



## **SAFETY MEETING TOPIC: BMP Maintenance**

### **Background:**

Although the SWPPP Managers/Storm Water Inspectors are responsible for inspecting BMPs and ensuring BMPs are maintained, this can be a daunting job. However, the SWPPP Manager/Storm Water Inspectors can be more effective in avoiding or responding to BMP failures if all construction staff have a role in ensuring BMPs are installed and working properly. Encouraging all employees to identify and alert the SWPPP Manager to problems with BMPs would help improve overall compliance with the CGP and ensure a safe work environment. The goal of this Safety Meeting topic is to cover basic concepts around BMP maintenance in order to increase employee awareness about potential maintenance concerns and establishing procedures for reporting problems.

### **Approach 1: Generic BMP Maintenance Discussion**

This is meant to be a general discussion to increase overall awareness of BMP maintenance concerns. This would be most useful at the beginning of a job, when there has been turn-over, or when a new sub-contractor has started work. It can also be used as an occasional reminder throughout the life of the job. You can read from the following example script, or modify it as appropriate.

### **Example Script:**

Best Management Practices, or BMPs, are installed per our Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, or SWPPP. The purpose of all these BMPs is to prevent sediment and other pollutants from leaving the site. BMPs are required per the construction general permit (CGP), and DOT&PF or a Contractor could potentially be liable for any non-compliance with the SWPPP or the permit. I would appreciate it if everyone could help the SWPPP Manager(s) [state name] by reporting any of the following problems:

- Discharges of pollutants from a missing or failing BMP, such as sediment leaking through or bypassing silt fences or other perimeter controls.
- Any BMPs that appear to be damaged, such as a wattle that has been crushed by a vehicle or a silt fence that is knocked over.
- Any BMPs that may require immediate maintenance, such as overflowing concrete washout or dumpsters.
- Any erosion problems such as the formation of rills in side slopes (see attached in Appendix A or take a picture from the site to have on hand. We all have a phone with us when inspecting).
- Information missing from the SWPPP sign.

If you accidentally damage a BMP, please notify the SWPPP Manager immediately. Only re-install the BMP if you know what the proper installation for that BMP is.

### **Approach 2: Specific BMP Maintenance Discussion**

This approach is meant to increase awareness about BMP-specific maintenance concerns. This would be most useful before or just after installing a new BMP that warrants highlighting, such as a BMP that employees must use (e.g. a concrete wash out), a BMP protecting a sensitive resource, or a BMP that

has recently been maintained or replaced due to an employee error (e.g. improper installation, accidental damage). You can use the example script, which is for a concrete washout, or you can modify it for a specific BMP on your site. When modifying, it is recommended that you go over the BMP's purpose, location (if needed), and any potential maintenance concerns.

### **Example script:**

We have just installed lined concrete washout(s) at [provide locations, and/or use maps as appropriate]. They are clearly marked with signs [describe signs, if needed]. The purpose of the concrete washout is to allow for easy disposal of washout material from concrete trucks to ensure the washout water does not go into a waterbody or storm drain.

**Why is concrete washout BMP so important?** Concrete washout water (or washwater) is a slurry containing toxic metals. It is corrosive, with a pH near 12. In comparison, liquid Drano cleaner has a pH of 13.5. This corrosive washout, if released into waters can harm fish gills and eyes and interfere with reproduction. A safe pH range for aquatic life habitats are 6.5 – 9 for freshwater and 6.5 – 8.5 for marine water.

All concrete operators are required to use the designated areas for washout activities including washout of chutes and hoppers. Please notify the SWPPP Manager if:

- The washout is nearing 50 percent capacity [or smaller percentage to avoid late maintenance]
- The washout is leaking or discharging material
- Washout material has been found on-site outside of the designated area
- Operators are not using the washout
- The washout signs are not legible or missing
- The washout has trash material in it

### **Approach 3: Housekeeping BMPs**

This approach is meant to provide an overall awareness of general housekeeping. Like Approach 1, this would be most useful at the beginning of a job, when there has been turn-over, or when a new sub-contractor has started work. It can also be used as an occasional reminder throughout the life of the job. You can read from the following example script, or modify it as appropriate.

### **Example script:**

Good Housekeeping best management practices are aimed at keeping a clean construction site to avoid health and safety concerns, and to prevent construction materials and wastes from discharging into a waterbody. While working, please follow these basic housekeeping practices:

1. Do not litter. Pick up after yourselves. We have dumpsters and/or garbage cans located throughout the job site for your use. [Name locations and provide map if needed]. The lids on these containers must be kept close.
2. Return materials to their proper storage or staging areas.
3. When storing toxic or hazardous materials such as paints, solvents, pesticides, and fuels, ensure they are in secured containers and placed in containment areas [describe where secondary containment areas are located]. Report any leaks or spills per the instructions on the DEC spill placard and do your best to contain the spill. Do your best to clean up the spills immediately.
4. Use designated equipment and vehicle fueling areas.

5. Use designated construction entrances/exits and notify the SWPPP Manager of any track out in need of maintenance.

Please treat this job site like your home.

## Appendix A.



Need to protect steep slopes.



Notice how the wattle is locked in place and overlapped correctly.