



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Land Resources

Land Quality Section

James D. Simons, P.G., P.E.  
Director and State Geologist

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Dee Freeman, Secretary

### Announcement of Self-Inspection Program

The Sedimentation Pollution Control Act was amended in 2006 to require that persons responsible for land-disturbing activities inspect a project after each phase of the project to make sure that the approved erosion and sedimentation control plan is being followed.

Rules detailing the documentation of these inspections take effect October 1, 2010.

The self-inspection program is separate from the weekly self-monitoring program of the NPDES Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities. The focus of the self-inspection report is the installation and maintenance of erosion and sedimentation control measures according to the approved plan. The inspections should be conducted after each phase of the project, and continued until permanent ground cover is established.

Excerpts from the North Carolina General Statutes and the North Carolina Administrative Code concerning self-inspections are enclosed. To better explain the requirements, a list of Frequently Asked Questions is also enclosed, along with a Self-Inspection Report form. The Self-Inspection Report form will also be available as an Excel spreadsheet from the Land Quality web site,

[http://www.dlr.enr.state.nc.us/pages/sedimentation\\_new.html](http://www.dlr.enr.state.nc.us/pages/sedimentation_new.html)

Please take a moment to review the enclosed material. If you have questions, please contact the Land Quality Section at a DENR Regional Office.

## **New Self-Inspection Program for Erosion and Sedimentation Control**

**Effective October 1, 2010, persons conducting land-disturbing activities larger than one acre must inspect their project after each phase of the project, and document the inspection in writing.**

**Does this only apply to projects approved after October 1, 2010?**

No, it applies to both old and new projects.

**Who can conduct the inspection?** The financially responsible party, landowner or their agent may conduct the inspection.

**Is a special certification required to do the inspection?** No

**What is the goal of the self-inspection program?** To make sure that the approved erosion and sedimentation control plan is being followed, including the installation and maintenance of measures, and the provision of ground cover in a timely manner.

**What has to be inspected?** All of the erosion and sedimentation control measures, including sedimentation control basins, sedimentation traps, sedimentation ponds, rock dams, temporary diversions, temporary slope drains, rock check dams, sediment fence or barriers, all forms of inlet protection, storm drainage facilities, energy dissipaters, and stabilization methods of open channels must be inspected.

**What else has to be checked?** The need for ground cover should be checked. Temporary or permanent ground cover must be provided on exposed graded slopes and fills within 21 calendar days of the completion of a phase of grading. Permanent ground cover must be provided within 15 working days or 90 calendar days (60 days in HQW zones), whichever term is shorter, upon the completion of construction or development.

**Do newly installed sedimentation control basins have to be measured?** Yes, the actual dimensions of the basins have to be checked, usually with a tape measure, and compared to the dimensions on the approved plan.

**Do newly installed sedimentation control basins have to be measured by a Professional Land Surveyor?** No. Generally the width and length of basins can be measured with a tape measure. A level and survey rod may be useful in checking the depth of a basin. Only relative elevations, comparing the bottom and top elevations are necessary.

**What is a significant deviation from the approved plan?** A significant deviation means an omission, alteration or relocation of an erosion or sedimentation control measure that prevents the measure from performing as intended. If the approved erosion and sedimentation control plan cannot be followed, a revised plan should be submitted for review.

**Does it require a special form?** A "Self-Inspection Report for Land Disturbing Activity as Required by NCGS 113A-54.1" is available for use. It can be completed by hand or completed as an Excel spreadsheet. An alternative is to make notations on the copy of the approved erosion and sedimentation control plan that is kept on the project site. Rule 15A NCAC 04B. 0131 states that "... documentation shall be accomplished by initialing and dating each measure or practice shown on a copy of the approved erosion and sedimentation control plan or by completing, dating and signing an inspection report that lists each measure, practice or device shown on the approved erosion and sedimentation control plan."

**Can I just use the NPDES Self-Monitoring Report?** The NPDES Self-Monitoring Report may only be used to report that the maintenance and repair requirements for all temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation control measures, practices and devices have been performed.

**When do the inspections have to be done?** Unlike the NPDES Self-Monitoring Report, the Self-Inspection Report for Land-Disturbing Activity does not have to be weekly. Rather, this report is completed after each phase of the approved erosion and sedimentation control plan is complete. Not every project will have all the possible phases, but the list of phases includes the following:

- Installation of perimeter erosion and sediment control measures;
- Clearing and grubbing of existing ground cover;
- Completion of any phase of grading of slopes or fills;
- Installation of storm drainage facilities;
- Completion of construction or development;
- Establishment of permanent ground cover sufficient to restrain erosion.

**Where do I mail the report?** Do not mail the report. The records must be made available to the erosion control inspector at the site. Any documentation of inspections that occur on a copy of the approved erosion and sedimentation control plan shall occur on a single copy of the plan and that plan shall be made available on the site. Any inspection reports shall also be made available on the site.





