ROANOKE COUNTY VA
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

4th Edition

IT'S JUST DIRT
A Newsletter for Contractors
JUNE 2020

Inside this issue:

Of Special Interest:

- Looking for PCBs
- Reporting Sediment Releases
- Work smart, save money

Remember . . .

Pollutants that leave YOUR site via the storm drainage system travel directly, and WITHOUT treatment, to the nearest stream, creek, or the Roanoke River!

First Team Volkswagen Recognized for Good Work

Stephen Lowe of First Team Volkswagen accepts Roanoke County's Stormwater Clean Award for the firm's work on its new Volkswagen Sales and Service Center. Roanoke County's Stormwater Program Manager, Cindy Linkenhoker, and Parker Design Group's Stormwater Inspector, Melissa Lanzara, presented the banner.

In the midst of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, good work has not gone unnoticed in Roanoke County, as the Department of Development Services recently announced that the First Team Volkswagen project, located at 6614 Peters Creek Road, is the first recipient in 2020 of the prestigious Stormwater Clean Award.

First Team Volkswagen and its grading contractor, Jeff Holt of Holt, Inc., have taken their land-disturbing activities seriously on this project by properly installing and maintaining the required erosion and sediment controls and stormwater management measures shown on the approved plan. The project has remained in compliance throughout the construction process, which has helped to minimize the amount of sediment-laden stormwater runoff leaving the site, thereby reducing impacts to downstream receiving waterways.

Land development in Roanoke County presents difficult challenges in the management of stormwater runoff due to the very steep slopes and highly erodible soils in the region. Because of these challenges, Roanoke County implements the Contractor Appreciation Program to recognize land-disturbing contractors who conduct exemplary work within the County to protect its natural water resources.

Roanoke County inspectors submit candidate projects to a selection committee that evaluates the projects for recognition. Selected projects display the Stormwater Clean Award banner at the project site until the work is complete, and they are recognized in this newsletter, on the County's website, and on social media. For more information and to see previous recipients, visit https://roanokecountyva.gov/1780/Stormwater-Contractor-Appreciation ■

Closing Projects Prior to Adequate Vegetative Stabilization

Roanoke County issued Policy # 2019-10-2 in October 2019 to allow for the termination of an Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Permit for an individual single-family residence prior to the establishment of permanent vegetative cover. While Minimum Standard 3 (MS-3), in Virginia's Erosion and Sediment Control Regulations (VESCR), requires that permanent vegetation be achieved prior to project close-out, the County recognizes that builders often sell their newly-constructed homes well before the lawn areas are established. Thus, Roanoke County issued Policy # 2019-10-2 to allow builders to close their ESC permits in advance of vegetative stabilization, but with a few conditions. At project completion, the builder must submit a signed certification statement confirming that the homebuyer has been made aware that he/she will become responsible for establishing adequate permanent vegetation *(defined as (a) uniform in height, (b) thick enough to prevent erosion, and (c) mature enough to survive).* In addition, the builder must place temporary soil stabilization measures (i.e., seed and straw) over all bare soils and install perimeter control (i.e. silt fence) to contain sediment. Once these items are complete, the builder may request a final ESC inspection so that the project permit can be closed.

Note that the Policy was recently revised to ensure that the required temporary stabilization measures are in place prior to the certification statement being signed, and that this form is submitted to the County at the same time that the project's final inspection is requested. A copy of the policy is provided here and on the next page, and online at https://roanokecountyva.gov/DocumentCenter/View/16595/Termination-of-ESC-Permit-SFR?bidId=

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BUILDING SAFETY
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
ENGINEERING

Tarek Moneir
DIRECTOR

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
STORM DRAINAGE
GIS/MAPPING

Policy # 2019-10-2
Effective October 1, 2019 (rev. 5-21-20)

Termination of Erosion and Sediment Control Permits for Individual Single-Family Residences
Prior to the Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover

The County of Roanoke (County) regulates land-disturbing activities in accordance with the requirements of Virginia's Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) and Stormwater Management (SWM) Programs.

The County enforces the requirements of these two programs through the Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (County Code - Chapter 8.1) and the Stormwater Management Ordinance (County Code - Chapter 23).

