

**Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield
Stormwater Management Program
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System**

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Stormwater Guidance for Construction Site Runoff Control

**Georgia General NPDES Stormwater Permit GAG480000 for Discharges Associated with
Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) At Military Facilities**

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"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."



JAMES L. HEIDLE
Director, Public Works

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The following Erosion and Sedimentation Control Standards will apply to any land disturbance activities on Fort Stewart/ Hunter Army Airfield (FS/HAAF) and will not be exempt from O.C.G.A. 12-7-1 Georgia Erosion & Sedimentation Control Act, 1975 (amended 2003), and all waters entering the storm water collection systems generated on any developed lands, reference; Federal Clean Water Act, and Georgia Water Quality Control-Chapter 391-3-6.03, and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) MS4 Permit Part IV.B.4.

1. General Provision

- a. Plans for those land disturbing activities which are not excluded from this guidance shall contain provisions for application of soil erosion and sedimentation control measures and practices. The provisions shall be incorporated into the erosion and sedimentation control plans.
- b. Soil erosion and sedimentation control measures and practices shall conform to the minimum requirements of 4.b. of this guidance. The application of measures and practices shall apply to all features of the site, including street and utility installations, utility rights of way, drainage facilities, and other temporary and permanent improvements. Measures shall be installed to prevent or control erosion and sedimentation pollution during all stages of any land disturbing activity.
- c. For construction projects, the design professional must inspect the initial sediment storage requirements and perimeter control best management practices (BMPs) which the design professional shall report the results of the inspection to the primary permittee within seven days and the permittee must correct all deficiencies within two business days of receipt of the inspection report from the design professional unless weather related site conditions are such that additional time is required.

2. Submission Notice of Intent

- a. Any activity subject to a construction NPDES stormwater discharge permit shall comply with all provisions of such permit. Proof of compliance with said permit may be required in a form acceptable to the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Environmental Division prior to the allowing of discharges to the MS4.
- b. The "operator" and/or "owner" of any construction activity that is required to have a NPDES Permit to Discharge Stormwater Associated with Construction Activity shall submit a copy of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to the DPW Environmental Division Stormwater Project Manager, for review and coordination, to ensure Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or the Soils District has "technical oversight" of the Erosion & Sedimentation Pollution Control Plan, prior to any submittals of the NOI as required to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD).
- c. The copy of the NOI may be delivered either in person, email, or by mailing to:

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DPW Environmental Division
Stormwater Project Manager
1550 Veterans Parkway, Bldg. 1137
Fort Stewart, Georgia 31314
Christian.k.montano.ctr@mail.mil

- d. An “operator” and/or “owner” performing any land disturbance on FS/HAAF must have documentation of the State Erosion and Sedimentation certified personnel prior to commencement of any land disturbing activity readily available at the project site.
- e. An “operator” and/or “owner” is in violation of the NPDES Permitting and this Erosion and Sedimentation Control Standards if the “owner” and/or “operator” operates a facility that is discharging stormwater associated with a construction activity without having submitted a copy of the NOI to the DPW Environmental Division.

3. Minimum Requirements

No discharges shall cause violations of Georgia’s in-stream water quality standards as provided by the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6-.03.:

- a. Any entity or sub-contractor shall meet all requirements of the current State General Construction Permits and Erosion & Sedimentation Controls,
- b. Any entity or contractor shall provide a plan that demonstrates use of BMPs, including sound conservation and engineering practices to prevent and minimize erosion and resultant sedimentation, which are consistent with, and no less stringent than, those practices contained in the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia published by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission as of January 1 of the year in which the land disturbing activity was permitted to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of Georgia,
- c. Stripping of vegetation, regrading, and other developmental activities shall be conducted in a manner so as to minimize erosion,
- d. Cut-fill operations must be kept to a minimum,
- e. Developmental plans must conform to topography and soil type so as to create the lowest erosion potential,
- f. Whenever feasible, natural vegetation shall be retained, protected and supplemented,
- g. The disturbed area and the duration of exposure to erosive elements shall be kept to a practicable minimum,

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- h. Disturbed soil shall be stabilized as quickly as practicable,
- i. Temporary vegetation or mulching shall be implemented as soon as practicable to protect all exposed areas not under active construction during development,
- j. Permanent vegetation and structural erosion control practices shall be installed as soon as practicable,
- k. To the extent necessary, sediment in runoff water must be trapped by the use of debris basins, sediment basins, silt traps, or similar measures until the disturbed area is stabilized. As used in this paragraph, a disturbed area is stabilized when it is brought to a condition of continuous compliance with the requirements of O.C.G.A. 12-7-1 et seq,
- l. Adequate provisions must be provided to minimize damage from surface water to the cut face of excavations or the slopping of hills,
- m. Cuts (including ditches, trenches, swales, etc.) and fills may not endanger adjoining property,
- n. Fills may not encroach upon natural watercourses or constructed channels in a manner so as to adversely affect other facilities,
- o. Grading equipment must cross flowing streams by means of bridges or culverts. When such methods are not feasible, the applicant shall include a provision in the erosion and sedimentation control plan showing how the crossings will be accomplished, provided that such crossings are kept to a minimum,
- p. Land disturbing activity plans for erosion and sedimentation control shall include provisions for treatment or control of any source of sediments and adequate sedimentation control facilities to retain sediments on-site,
- q. There is established a 25 foot buffer along the banks of all state waters, as measured horizontally from the point where vegetation has been wrested by normal stream flow or wave action, except where the GA EPD determines to allow a variance that is at least as protective of natural resources and the environment, where otherwise allowed by the Director pursuant to O.C.G.A. 12-28, or where a drainage structure or a roadway drainage structure must be constructed, provided that adequate erosion control measures are incorporated in the project plans and specifications, and are implemented; provided, however, the buffers of at least 25 feet established pursuant to part 6 of article 5, chapter 5 of Title 12, the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, shall remain in force unless a variance is granted by the Director as provided in this paragraph. The following requirements shall apply to any such buffer:

