

VDOT Environmental Monitoring Program

Land-disturbing activities in the Commonwealth fall principally under the authority and jurisdiction of the Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Law and Regulations. In order to insure compliance with the ESC Regulations and VDOT's Approved ESC and SWM Standards and Specifications, VDOT has established the Environmental Monitoring Program. Staff assigned to this program conducts site reviews and provides guidance and technical advice to VDOT construction and maintenance staff who are responsible for the implementation and inspections of erosion and sediment control plans on regulated land disturbance activities performed within VDOT right-of-way.

The responsibilities of the Environmental Monitors are to monitor the activities of the contractor, the inspector and other construction/maintenance staff for compliance with the DCR approved VDOT ESC and SWM Standards and Specifications and the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Permit requirements. Where deficiencies are noted with regards to the environmental aspects of the land disturbing activity (e.g., the contractor's plan of operations, the erosion and sediment control or stormwater management plan, water quality permits, hazardous materials, cultural resources, threatened & endangered species, noise abatement, compensatory mitigation, and ecological monitoring), the Environmental Monitors recommend a corrective course of action.

Site reviews conducted by an Environmental Monitor are documented in the Comprehensive Environmental Data & Reporting System (CEDAR) by using the Environmental Compliance Report (ECR) form. These reports are also provided to the District Administrator, Resident Administrator, Area Construction Engineer, Inspector, and Project Manager for assisting and assessing environmental compliance for VDOT construction, maintenance, and facilities operations. The results of the reports are recorded on the VDOT Dashboard II for viewing by the public and are a performance measure for the Department.

The VDOT Environmental Monitoring Program is managed by the Environmental Division under the direct authority of the Environmental Division Administrator and District Environmental Managers.