

Virginia's Construction General Permit (Effective Date July 1, 2024) Key Changes

Turbidity Monitoring

- Turbidity monitoring is now required for construction dewatering discharges into sediment-impaired waters (i.e., *Mason Creek, Mudlick Creek, Roanoke River, or within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*)
- Operators [permittees] must choose between three turbidity benchmark options, all requiring daily sampling until the dewatering discharge stops.
- If the turbidity benchmark is exceeded, the operator must take corrective actions.
- The operator must document the details of turbidity monitoring (i.e., *location, date, sample collection time, turbidity measurement*) and record corrective actions in the SWPPP.

Corrective Actions

- The operator shall implement the corrective actions identified as a result of an inspection as soon as practicable but no later than five (5) business days after discovery. The previous permit allowed 7 calendar days.

Qualified Personnel

- The definition of "Qualified Personnel" has changed, as follows:
"Qualified personnel" means a person knowledgeable in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment and stormwater management controls who possesses the skills to assess conditions at the construction site for the operator that could impact stormwater quality and quantity and to assess the effectiveness of any sediment and erosion control measures or stormwater management facilities selected to control the quality and quantity of stormwater discharges from the construction activity.
- On or after July 1, 2025, "qualified personnel" shall hold an unexpired Project Dual [ESC/SWM] Inspector certification issued by DEQ; an unexpired Inspector for Erosion and Sediment Control certification and an unexpired certification for Project Inspector for Stormwater Management, both issued by DEQ, a Construction General Permit Qualified Personnel Certificate, issued by DEQ or the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), or an equivalent certification provided by EPA, which is currently titled [Construction Inspection Training Course](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reissued Virginia's Construction General Permit (CGP) on July 1, 2024.
- Reissuance of the Construction General Permit for a new five-year term (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029) allows land-disturbing activities for construction projects to be covered under a general permit instead of needing an individual VPDES permit after the previous version of the Construction General Permit expired on June 30, 2024.
- The reissued permit continues requirements in the previous permit and adds requirements to be consistent with the construction dewatering turbidity benchmark in the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2022 Construction General Permit. It also clarifies requirements for small construction activity involving single-family detached residential structures.
- To view the final version of the reissued permit, which is effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029, visit: [Stormwater - Construction | Virginia DEQ](#)

Routine Maintenance

- If the operator must make the same repairs more than twice to the same control at the same location, even if the fix can be completed by the close of the next business day, the operator shall either:
 - a) Complete work to fix any subsequent repeat occurrences of this same problem under the corrective action procedures in Part II H of the CGP, including keeping any records of the condition and how it was corrected under Part II C; or
 - b) Document in the inspection report under Part II G why the specific reoccurrence of this same problem should still be addressed as a routine maintenance fix.

Additional Permit Information

For a complete list of changes, view the final version of the reissued permit, with mark-up, as published in the Virginia Register on March 25, 2024. Please visit [Volume 40, Issue 16 \(virginia.gov\)](#) or contact DEQ.

DEQ (Blue Ridge Regional Office): (540) 562-6700