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1. No land-disturbing activities shall be conducted within a buffer and a buffer shall remain in its natural, undisturbed state of vegetation until all land disturbing activities on the construction site are completed. Once the final stabilization of the site is achieved, a buffer may be thinned or trimmed of vegetation as long as a protective vegetative cover remains to protect water quality and aquatic habitat and a natural canopy is in sufficient quantity to keep shade on the stream bed,
2. The buffer shall not apply to the following land disturbing activities, provided that they occur at an angle, as measured from the point of crossing, within 25 degrees of perpendicular to the stream; cause a width of disturbance of not more than 50 feet within the buffer; and adequate erosion control measures are incorporated into the project plans and specifications and are implemented to prevent scouring of the banks,
 - Stream crossings for water lines,
 - Stream crossings for sewer lines,
 - Stream crossings for fences.
3. The buffer shall not apply to the following land disturbing activities for aerial utility lines at stream crossings, provided that:
 - The new utility line right-of-way width does not exceed 200 linear feet,
 - Utility lines are routed and constructed so as to minimize the number of stream crossings and disturbances to the buffer,
 - Only trees and tree debris are removed from within the buffer resulting in only minor soil erosion (i.e. disturbance to underlying vegetation is minimized), and
 - Functional native riparian vegetation is re-established in any bare or disturbed areas within the buffer.
4. The buffer shall not apply to the following land disturbing activities for stream crossing for roadway drainage culverts and bridges provided that:
 - The GA EPD approved guidelines by Georgia Department of Transportation are utilized,

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- Installation or maintenance of drainage structures classified as a culvert cause a width of disturbance of no more than 50 feet within the buffer measured from the end of the culvert wing walls,
- Installation or maintenance of bridges cause a width of disturbance of no more than 100 feet within the buffer measured from each end of the bridge.

The plan shall include a description of the stream crossings with details of the buffer disturbance including area and length of buffer disturbance, estimated length of time of buffer disturbance, and justification.

Note – any of the above requirements do not exempt the requirements for the 404 wetland permitting.

4. Exemptions from Permitted Land Disturbing Activities

Although an NOI is not required, the erosion and sedimentation control BMPs must be incorporated and utilized for any land disturbance. In addition, as required by the State, a minimum Level 1A Erosion and Sedimentation Certified Trained Individual must be on site during any land disturbing activities.

- a. Infrastructure construction projects that result in land disturbance of less than five acres and consist solely of routine maintenance for the original purpose of the facility that is performed to maintain the original line of grade and the hydraulic capacity as applicable. Ensuring at a minimum implementation and maintenance of BMPs including sound conservation which are consistent with and no less stringent than those practices contained in the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia published by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission as of January 1 of the year in which the land disturbing activity is being conducted. In order to be eligible for this exemption the project must comply with the following conditions:
 1. No mass grading shall occur on the project,
 2. The project shall be stabilized by the end of each day with temporary or permanent stabilization, and
 3. The project shall have duration of less than 90 calendar days.
- b. Discharges of stormwater associated with railroad construction projects and emergency reconstruction conducted pursuant to the Federal Railway Safety Act, the Interstate Commerce Termination Act, and which consist solely of routine maintenance for the original purpose of the facility that is performed to maintain the original line and grade and the hydraulic capacity as applicable. The construction activity should, at a minimum, implement and maintain BMPs including sound conservation and engineering practices to

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prevent and minimize erosion and resultant sedimentation consistent with the requirements of the Federal Railway Safety Act and applicable requirements of the Clean Water Act.

- c. Construction work less than three-quarters (.75) of an acre conducted outside of the 25 foot buffer along the banks of all State Waters requiring a buffer. Any entity or subcontractor that is responsible, either directly or indirectly, for the construction, installation, or maintenance of smaller structures or minor land disturbing activities, such as: home gardens, landscaping, repairs, maintenance work, fences, storage buildings, concrete/asphalt repair, parking lot expansions, sidewalks, access roads, guard towers, and other related activities that result in minor soil erosion. Ensuring at a minimum, the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) Section 438 federal requirements for new development and redevelopment are adhered to for projects 5,000 square feet or greater, and the implementation and maintenance of BMPs, including sound conservation and engineering practices to prevent and minimize erosion and resultant sedimentation, which are consistent with and no less stringent than those practices contained in the Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia published by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission as of January 1 of the year in which the land disturbing activity is being conducted. In order to be eligible for this exemption the project must comply with the following conditions:
1. No mass grading shall occur on the project,
 2. The project shall be stabilized by the end of each day with temporary and/or Permanent stabilization, and
 3. The project shall have a duration of less than ninety (90) calendar days.

Note – any of the above exemptions do not exempt the requirements for the 404 wetland permitting, stream buffers, or EISA section 438.