

April 2012

The Monthly Dirt

A Monthly Newsletter on the California Construction General Permit

By WGR Southwest, Inc.

Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers

There has been more fallout since the Superior Court overturned the NELs last December. The State Water Resources Control Board has issued a draft amendment to the Construction General Permit (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ). The draft amendment proposes blue-underline additions and ~~red-strikeout~~ deletions to the permit, and can be downloaded from the State's website at:

www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/docs/construction/2009_0009_dwq_nel_amnd.pdf

The most obvious proposed ~~deletion~~ from the permit is the removal of all references to Numeric Effluent Limits (NELs), except for those pertaining to Active Treatment Systems. However, the most significant proposed addition to the permit is the introduction of the concept, "Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers". With the invalidation of NELs, there is currently no way to trigger the need to perform additional monitoring requirements that were newly introduced in this permit; such as receiving water monitoring and performing suspended sediment concentration (SSC) testing. In fact, the State Water Board website has a message stating receiving water and SSC testing requirements are suspended. However, Risk Level 3 projects do not need to fear missing out on these new testing requirements, because they may be back as early as July of this year. The "Receiving Water Monitoring Triggers" in the proposed amendment will once again reinstate this testing for Risk Level 3 projects. And what are the triggers? Well, no surprise here ... they are the old NEL values ... pH <6.0 or >9.0 and turbidity >500 NTU. So, if the amendment goes through, what did the court ruling actually change? For starters, a Risk Level 3 site is no longer automatically out of compliance with the permit based on their monitoring results. Although a Risk Level 3 site may trigger this additional testing, the site has not violated an effluent limit. The permit amendment states, "*an exceedance of a Receiving Water Monitoring Trigger does not constitute a violation of this General Permit.*" Another important change is that there is no NEL exceedance reporting requirement. But, keep in mind, that if you hit one of these "receiving water triggers", you have by definition exceeded a Numeric Action Level (NAL), which requires a report to be submitted on SMARTS within 10 days of the conclusion of the rain event. The proposed amendment is expected to go before the State Water Board for approval in July 2012. We do not expect to see the amendment contested, but, on the other hand, we did not expect to see NELs overruled either. So, we will keep our readers posted on any further developments.

What are the implications of these changes for QSD/QSP Training and Exams?

Last month CASQA issued an alert addressing how the changes with NELs and the proposed permit amendments affect the QSD/QSP training and exams. The following is a summary of CASQA's comments:

- The QSD/QSP training curricula will remain unchanged until the State Water Board adopts a new amendment to the Construction General Permit. After the adoption of the amendment, the curricula will be revised and the CGP Training Team will provide guidance to QSD/QSP class instructors regarding the changes. Until then, class instructors must make it clear to their students that NELs are not in effect and receiving water and SSC monitoring is suspended.
- The QSD/QSP exams will remain unchanged and will continue to contain questions about NELs, SSC, and receiving water monitoring. The exam will remain unchanged until the new amendment is adopted.

Bret Smith becomes an approved

CESSWI Instructor



After more than a year in the works, this month WGR achieved a major training objective. Bret Smith qualified as a CESSWI instructor through EnviroCert International, Inc. He is now qualified to offer the 8-hour review course and proctor the CESSWI exams. The steps Bret had to take to become an instructor included an onerous application process, co-teaching with two different instructors at two different training events, obtaining written recommendations from the instructors, and being approved by a CESSWI instructor committee panel. But, he passed with flying colors and is excited to start teaching. Bret is quoted to say, "I hope to facilitate local QSP applicants to take a step in the process they have been putting off. Hopefully, WGR can give them another CESSWI training option and make it more convenient for them to complete their QSP underlying certification." We plan to combine the CESSWI training with the successful Got SWPPP training program. WGR will now offer the CESSWI review class on the third day of the QSD training. This means that QSPs can stay a day longer (3 days, just like the QSDs) and complete their CESSWI training all at the same place and same time. Bret plans to proctor CESSWI exams on an as needed basis at the WGR Lodi office.

