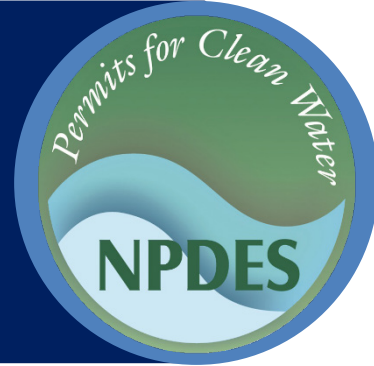




Stormwater Best Management Practice Contractor Training and Certification



Minimum Measure: Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
Subcategory: Municipal Program Oversight

Description

One of the most important factors that determine whether construction staff properly install and maintain erosion and sediment controls (ESCs) is the knowledge and experience of the on-site contractor who is implementing and inspecting the ESCs. To ensure a high level of expertise and adherence to ESC regulations, many communities require on-site contractors to have formal certification. Using certified contractors can also help reduce a community's inspection burden.

Many states have contractor certification programs for ESC inspections. For example:

- Delaware requires the developer to hire a third-party Certified Construction Reviewer (CCR) to conduct inspections for any construction project that is greater than 50 acres, in an environmentally sensitive area, or a state or federal project (Delaware DNREC, n.d.). All CCRs should work under the direction of licensed Professional Engineers. CCRs should inspect the construction site at least weekly and report violations to the site operator. If the site operator fails to address violations, the CCR should inform the regulatory agency. If the CCR fails to perform these duties, they may lose their certification.
- The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) offers a nonregulatory, incentive-driven voluntary certification program for contractors, the purpose of which is to broaden the use of effective ESC techniques. To get certification, the contractor should attend courses and successfully complete a construction site evaluation. To maintain certification, the certified individual should complete continuing education training every 2 years. Some of the incentives are that certified contractors may work in Maine's "Shoreland Zone" and forgo the 14-day waiting period for stream-crossing projects (Maine DEP, 2019). Certification also allows contractors to advertise themselves as a "DEP Certified Contractors" on the Maine DEP Web site.



Contractors should be trained on erosion and sediment control regulations and best practices.

- Florida requires that a third-party certified ESC inspector inspect all construction sites operating under Construction General Permits. The Florida Stormwater, Erosion, and Sedimentation Control Inspector Training Program's purpose is to improve the design, construction and maintenance of ESCs during construction and to ensure proper long-term operation and maintenance of stormwater management systems after construction is done. While the program is primarily for construction inspectors and contractors, it is also relevant to plan reviewers, public works personnel and engineers. The program covers the proper installation, inspection and maintenance of stormwater controls during and after construction.

Implementation

The state, municipalities or private programs can provide training courses. To implement a contractor certification program, the governing agency should establish course requirements, mandate periodic recertification, review reports that private inspectors submit, conduct spot checks for accuracy, and institute fines or other penalties for noncompliance. States typically keep lists of private companies and nonprofit organizations that they have approved to provide contractor certification training.

Benefits

Contractor training and certification programs can help improve compliance with ESC programs by increasing contractor awareness and education. Private inspector training programs can also help decrease the overall inspection burden of local regulatory agencies, thereby allowing staff to prioritize inspections and concentrate on the most critical projects. Contractor certification programs often experience a positive reception from stormwater practitioners. For example, Florida currently has about 40,000 certified ESC inspectors (Florida DEP, 2020).

Limitations

Contractor certification and inspector training programs can require a substantial effort on the part of the municipality or regulatory agency. However, many states already have established training programs or keep lists of approved companies and nonprofits that conduct training programs for ESC inspector certification.

Cost Considerations

Costs for contractor certification and training vary widely depending on the types of programs. A municipality might save money if there is less need for municipal inspections and if there are fewer enforcement actions due to higher compliance.

Additional Information

Additional information on related practices and the Phase II MS4 program can be found at EPA's National Menu of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Stormwater website

References

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). (2015). *Model post-construction stormwater runoff control ordinance*. Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (Delaware DNREC). (n.d.). *Sediment and stormwater program training*. State of Delaware: Official website of the first state.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Florida DEP). (2020). *Florida stormwater, erosion, and sedimentation control inspector training & certification program*. Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Maine DEP). (2019). *DEP certification in erosion control practices*. Maine.gov.

Disclaimer

This fact sheet is intended to be used for informational purposes only. These examples and references are not intended to be comprehensive and do not preclude the use of other technically sound practices. State or local requirements may apply.