

# SWPPP tips for Oil and Gas in North Dakota

# ND Construction General Permit

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“4. For oil and gas exploration, production, processing, and treatment operations or transmission facilities, coverage under this permit is not required for small construction activity. For oil and gas related large construction activity, permit applications may be submitted for individual project sites or for an area of operations such as well field area.”

# Writing a SWPPP

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- Your written “PLAN” is simply your response to the State’s Permit
  - Consider a format and numbering system that mirrors NDR10-0000 for ease of reference

# Provisions in the ND General Construction Permit

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- Identify
- Inspect
- Protect
- Re-vegetate
- Remove

# Identify

- 1. This permit applies to all areas within the jurisdiction of the state of North Dakota.
- 2. This permit applies to stormwater discharges associated with construction activity and small construction activity as defined in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 122.26(b)(14)(x) and (b)(15), respectively. The reference to construction activity in this permit includes both large construction activity and small construction activity as described below.
  - a. Large construction activity includes clearing, grading and excavation, that disturbs land of equal to or greater than five (5) acres and includes the disturbance of less than five (5) acres of total land area that is a part of a larger common plan of development or sale if the larger common plan will ultimately disturb five (5) acres or more.
  - b. Small construction activity includes clearing, grading and excavation, that disturbs land of equal to or greater than one (1) acre, and includes the disturbance of less than one (1) acre of total land area that is part of a larger common plan of development or sale if the larger common plan will ultimately disturb equal to or greater than one and less than five (5) acres.

# Inspect

- **A. Inspection and Maintenance Requirements**
- 1. Inspections shall be performed by or under the direction of the permittee at least once every 14 calendar days and within 24 hours after any storm event of greater than 0.50 inches of rain per 24 hour period during active construction. The permittee shall use a rain gauge near the site or utilize the nearest National Weather Service precipitation gauge station. Any gauge used shall be located within 5 miles of the stormwater discharge.
- 2. All inspections and maintenance conducted during construction must be recorded in writing and these records must be retained in accordance with Part III.B. Records of each inspection and maintenance activity shall include:
  - a. Date and time of inspections;
  - b. Name of person(s) conducting inspections;
  - c. Findings of inspections, including recommendations for corrective actions;
  - d. Corrective actions taken (including dates, times, and party completing maintenance activities);
  - e. Date and amount of all rainfall events greater than 1/2 inch (0.50 inches) in 24 hours; and
  - f. Documentation that the SWPP plan has been amended when substantial changes are made to the erosion and sediment controls or other BMPs in response to inspections.
- 3. Completed areas that have been stabilized but do not meet the 70% perennial vegetative cover criteria for final stabilization may be inspected once per month. Inspections may be suspended for parts of the construction site that meet final stabilization. Inspections also may be suspended where earthwork has been suspended due to frozen ground conditions. The required inspections and maintenance must resume as soon as runoff occurs or the ground begins to thaw at the site.

- ② **2. Operational Controls.**
- ② **The plan shall describe the Best Management Practices (BMPs) used in day to day operations on the project site that reduce the contribution of pollutants in stormwater runoff.**

# Re-Vegetate

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- 1. All soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed and all soils must be stabilized by a uniform perennial vegetative cover with a density of 70 percent over the entire pervious surface area, or other equivalent means necessary to prevent soil failure under erosive conditions and;
- a. All drainage ditches, constructed to drain water from the site after construction is complete, must be stabilized to preclude erosion;

# Remove

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- b. All temporary synthetic, and structural erosion prevention and sediment control BMPs (such as silt fence) must be removed as part of the site final stabilization; and
- c. The permittee(s) must clean out all sediment from conveyances and from temporary sedimentation basins that will be used as permanent water quality management basins. Sediment must be stabilized to prevent it from being washed back into the basin, conveyances or drainage ways discharging off-site; or to surface waters. The cleanout of permanent basins must be sufficient to return the basin to design capacity.

# Plan ahead!

- Know what you are dealing with before any dirt is moved. Always!
  - Learn how to identify vegetation, soils and slope



# Succession equals success

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- Find grasses that are similar to the pre-existing vegetation
- Most State SWPP Permits call for 70% of pre-existing vegetation before sites can be removed from the Plan
- Make them work FOR you, instead of against

# Consider it done

- ◎ Take plenty of pictures of the pre-construction site
  - Document existing grass species and revegetate with a similar mix
- ◎ Disturb as little ground as possible during construction
  - Wheel tracks can create additional disturbance



# Handle with Care!

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- Treat topsoil as if it were gold!
  - Strip carefully and monitor by layer
  - Stock in designated piles
  - Keep it separate from backfill dirt
- Make a mental note of the topsoil health
  - Are there lots of roots and organic material?

Don't forget your construction BMPs!

# Deconstruct, Construct, Reconstruct

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- When possible, use 3:1 or greater slopes
- Put the topsoil back with care, too
- Make seeding a part of construction
  - Make use of low-cost BMPs like straw mulch







**Note: Game trail. Location didn't segment wildlife travel**

# Be a Good Neighbor

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- ◉ Work takes place in peoples' back yards-  
be empathetic



Questions??