

Preparing for the Rainy Season – Part One

"Be Prepared." This Boy Scout motto has particular relevance to water pollution control on a construction site. This bulletin offers strategies on how to plan ahead and prepare your project for the rainy season. Next month's bulletin will focus on site inspection and procedures to follow in the field during the twenty days prior to the start of the rainy season.

The Planning Process Starts Now

A project's rainy season start date is dependent on geographical area. As the Resident Engineer, begin a review of the project's water pollution control details now, as the summer season winds down. This will allow sufficient time to prepare and implement best management practices (BMPs) for the rainy season.

Start with the Plans and Specifications

There are three primary documents to review for water pollution control planning. Each document has important information for the RE to revisit.

Contract Special Provisions

- What is the start date of the rainy season for the project (October 1, October 15, or November 1, etc.)?
- What storm water related permits and/or agreements exist with other agencies?
- What are the defined limits of allowable disturbed soil areas (DSAs)?
- What is the required minimum inspection frequency?
- How is the contractor paid for storm water controls (by separate line item or lump sum)?
- How are the impacted environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) to be protected?



Review the requirements for the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.

Contract Plans

- Identify the current DSAs and ESAs.
- Review the hydrology report to identify areas where storm water from off-site is expected to drain onto the project site.
- Locate the active drainage systems and the site's discharge points.
- Become familiar with the construction activities and/ or stages planned during the rainy season.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan or Water Pollution Control Program (SWPPP/WPCP)

- What are the minimum requirements identified for each BMP category?
- What are the specific BMPs selected by the contractor for each category?
- What are the details of the defined Maintenance, Inspection, and Repair Program?
- Are BMPs identified to properly convey off-site storm water around or through the site?
- Are appropriate BMPs identified for planned discharge points?



Review the project's construction schedule to identify operations that may impact water quality.

Finally, ask the question "Does the SWPPP/WPCP reflect the findings of your review of the contract plans and specifications?" If not, an amendment may be required.

Looking Ahead

Now that you have read the project documents, it's time to apply those principles to the construction site. The next bulletin will detail the storm water management activities necessary to ready your project for the upcoming rainy season.