Save the Date! **GOT SWPPP EXPO**

Port of Stockton, September 24-27, 2012

Did it frustrate you not to have the budget or the time to go to the big erosion conference in Las Vegas earlier this year? Why can't there be good BMP education without having to pay so much and travel so far? Well, we have been wondering the same thing and we are planning to do something about it. WGR and the GOT SWPPP training team is joining forces with the San Joaquin Valley Storm Water Quality Partnership to put on an event for Northern California. The event will include a day of in-the-field, hands-on construction storm water BMP demonstrations and training opportunities including hydroseeding, slope erosion protection, track out controls, BMP installation demonstrations, and much more. There will be a vendor exhibit hall, catered lunch, meet and greet with local regulators, and lots of literature resources to take home. We also plan to conduct QSD/QSP and CESSWI classes during that week coinciding with the expo. Best of all, we plan to keep the admission price cheap! Be watching this newsletter and our www.gotswppp.com website for more information in the next month.

Upcoming Training ...

- Got SWPPP? QSP/QSD & CESSWI Classes
 - ✓ Santa Cruz – July 17-19, 2012
 - ✓ Pleasanton – August 14-16, 2012
 - ✓ Port of Stockton – Sep. 24-26, 2012
- Customized training ... bring WGR to your facility or project site. Call us for more info.
- If you are interested in taking a CESSWI review class or having us proctor an exam for you, contact Lisa Smith at lsmith@wgr-sw.com. We will be setting up CESSWI review classes for the upcoming weeks based on interest and need.



Find a QSP

FINDaQSP.com

Do you need a QSP for your jobsite? Go to our new on-line QSP networking website. We will put you in touch with a reputable QSP in your area. Why pay for all that travel time? FINDaQSP in your area and use local talent!

Would you like to join our QSP network and get job referrals? Go to www.FINDaQSP.com and join the network. If you have the experience we are looking for we will include you in our State-wide network and will send you project opportunities for your region.

Coming soon ... on-line QSP cost quotes.

Please contact us if you have any questions ...

The Monthly Dirt Newsletter Editor:

John Teravskis, QSD, CPESC, REA-I
jteravskis@wgr-sw.com
(209) 334-5363 ext. 202 or (209) 649-0877

Technical Questions about Environmental Compliance?
Call ...

Bret Smith, QSP, CESSWI
bsmith@wgr-sw.com, (209) 642-0181

Bill Senner, QSP, CESSWI
bsenner@wgr-sw.com, (310) 629-5260



April Special

pH Solution Packets
(4.0,7.0,& 10.0 X 5)

\$28.00



Single use pH solution packets. This box set includes 5 of each buffers (4.0, 7.0, & 10.0). The set also includes bonus rinse packets.

- Model: WD-35653-04

Universal Spill Pads

\$67.00

- Universal Spill Pads 15" X 18" 100/Bale
- Heavy Weight - Dimpled



Contents include:

100 heavy weight universal spill pads.



Visit us at www.bmpoutlet.com

BMP OUTLET'S Product Spotlight

Silt Sifter® Bag



Silt Sifter® is the ultimate solution! The patented dual-component, bag-within-a-bag design, Silt Sifter® Bag is the original cushioned sediment control device incorporating materials specifically chosen for both 'filtration' and 'high-flow' performance. Squared on one end to better hug the curb, the Silt Sifter® Bag comes either pre-filled with 30 pounds of 1" natural rock or empty. The sewn-in Heavy Duty 2" Velcro enclosure makes it a snap to fill and provides a solid barrier to prevent any rock from escaping making for a cleaner and tidier job site.

Product Specifications:

- Outer Material High density polyethylene
- Poly thread (4) lock stitching
- Filtering Media Pine Wood Excelsior*
- Rock Bag High density polyethylene - Poly thread (4) lock stitching
- Stabilization 1" rock (filled)
- UV Rating 85% with 364° flammability point
- Dimensions 30"L x 16"W x 6"H
- Weight (Dry) Approximately 30 lbs. (filled)
- Durability 500 lb. burst strength
- Maintenance Clean with power wash or strong hose

*Pine wood excelsior acts as a filter for capturing silt, sediment and soils. Also a cushioning agent to substantially reduce product damage under normal conditions.

*****This product ships empty (No rock)***** Available filled for local pick up only.