

MS 14 – All applicable federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to working in or crossing live watercourses shall be met

Water quality protection is a key component in the design, construction, maintenance and operation of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) projects. By law, VDOT is responsible for maintaining the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the Commonwealth's water resources in the proximity of all road projects. For these reasons, each project must be evaluated for the need of a water quality permit. This permit determination (PD) takes into account the scope of work and environmental resources that may be affected, and identifies which permit best suits the project.

VDOT secures permits from four different regulatory agencies: the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). These permits authorize VDOT to commence construction or maintenance activities in, on, or over a water body or wetland. These permits are subject to modification, revocation or suspension by the permitting agency, at any time.

Once permits are acquired, special provisions and sketches are included in the project contract documents. The Special Provisions include the project description and any project-specific conditions required by the agencies. These permit conditions can be general or specific to a project. They can relate to notification of project commencement or termination, erosion and sediment control, Stormwater management, time of year restrictions for species, water quality monitoring, or limits for specific water quality parameters.

Environmental compliance is an integral component of VDOT's construction and maintenance program. Components of environmental compliance are woven into the permit conditions and are legally binding requirements between VDOT and the permitting agencies. All of the regulatory agencies have the right to inspect projects for permit compliance. These inspections may occur during construction as well as post-construction.

IN CONCLUSION, THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT AUTHORIZE NOR SUPPORT WORKING IN JURISDICTIONAL AREAS WITHOUT THE APPROPRIATE WATER QUALITY PERMITS OR COMPLYING WITH THE CONDITIONS OF WATER QUALITY PERMIT AUTHORIZATIONS.