As part of the building permit process, when the County issues a building permit for the construction of a new home, it also issues an ESC Permit to the home builder. Throughout the construction process, County staff will inspect the project to assure that proper erosion and sediment controls are being employed and maintained. Once the work is complete and the home builder has called in for a final ESC inspection, County staff will inspect the project to confirm that one of the following has occurred so that the ESC Permit can be closed:

a) Adequate permanent vegetation (i.e., uniform in height, thick enough to prevent erosion, and mature enough to survive) has been achieved on the property; **OR**

b) The home builder has sold the home and completed all of the following:
   1. Installed adequate temporary soil stabilization measures (i.e., seed and straw mulch).
   2. Installed adequate and properly-installed perimeter controls.
   3. Signed the attached Certification Statement at the time of project completion to document that the home buyer has been notified in writing of their responsibility to fully establish and care for the new lawn and has been provided with the attached County publication entitled: "Achieving Permanent Vegetation: A Lawn Care Guide for Homeowners."

NOTE: All active seed deposits in place prior to the effective date of this policy shall remain in place until final stabilization of the affected property has been achieved.

For questions or concerns regarding this policy, contact Tarek Moneir, Director of Development Services, at 540-772-2080.

- continued on Page 3 -

Request for Termination of
Erosion and Sediment Control Permit for Individual Single-Family Residence
Prior to the Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover (rev. 5-21-20)

The Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Permit for an individual Single-Family Residence may be terminated prior to the establishment of permanent vegetative cover if all of the following conditions have been met by the home builder:

a. Adequate temporary soil stabilization measures (i.e., seed and straw mulch) have been applied to all bare areas.

b. Perimeter controls (such as silt fence) have been properly installed in accordance with the applicable standard and specification section in Chapter 3 of the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook.

c. The property has been sold and conveyed to the home buyer.

d. The home builder has provided the home buyer with written notification about the need for and benefits of final stabilization and has also provided the home buyer with the County's publication entitled "Achieving Permanent Vegetation: A Lawn Care Guide for Homeowners."

e. The Certification Statement, provided below, has been signed at the time of project completion and submitted to the County with a copy of the buyer's written notification to the following email address: stormwater@roanokecountyva.gov.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Property Address: _____

I do hereby certify that temporary soil stabilization and perimeter controls have been adequately established for the above-named property, the property has been sold to the home buyer, and I have notified the buyer, in writing, of the need for and benefits of final vegetative stabilization. I hereby request that the Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Permit for this property be terminated.

_____ _____
Home Builder (Permittee) Signature Date

_____
Home Builder (Permittee) Name (Print)

Email a copy of the required written notification that was provided to the home buyer and the signed Certification Statement to: Roanoke County's Stormwater Program Manager at: stormwater@roanokecountyva.gov.

REMINDER
- Policy # 2019-10-2 only applies to individual Single Family Residences (SFRs)
- Commercial projects must achieve adequate permanent stabilization per MS-3 of the VESCR before the surety is released

REMEMBER. . .
Per Policy #2019-10-2, silt fence and temporary soil stabilization measures must be in place BEFORE submitting the signed certification form.

rev. May 2020

Achieving Permanent Vegetation
A Lawn Care Guide for Homeowners

Congratulations on Your New Home!
Now, let's Green-Up the Lawn . . .

Welcome to your new home in Roanoke County! We are glad you are here, and we hope that you are getting settled in.

Roanoke County provides guidance for establishing beautiful curb appeal for your new home. We are committed to assisting you in your efforts and responsibility to establish a permanent lawn. Before the County released your Erosion and Sediment Control Permit, you were required to: (1) install seed and straw mulch as a means to temporarily protect against soil erosion; (2) install perimeter control, such as silt fence, to prevent loose soils from leaving the property; and (3) certify that you are aware of your responsibilities as the homeowner to fully establish and care for the lawn following permit release. Now, it's time to "green-up the lawn." Here are some tips to help you:

