by ALL) |

As stated on the form, proof of GSWCC Certification is required by all. If not already identified as the “24-Hr Contact,” please include a scanned copy of the GSWCC Certification card.