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Stormwater Management

Effective July 1, 2014, Grayson County became responsible for implementing the local Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) due to the most recent changes to the Virginia Stormwater Management Act occurring in 2012 through the passage of House Bill 1065, also called the Integration Bill. Grayson County will hold the primary role in reviewing and approving applications for coverage under the Construction General Permit in addition to, holding a role in inspections for best management practices and enforcement. Final permit coverage will still be issued by the Department of Environmental Quality.

The most significant change in the Virginia Stormwater Management Act also brings about a new shift to the runoff reduction method, where designers will focus on reducing the post development stormwater runoff volume from a site, as well as meeting more stringent nutrient load reduction requirements to improve water quality.

Who Must Apply for Construction General Permit Coverage?

- Operators of construction activities resulting in land disturbance equal to or greater than one acre.
- Operators of construction activities resulting in land disturbance less than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale that ultimately disturbs one or more acres. A larger common plan of development or sale is a contiguous area where separate and distinct construction activities may be taking place at different times on different schedules. General permit coverage is required if one or more acres of land will be disturbed, regardless of the size of the individually owned or developed sites. For example, if a developer buys a 20-acre lot and builds roads with the intention of building homes or other structures in the future, or if the land is parceled off or sold, and construction occurs on plots that are less than an acre by separate independent builders, these activities would still be subject to stormwater permitting requirements. A larger common plan of development or sale applies to various types of land development including but not limited to residential, commercial or industrial use.

Single-Family Detached Residential Structures

- Single-family detached residential structures that disturb less than one acre of land and that are not part of a larger common plan of development or sale (e.g., subdivision), including additions or modifications to existing single-family detached residential structures, do not require coverage under the general permit, but will be required to submit an Agreement in Lieu of a Stormwater Management Plan before grading operations begin. You may obtain an Agreement in Lieu of a Stormwater Management Plan in the Building Department or download in at the link above.
- Single-family detached residential structures that disturb less than one acre of land and that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale (e.g., subdivision) require coverage under general permit. In addition, single-family detached residential structures that disturb equal to or greater than one acre of land require coverage under the general permit. Operators of these land-disturbing

activities are authorized to discharge under the general permit and are not required to submit a registration statement or the Department of Environmental Quality portion of the permit fee. Operators must also comply with the terms and conditions of the general permit including the preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

What is a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)?

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan or better known as SWPPP pronounced "SWIP" is a site specific plan identifying potential sources of stormwater pollution at the construction site. The plan will describe the Best Management Practices (BMP's) to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges from the construction site. The reduction of the pollutants is often achieved by controlling the volume of stormwater runoff (e.g., taking steps to allow stormwater to infiltrate into the soil). It also identifies procedures the operator will implement to comply with the terms and conditions of a construction general permit, as well as complying with the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Requirements for Obtaining a Stormwater General Construction Permit

Unless specifically exempted under Section 1-3 of the Grayson County Stormwater Management Ordinance or not otherwise required pursuant to Section 1-4(h), permits shall not be issued until the following items have been submitted to and approved by the Administrator:

1. Permit application that includes a General Permit Registration Statement Form GCSW-001.
2. Approved Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.
3. A Stormwater Management Plan that meets the requirements of Section 1-6 of the Ordinance, where the activity results from the construction for a single family residence, an agreement in lieu of a plan may be substituted for a stormwater management plan if executed by the plan-approving authority.
4. Required fees/bonds.
5. In addition, no VSMP Permit shall be issued until a permit application and attendant materials and supporting documentation demonstrate all land clearing, construction, disturbance, land development and drainage will be done according to the approved stormwater management plan.
6. Properties requiring a VSMP permit must be issued by the Administrator prior to the issue of grading, building, or other local permits.
7. Construction record drawings for permanent stormwater management facilities must be submitted to the Administrator upon completion of construction. Record drawings shall be appropriately sealed and signed by professional registered by the Commonwealth of Virginia, certifying stormwater management facilities have been constructed according to approved plans. Construction record drawings may not be required for stormwater management facilities that meet the requirements of Section 1-10(b) of the Grayson County Stormwater Management Ordinance at the discretion of the Administrator.

Stormwater General Permit Fees & Forms

General Permit Registration Statement (Form GCSW-001) required when applying for coverage under the general permit.

Permit Fee Form & Fee Schedule (Form GCSW-002) application for a Construction Activity Individual Permit. Fees are based on new construction, modification or transfer for general permit coverage and maintenance of annual permit coverage.

Agreement in Lieu of a Single-Family Residence (Form GCSW-003) an affidavit signed by the operator of the construction activity in place of a Stormwater Management Plan, for the construction of a single-family detached residential structure.

Transfer of Ownership Agreement (Form GCSW-004) must be submitted when the parties agree to transfer ownership of the General Permit Coverage for discharges of stormwater from the construction activities.

Notice of Termination (Form GCSW-005) must be submitted when an operator no longer wishes to be covered under the Construction General Permit for discharges of stormwater from the construction site.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) required to be submitted prior to submitting the registration statement for permit coverage to the VSMP authority. The SWPPP is to be retained at the construction site along with a copy of the general permit and general permit coverage letter. The operator has the lead in developing, implementing and maintaining the SWPPP and committing the resources necessary to prevent pollution. Random site inspections for compliance with the general permit, including SWPPP review, may be conducted by VSMP Authority.

****Permit applications are available on the Building Department webpage located under Stormwater Permit Applications***

Useful Links

*Hydrologic unit codes (HUC), receiving water, and latitude and longitude of your construction activity can be found at the link below:

http://www.deq.virginia.gov/mapper_ext/default.aspx?service=public/wimby

*Instructions for using DEQ's GIS Mapping Application to obtain the HUC, receiving waters, latitude and longitude can be found at the link below:

http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/Publications/CGP-GIS_HUC_Instructions.pdf