- Cover all newly-seeded bare areas with straw mulch; this protects the seed from birds and holds the moisture in, which speeds germination.
- Provide regular but light watering to irrigate the seed, 2-3 times per day. Do not over-water such that runoff is created.
- As seedlings start to emerge, gradually decrease watering to once or twice per week.
- STAY OFF the young grass.
- DO NOT mow the new grass until it is about 4-1/2 inches tall.
- Once you start mowing, only remove about 1/3 of the leaf blade. Note that most homeowners cut their grass too short, which will stress the lawn.
- If any bare areas remain, re-seed, apply fertilizer, cover with straw mulch, and repeat the watering process until grass is established.
- Depending on the time of year, you may have to wait until the next growing season to carry out the steps provided above.
- Once a vigorous stand of grass has been achieved, remove the silt fence. Be sure to re-seed any bare areas that are created by removal of the silt fence!

Silt fence is often used as perimeter control

Adequate water is essential to establish a new lawn

Points of Interest:
- Upon occupancy, the owner of a new home is responsible for achieving an adequate, permanent lawn.
- Roanoke County is a good resource for new homeowners who may have questions about how to establish their lawns.
- Beautiful lawns increase home value and curb appeal.

The Many Benefits of Vegetation

Vegetation is the number one choice for protecting bare soils against erosion. It has many valuable properties, such as:

- Holds the soil in place during rain storms.
- Absorbs raindrop energy, which minimizes erosion.
- Reduces the velocity of stormwater runoff.
- Encourages infiltration of stormwater runoff.
- Filters sediment from runoff.

Vegetation not only protects your property from erosion but also protects downstream properties from sedimentation. The end result: better water quality in the area's local streams and creeks and in the Roanoke River.

Here are two resources to get you started with your lawn:

- https://ext.vt.edu/lawn-garden/turfandgrasstestqa.html
- https://www.gardeningchannel.com/how-to-start-a-new-lawn-from-scratch/

Establishing permanent vegetation does NOT mean you are limited to the use of grass. Feel free to use other types of ground cover and to incorporate other features into your landscape, such as mulched flower beds, rain gardens, butterfly gardens, or patio areas.

Issued by the Office of Development Services, Roanoke County, P. O. Box 29800, Roanoke, VA 24018; Phone: (540) 772-2080

Adequate permanent vegetation means: uniform in height, thick enough to prevent erosion, and mature enough to survive.

Sediment Pollution = NO FISH

THE CHOICE is CLEAR

Demolishing PCBs

DID YOU KNOW?

- PCBs often attach to sediment that is washed into waterways, where they accumulate in living organisms, such as fish.
- The Roanoke River (within the Roanoke Valley area) is under a health advisory issued by the Virginia Department of Health; this advisory cautions to eat no more than two meals per month from many fish species caught in the Roanoke River.

Whenever Roanoke County issues a demolition permit for the removal of a structure, the County also provides its "PCBs Awareness Fact Sheet" to the permittee. Why, you might ask? It is because a potential significant source of current PCBs is from old construction materials. The Fact Sheet is designed to help contractors recognize their role in controlling PCBs. Pollution prevention activities, such as proper disposal of construction waste materials, will interrupt the "PCBs' pathway" to the area's receiving waters.

What are PCBs?

PCBs are a group of man-made compounds that were widely used in the past, mainly in electrical equipment, because of their non-flammability and chemical stability. PCBs have no taste or smell and range in consistency from oil-like to a waxy solid. Their manufacturing was banned in the U.S. in 1979 because of growing health and environmental concerns.

How do PCBs Affect the Environment?

PCBs currently exist in the air, soil, and water from previous releases. PCBs do not break down well in the environment due to their chemical stability. They often attach to sediment that is washed into local waterways, accumulating in living organisms, such as fish. In fact, the Roanoke River (within the Roanoke Valley area) is under a health advisory issued by the Virginia Department of Health; this advisory cautions to eat no more than two meals per month from many fish species caught in the Roanoke River.

What Type of Products Contain PCBs?

