

May 10, 2016

Mr. Brian S. Clevenger
Program Manager – Sediment, Stormwater and
Dam Safety Program
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Dear Mr. Clevenger:

The Prince George's Soil Conservation District is providing, for your review and comment, revisions to the currently approved list of acceptable *Major and Minor Modification to Approved Sediment and Erosion Control Documents* pursuant to COMAR 26.17.01.09 H – *Plan Modifications*.

These revisions are being proposed to provide guidance and further clarify this provision (*Plan Modifications*) to delegated inspections and enforcement programs or authorities within the County, and the development community at large. This draws on our experiences supporting the individual authorities (i.e. Prince George's County, City of Bowie, City of Laurel and City of Greenbelt) with their operations and recent individual programmatic reviews by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

We look forward to your review and approval of the proposed revisions per the enclosed memorandum. The District's design manual will be updated accordingly following your approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr. John Tarr – District Engineer should additional information be needed or if there are any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Steven E. Darcey
Executive Director

Attachment

cc: Raymon Bahr, Program Review Division Chief, MDE
Stewart Comstock, Regulatory and Compliance Engineer, MDE

MEMORANDUM

June 17, 2016

To: Delegated Erosion and Sediment Control Inspections and Enforcement Programs

From: Steven E. Darcey, CPESC
Executive Director

Re: Major and Minor Modifications to Approved Sediment and Erosion Control Documents

The following shall constitute guidance regarding major and minor modifications of and to approved Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Plans and supporting documentation as necessary, pursuant to COMAR 26.17.01.09 H – *Plan Modifications*, and Section 4.3 – *Modifications to Erosion and Sediment Control Plans* of the ‘Maryland Model Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance’ (February 2012):

MINOR PLAN MODIFICATIONS

Minor modifications can be made in the field with the approval or direction of the appropriate inspections/ enforcement authority (i.e., Prince George’s County, City of Bowie, City of Laurel and City of Greenbelt). Such modifications, while not required to be approved by the Prince George’s Soil Conservation District (hereinafter ‘District’), are strongly recommended to be coordinated with the District. These include:

- I. Adjustments of sediment control practice(s) to meet field contours or topography.
 - i. No change allowed in minimum storage capacity or minimum criteria;
 - ii. Must maintain relative elevations per design.
- II. Adjustments to allow for positive drainage.
- III. Increases in size or upgrading of sediment control practices from minimum design.
 - i. No change allowed in pipe sizes.

- IV. Increases in the storage capacity of sediment traps and basins in excess of minimum design requirements;
 - i. Cannot be changes that result in an increase of the drainage area to a facility that exceeds its limitations **by standard or approved design.**
- V. Addition of earth dikes, stone outlet structures (SOS), or silt fence where needed based on changed or differing site conditions.
 - i. Cannot be a replacement for another required **practice per the approved plan or documents**, change drainage patterns **or areas**, or due to poor phasing.
- VI. Addition of devices to allow for the crossing of berms and swales. **Examples are the use of a Temporary Access Bridge or Mountable Berm.**
- VII. Emergency measures needed to minimize or eliminate a problem needing immediate attention. Emergency measures of a major plan change nature shall be referred to the District – refer to *Major Plan Modifications* below.
- VIII. Alternate method of stabilization of disturbed areas and/or sediment control practices as taken from the Standards and Specifications.
 - i. Does not relate to substituting temporary stabilization practices for required permanent practices.
- IX. Incidental disturbance beyond approved limit of disturbance that is immediately stabilized.
- X. Addition of stockpiles incidental to the installation of sediment control practices.

Minor plan modifications to a District approved Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control Plan are to be shown on the plan, initialed and dated by the appropriate inspections and enforcement authority. All modifications shall be in accordance to the current edition of the Maryland Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control – Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Revisions to the approved minor plan modifications list, or the use of any sediment control practice not included in the Maryland Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, requires approval by the Prince George's Soil Conservation District or the Maryland Department of the Environment.

MAJOR PLAN MODIFICATIONS

Major changes/ modifications require that revised plans, and supporting documentation, be submitted to the District by the appropriate inspections and enforcement authority (i.e., Prince

George's County, City of Bowie, City of Laurel and City of Greenbelt) for review and approval prior to construction. These include:

- I. Recommending practices when the plan and or sequence of construction items have not been followed.
- II. Phasing change(s) on the plan.
- III. Changing size(s) of practices.
 - i. Refers to eliminating or decreasing storage area per the specified practice's criteria.
- IV. Substituting for required practices.
- V. Allowing temporary seeding when permanent seeding is required.
- VI. Decreasing minimum size of trap, berm, stone outlet, size and type of stone, pipes, etc.
- VII. Allowing on-site grading changes which:
 - i. Alter drainage area, e.g., retaining walls, benches, storm drain, etc.;
 - ii. Steepen slopes or lengthen slopes;
 - iii. Concentrate flows;
 - iv. Extend grading beyond the approved limits of disturbance.

Revisions to the approved major plan modifications list, or the use of any sediment control practice not included in the Maryland Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, requires approval by the Prince George's Soil Conservation District or the Maryland Department of the Environment.