

# 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.



### What is an illicit discharge? - By Mike Anderson

An illicit discharge is any discharge into a storm system that is not composed entirely of storm water. These discharges are a problem because, unlike wastewater that flows to a wastewater treatment plant, storm water flows directly to waterways without treatment, polluting creeks, streams, and rivers. Some common types of illicit discharges are paints, pesticides, automotive fluids, yard waste and concrete washout waters.

#### Prevent illicit discharges:

- Never wash out paint brushes or paint rollers in the street or yard.
- Never let oils, greases or antifreeze from engines get onto the street.
- Always collect construction wastes in proper containers and dispose of them properly.
- Contain concrete washout activities on site.



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

### 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 a copy of the NOT form submitted online in EPD's system, GEOS. Not sure what GEOS is? See the article on page 4. 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.



#### **Notice of Termination (NOT) Requirements — By Wheeler Cowart**

According to the 2016 Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia (Green Book), final stabilization means all soil disturbing activities 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.

In addition to stabilization, drainage is a major component of a final inspection. Projects must be developed with positive drainage so as to allow water to exit without causing impact to adjacent properties

or waterways. Examples of methods to accomplish proper drainage are berms, swales, yard drains, as well as various filters for water quality. Many projects have drainage plans submitted to Columbia County as part of the permit package, however, any questions may be directed to the Stormwater office at 706-855-7246.

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

Sites with NPDES ES&PC Plans are required to have the plan preparer, the "design professional," 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 the 7-day initial inspection is a permit violation and could result in fee accrual.



# BMP MAINTENANCE

— By Clayton Whittle

There are many ways to keep BMP's maintained during construction, but here are some simple and easy ways to keep up with them. Proper BMP maintenance first starts at the initial installation, which should be completed by a certified blue card holder and per approved plans. Once the BMP is installed, daily and weekly inspections should be performed. Fix any issues that may be found during inspections. This will give you the ability to prevent violations from impacting your work throughout the life of the project.

# INSPECTIONS VIA DRONE

- By Scott Gordon

Recently, Columbia County Environmental Services launched a new initiative to use drones for environmental inspections. Aerial drones are emerging as an effective tool for environmental monitoring and enforcement because of their ability to reach areas that would be otherwise inaccessible or cost-prohibitive. These inspections can be conducted in a fraction of the time and recorded in both video and high resolution photography for documentation. Staff performing these inspections have been certified with the FAA and received their Remote Pilot Airman Certificate.

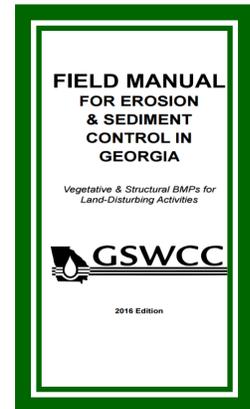


## THE EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL TEAM

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. They 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 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.



*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***

Columbia County  
Stormwater and  
Environmental Services  
Department

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PO Box 498  
Evans, GA 30809

Phone 706.855.7246  
Fax 706.868.4226  
You can email us at:  
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We're on the Web!  
www.columbiacountyga.gov  
Environmental Management

Enviro-Source Staff

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



*Only Rain Down The Drain!*

## The LDP and Plan Review Process, By Rachael King

<h3>Submittal</h3>	<p>Submit LDP applications and plans electronically to the “LDP Inbox” email address: <a href="mailto:LDP@columbiacountyga.gov">LDP@columbiacountyga.gov</a> When submitting, don't forget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>LDP Application</b> – Required for all land disturbance permits, the completed LDP application needs to be signed by the person responsible for all project-related E&amp;S controls and concerns.</li> <li><b>Plan &amp; Plan Checklist</b> – Make sure you have submitted the right type of plan and checklist based on the project's size and proximity to state waters.</li> <li><b>NOI</b> – If required, NOIs must be submitted to Georgia EPD using GEOS. The NOI and proof of EPD submittal must be provided to Columbia County as part of the LDP application process.</li> <li><b>GSWCC 1A Cert</b> – Note the name of the GSWCC certified person, the cert ID #, and cert expiration date on the LDP application or, if preferred, provide a copy of the certification card.</li> </ul>
<h3>Plan Review</h3>	<p>Following receipt of all required paperwork, the plan review process begins. Once those required have reviewed the plans, any comments made, are sent to the Engineering Firm with the projects point of contact(s) copied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>ES&amp;PC Plan Review</b> – Ensures the plan meets GSWCC requirements.</li> <li><b>Environmental Plan Review</b>– Ensures proper drainage and addresses any other engineering concerns.</li> <li><b>Floodplain Plan Review</b> – Ensures compliance with FEMA requirements.</li> </ul>
<h3>Approval &amp; Issuance</h3>	<p><b>PLAN APPROVAL:</b> The above Submittal/Plan Review process continues to cycle back and forth until all requirements are met and reviewer comments are addressed. Once approved, the engineering firm, contractor, and any other project point of contacts will receive email notification.</p> <p><b>PERMIT ISSUANCE:</b> Often, after the plan is approved, permit fees still need to be paid and EPD approval dates for NOIs need to be met. Once paid and met, permits can be issued and the approved LDP application and LDP placard can be picked up from the Stormwater Office.</p>
<h3>Questions?</h3>	<p>If you have questions regarding the status of a LDP application and/or plan review, you can send an email to the “LDP Inbox” or call the Environmental Permit Coordinator, Rachael King, at (706) 650-4990.</p>

## Georgia EPD Online System (GEOS)

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has fully implemented their online portal for electronic permit applications, the Georgia EPD Online System (GEOS). This system was implemented as a requirement for the new Construction Stormwater Permits 2018 cycle. When you submit an NOI in GEOS you will receive 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 to Colum-

bia County, which will now have a permit ID added by EPD, for the County 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>