



Construction Site Pollution Prevention General Permit #2 Update

IDNR's GP #2 Reissued

Iowa's General Permit No. 2 for storm-water discharges from construction sites is based on federal U.S. EPA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements. It is reissued every 5 years with updates based on those included in the reissued U.S. EPA permit.

Iowa's permit was reissued October 1, 2012 and it includes some changes.

Implementation of Topsoil Requirements

Topsoil requirement shall be implemented for projects that have NOT received an authorization under GP#2 prior to October 1, 2012. In residential and commercial development, a plat is considered a project. For other larger areas for multiple construction sites including those started at a future date such as industrial, military, and universities, a new project not yet surveyed and platted out is considered a project.

This is intended to be interpreted as requiring topsoil preservation on development plats and construction activities on other extended areas that may have several projects permitted under the same authorization to be implemented on those projects not yet surveyed and platted out prior to October 1, 2012 even if other plats and construction activities in the same development or extended area were authorized prior to October 1, 2012.

New Topsoil Requirements

(Abbreviated version-see GP#2 for full details)



Topsoil shall be preserved at all construction sites. This requirement shall be met only when the depth of topsoil, after soil disturbing activities and final stabilization is achieved to the permitted activity is ≥ 4 inches. This includes soil in sod, and on all areas of the site where the surface of the ground was disturbed for the construction activities is exposed and not covered by concrete, asphalt, gravel or other materials. This includes where 4 inches or more of topsoil existed prior to soil disturbing activities.

On areas where less than 4 inches of topsoil existed prior to permitted soil disturbing activities, the minimum depth of topsoil after soil disturbing activities have been completed and final stabilization achieved shall be \geq the depth of topsoil that existed prior to commencement of soil disturbing activities permitted under the current permit for the site.

Final topsoil depth is to be measured after soil is compacted in a manner acceptable for lawn establishment to minimize expected settling after measurement. This shall include soil in sod. Type of topsoil shall be similar to that which exists or existed in the general area of the site before soil disturbance.

For construction part of a larger common plan of development, housing or commercial as an example, in which new owner agrees in writing to be responsible for permit compliance, topsoil preservation requirements must be met no later than at the time the lot or lots have reached final stabilization.

For sites where < 4 inches of topsoil is to be placed after soil disturbance completed and final stabilization, a soil survey conducted by properly qualified personnel who regularly conduct soil surveys must be conducted prior to soil disturbance. Results of the survey become part of the SWPPP and shall indicate depth of topsoil at suitable number of points on the site using standard engineering practices for the size of the site.

This document highlights major changes to GP #2 please visit IDNR website for full details:
www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryWater/StormWater.aspx

A supporting member of ISWEP which provides educational resources statewide to communities and other groups to inform and educate local stakeholders.



October 2012



Construction Site Pollution Prevention Additional General Permit #2 Updates

Transfer of Coverage Update

Both the previous owner(s) and the new owner(s) are responsible for notifying the IDNR of the transfer and the new owner's name and contact information. This requirement shall be satisfied upon IDNR's receipt of the notification of this information by either the previous owner(s) or new owner(s).

Keeping SWPPPs Current

The SWPPP shall be updated to expeditiously change the site map to include changes at the site.

Inspections

Qualified personnel shall inspect disturbed areas of the construction site that have not been stabilized with a perennial vegetative cover of sufficient density to preclude erosion at least once every 7 calendar days. Unless erosion is evident or other conditions warrant them, regular inspections are not required on areas that have been stabilized with a perennial vegetative cover of sufficient density to preclude erosion.

Qualified Personnel Defined

Those individuals capable enough and knowledgeable enough to perform the required functions adequately well to ensure compliance with the relevant permit conditions and requirements of the IA Administrative Code.



Topsoil Defined

Topsoil is the fertile, uppermost part of the soil containing significant organic matter largely devoid of debris and rock and often disturbed in cultivation.

Construction Site Defined

A site of common plan of development or sale on which construction activity, including clearing, grading, and excavating, results in soil disturbance.

A construction site is considered one site if all areas of the site are contiguous with one another and one entity owns all areas of the site.

Additional Requirements

Unless infeasible:

Utilize outlet structures that withdraw water from the surface when discharging from basins;

Provide and maintain natural buffers around surface waters;

Direct stormwater to vegetated areas to increase sediment removal and maximize stormwater infiltration;

Minimize soil compaction.

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www.IowaStormWater.org

