



Frequently Asked Questions #8



Erosion and Sediment Control Standards

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO) requires permitting for land disturbing activity and/or when projects create new impervious surfaces (roofs, pavement, etc.). Local Government Units (LGUs) in the watershed shall adopt local ordinances requiring erosion and sediment controls that meet the VRWJPO standards through a building or other permit.

Sites with greater than one acre require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the activity, development, or redevelopment, and must get coverage under the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) General Construction Stormwater Permit in addition to local approvals. For sites disturbing less than one acre and not requiring stormwater facilities on site, an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan can be used.

What projects could require an erosion and sediment control permit?

Land disturbances that are greater than five thousand square feet in area, involve more than thirty cubic yards of soil, or that change existing contours or drainage require a permit. If landowners are not certain whether they need a permit, they should consult the LGU or the VRWJPO.

What are the criteria?

- Erosion and sediment control measures must utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) and be sufficient to retain sediment on site.
- All temporary erosion and sediment controls will be installed on all down gradient perimeters before beginning land disturbing activity, and left in place and maintained until the site has been stabilized. All permanent erosion control measures must be installed and operational as shown in the design plans.
- Erosion and sediment controls shall meet the standards for the MPCA General Construction Stormwater Permit for projects disturbing more than 1 acre.
- Final stabilization (e.g., seed and blanket) of the site must be completed in accordance with the General Construction Stormwater Permit requirements.
- All on-site stormwater conveyance channels shall be designed and constructed to withstand the expected velocity of flow from a 10-year frequency storm without erosion.
- If the activity disturbs more than 1 acre of disturbed area, and the activity is taking place on a site where soils are currently disturbed (e.g., farm field), areas that will not be graded and stabilized as part of the development need to be seeded with a temporary or permanent cover before starting the proposed land disturbing activity.



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Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization

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The Vermillion River Watershed encompasses an area of approximately 335 square miles, including portions of two counties and all or portions of 20 cities, towns, and townships. The main stem of the river begins in southeastern Scott County in New Market Township flowing east through central Dakota County, passing over a waterfall in the City of Hastings, and then discharging to the Mississippi River both through a northerly flowing outlet near the City of Hastings as well as through a southerly flowing outlet near the City of Red Wing, Minnesota.

Why are erosion and sediment control measures important?

Erosion and sediment control measures, used in land development, agriculture, and construction prevent water pollution and soil loss. The controls often involve the creation of a physical barrier, such as vegetation, silt fences, hay bales, geotechnical fabric, or rock, to absorb some of the energy of the wind or water that could cause erosion and capture sediment before it moves off site.

What are some techniques to prevent erosion and control sediment?

Among the most commonly used techniques for preventing erosion during land-disturbing activities are:

- Mulch or hydro-mulch cover
- Erosion control blankets
- Ditch liners
- Riprap
- Temporary grading, berms, or cat tracking
- Vegetation

Among the most commonly used techniques for controlling sediment during land-disturbing activities are:

- Silt fence
- Fiber rolls (sediment control logs)
- Hay bale barriers
- Sediment Traps
- Buffer Strips
- Culvert protection

Consult with Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District or the VRWJPO for assistance with an erosion and sediment control plan.

Where can I find the current Standards?

The standards are in Appendix B of the plan on the Vermillion River Watershed website:
www.vermillionriverwatershed.org, under "Plans/Reports."

For more information:

- Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization, 952-891-7000, www.vermillionriverwatershed.org.
- Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, 651-480-7777, www.dakotacountywcd.org.
- Call your city or township offices.