Although no longer commercially produced, PCBs may be present in products and materials made before the 1979 PCBs ban, including the following:

- Transformers and capacitors
- Electrical equipment (voltage regulators, switches, re-closers, bushings, etc.)
- Oil used in motors and hydraulic systems
- Old electrical devices or appliances containing capacitors having PCBs
- Fluorescent light ballasts
- Cable insulation
- Thermal insulation material including fiberglass, felt, foam, and cork
- Adhesives and tapes
- Oil-based paint
- Caulking
- Plastics
- Floor finish

For More About PCBs, contact. . .

- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) https://www.deq.state.va.us
- U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) https://www.epa.gov/pcbs
- Virginia Department of Health (DOH) http://www.vdh.virginia.gov

How to Prevent the Release of PCBs?

- Avoid spills and leaks from electrical and other equipment
- Properly dispose and/or store any products containing PCBs
- Do not dump wastes containing PCBs
- Do not burn wastes containing PCBs
- Properly replace all fluorescent light ballasts containing PCBs
- Properly dispose of caulk, paint, and other building materials with PCBs during planned renovations and repairs
- Take precautions during renovations so that building materials with PCBs do not contaminate surrounding surfaces
- Use properly trained and licensed contractors to remove, clean-up, and dispose of materials containing PCBs

Be sure to consult with regulatory officials should questions arise regarding PCBs. ■

Curbing Sediment Loss from Your Site

The best way to keep sediment from leaving your site is to prevent erosion in the first place. In order to do that, bare soils must be kept covered up or vegetated to protect them from raindrop and wind erosion. However, this is quite challenging to do when a site is being initially cleared or while grading activities are underway. The next best option is to ensure that proper sediment controls are in place, per the approved plan, and that they are properly installed and maintained.

Chapter 3 of Virginia's Erosion & Sediment Control Handbook provides the Standards and Specifications for most of the erosion and sediment controls. It outlines proper placement and installation techniques, it also describes where the measures are applicable for use, and it outlines required maintenance for each measure. This Chapter should be your "go to" resource for doing things right the first time. Here are a few helpful tips from Chapter 3 that should help you **keep your dirt on your site**:

- Entrench the toe of the silt fence into the soil at least 4"
- Provide fabric under VDOT #1 stone in your temporary construction entrance

Unchecked sediment leaving a construction site indicates that erosion and sediment controls are either absent or improperly installed or maintained. This is unfortunate, because the sediment will end up in the nearest waterway, and all of the County's waterways are already impaired due to sediment pollution.

- Ensure the top rail is installed for yard-style drop inlet protection, as this ensures that the silt fence will stay up
- Remove sediment from behind silt fence when it reaches half the height of the fabric
- Make sure ALL active drainage inlets have proper inlet protection, unlike in the picture shown above

The top rail is essential to keep the fence up.

Remove sediment when it reaches 1/2 the height of the fabric.

Use fabric under VDOT #1 stone for temporary construction entrances to prevent tracking.

Report Sediment Releases

If your project has a Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) permit, you are required to report any sediment releases that reach state waters to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ will guide you in the necessary steps to either remove the accumulated sediment or to stabilize it in place. Please call the local DEQ office at 540-562-6700 or send an email to Jay Roberts at jesse.roberts@deq.virginia.gov ■

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This publication is a public service message brought to you by Roanoke County, Department of Development Services. As regulated by federal and state laws, the County's Stormwater Management Program must include public information strategies to encourage the prevention of stormwater pollution. For more brochures or information on ways to prevent stormwater pollution, please contact the County's Department of Development Services, Division of Stormwater Management, at 540-772-2065.

Working Smart for Clear Stormwater

- Install perimeter controls before work begins
- Apply soil stabilization measures to denuded areas ASAP
- Entrench toe of silt fence at least 4" into the ground
- Properly install & maintain erosion and sediment controls
- Place portable toilets away from streams & drop inlets
- Use a concrete washout, replace it when it gets full
- Provide and use trash cans; keep lids closed
- Keep dumpsters covered, especially during rain events
- Do not litter onsite, and that includes cigarette butts
- Throw NOTHING into a storm drain, ditch, or stream

Apply soil stabilization to all bare areas as soon as possible to prevent erosion.

Entrench silt fence into the ground to prevent sediment from escaping beneath it; this keeps your dirt on your site.

Use a concrete washout! Make sure that it is accessible, and replace it when it gets full.