

# Small Scale Land Disturbance



Issue Date: August 2018

## EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

SCM-PP/GH-38



### Description

Construction projects, including small projects that disturb less than the 1 acre of earth disturbance regulatory threshold, can introduce sediment and other pollutants to stormwater runoff. Application of control measures can help minimize the potential introduction of pollutants into the stormwater system and local waterways.

<b>NYC MS4 SPDES Permit Requirement(s)</b>	IV.E Construction Site Controls IV.G Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations and Facilities IV.H Industrial/Commercial Source	
<b>KEY SELECTION CRITERIA</b>		
<b>Targeted Activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction projects disturbing less than 1 acre of earth</li> <li>• Small-scale earthmoving</li> </ul>	
<b>Performance Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize soil area exposed and limit exposure to runoff</li> <li>• Minimize pollutants entering storm sewers and waterways</li> <li>• Implement good housekeeping practices</li> </ul>	
<b>Most Effective Controls</b> <small>(more detail on page 2)</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capture and contain sediment</li> <li>• Minimize areas of disturbance</li> <li>• Cover borrow or stockpile areas with plastic or geotextile</li> </ul>	
<b>RELATED CONTROL MEASURES AND REGULATIONS</b>		
<b>Related SCMs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-15</li> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-19</li> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-22</li> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-24</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-25</li> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-27</li> <li>• SCM-PP/GH-29 thru 31</li> </ul>
<b>Other Regulatory Requirements*</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 CFR 650 Subpart B</li> <li>• 40 CFR 450 Subpart B</li> <li>• Federal Clean Water Act Sections 401/404, River and Harbor Act Section 10, MPRSA Section 103</li> </ul>	

### EFFECTIVENESS FOR TARGETED POLLUTANTS / IMPAIRMENTS

✓	Floatables
✓✓	Sediments
✓	Nitrogen
✓	Phosphorus
	Pathogens
	Oxygen Demand
	PCBs
	Metals
	Petroleum Products/PAHs

✓✓ = Good    ✓ = Fair    = Poor

### CONTROL STRATEGIES

✓	Cover/Contain
✓	Clean Up
✓	Reduce/Minimize
✓	Product Substitutions
✓	Manage Runoff
✓	Capture/Treat/Dispose

✓ = Yes

\*Note: RCNY: Rules of the City of New York; NYCRR: New York Codes, Rules and Regulations; CFR: Code of Federal Regulations

## Control Strategies/Suggested Practices

### COVER/CONTAIN

- Cover disturbed/exposed soil or stockpile area with plastic or geotextile to prevent soil loss until the site can be stabilized.
- Use silt fences, straw wattles, or other similar devices to provide perimeter sediment control.
- Use truck/vehicle tracking pads, when feasible, to keep soil/sediment on-site.

### CLEAN UP

- Sweep paved areas to minimize sediment track-out.
- Remove trash and other floatables daily. Dispose of properly.

### REDUCE/MINIMIZE

- Clear only what is required for immediate construction activities to minimize area of disturbance.
- Maintain native vegetation near waterways.
- Stabilize disturbed areas as soon as possible after construction is completed.
- Protect streambanks & shorelines by using vegetation, structures, management techniques, or biotechnology.<sup>†</sup>
- Use structural or non-structural practices to minimize erosion of coastal shoreline. Include use of vegetation, relocation of structures, bulkheads, and retaining walls.<sup>†</sup>

### PRODUCT SUBSTITUTION

- Limit use of products that generate trash or other floatable materials.

### MANAGE RUNOFF

- Divert off-site runoff away from highly erodible soils and steep slopes to stable areas during construction.
- Perform construction activities during dry weather.
- Install temporary inlet and storm drain protection.

### CAPTURE/TREAT/DISPOSE

- Capture and treat sediment-laden effluent from a dewatering system prior to discharge to the storm sewer system.
- Consider off-site disposal and recharge basins; provide for DEP-permitted discharge to waterways, where feasible.
- Use temporary catch basin inserts to capture sediment from stormwater runoff.
- Remove deposited/collected sediment and dispose of properly.

<sup>†</sup> Work done in/adjacent to Waters of the State must comply with all regulatory requirements, including Sections 401/404 of the Clean Water Act, and state, wetland, and tidal wetland regulations.

## References

1. Western New York Stormwater Coalition, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning Division of Environmental Compliance Services, *Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations: A Guidance Document of Best Management Practices and Inspection Checklist*, April 2006
2. NYDEC, *New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control*, July 2016