

# ***New Rules That Apply to Construction Site Activities***

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## **Protecting Iowa's Rivers and Lakes from Non-Point Source Pollution**

### ***What is Non-Point Source Pollution?***

This is the type of pollution that does not come from a pipe, but instead comes from diffuse sources. In urban settings it includes runoff from construction sites that can carry heavy sediment loads if the soil is not protected from erosion. It also includes runoff from parking lots that drain to storm sewers and contain organic and heavy metal contaminants and salt. Another example of non-point source pollution is fertilizer-laden runoff from lawns that discharge to streams via storm sewers.



### ***What Impact Does Non-Point Source Pollution Have on Lakes and Rivers?***

Sediment or eroded soil, along with organic and heavy metal contaminants, salts, and nutrients in fertilizers, will pollute rivers and lakes. Fish habitat is ruined by sediment. Sediment runoff rates from construction sites are typically 10 to 20 times greater than agricultural lands.

### ***What are the New Phase II Rules that Impact Construction Site Activities?***

U.S. EPA developed Phase II Stormwater rules in 1992 that became effective on March 10, 2003. Included in these rules are requirements for construction sites.

- There can be a single party acting as site operator who is consequently responsible for obtaining a permit, or there can be two or more operators all obligated to seek permit coverage.

- As of March 10, 2003, construction activities disturbing 1 or more acres must apply for a permit for stormwater discharges. This includes burying of or land disturbances related to utility lines, mains, and related structures.
- All operators of construction sites must be co-permittees on the stormwater permit.
- An operator is a party or parties that have operational control of construction plans and specification or day-to-day operational control of activities.
- Operators include both owners and contractors who disturb the soil.



## ***What do I need to do to be in Compliance with the Phase II Regulations for a Construction Project?***

1. You must first develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for soil erosion and sediment control on-site. The purpose of the SWPPP is to reduce pollution at the construction site before it causes environmental pollution. Erosion and sediment control is accomplished with proper planning and installation and maintenance of controls. The following are some of many effective BMPs:

### **Nonstructural BMPs**

Minimum site disturbance  
Preserve natural/native vegetation  
Good housekeeping

### **Structural BMPs**

Erosion Control: mulch, vegetative cover, compost  
Sediment Control: silt fence, inlet protection, check dams, sediment traps such as compost socks

2. Once you have prepared a SWPPP you must complete and submit the necessary forms for an NPDES General Permit Number 2, including the application form, 2 proofs of public notice, and fee payment to: The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Stormwater Coordinator, Henry Wallace Building, 502 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St. Des Moines, IA 50319-0034. You should also check with the local city or county government in which you are planning construction to determine if there are also local ordinances that you must comply with.
3. Once the necessary paperwork has been filed and you have obtained your permit from IDNR, the SWPPP is to be implemented with the start of construction.
4. A Notice of Discontinuation (NOD) is submitted to IDNR and possibly the local city or county when final stabilization of the site has been achieved as defined in the permit.

## ***Where do I get the forms for NPDES General Permit Number 2?***

- You can contact the IDNR at (515) 281-6782 or visit IDNR's web site at <http://www.state.ia.us/epd/wastewtr/wwapps/npdes.htm>. The permit information is provided on the web site under "NPDES General Permit No. 2" and information on stormwater pollution prevention plans is provided under "Summary Guidance for General Permit No. 2"

## ***Where can I find additional information on the Phase II Program?***

- Visit IAMU's web site at [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org) and look under Stormwater. A list of BMPs has been placed on this website. Contact Pat Sauer at IAMU 1-800-810-4268 for additional information.
- Visit U.S. EPA's web site at [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater) and look under construction for small and large projects.