

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LOCATION AND DESIGN DIVISION

INSTRUCTIONAL AND INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM

GENERAL SUBJECT: RURAL RUSTIC ROAD PROJECTS	NUMBER: IIM-LD-245
SPECIFIC SUBJECT: Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Construction General Permit and Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Regulation Requirements	DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2008
	SUPERSEDES:
DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR APPROVAL:	Mohammad Mirshahi, P.E. State Location and Design Engineer Approved September 10, 2008

EFFECTIVE DATE

- These instructions are effective upon receipt.
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INTRODUCTION

- The Rural Rustic Road Program was developed as a means to pave Virginia's low volume unpaved roads while ensuring environmental and financial stewardship. Legislation enacted by the 2002 session of the General Assembly and amended by the 2003 session provided that this construction method would be considered as a first alternative for improving all unpaved roads in the Commonwealth.
- The Guidelines For Rural Rustic Road Program developed by the Local Assistance Division and the Rural Rustic Road Policy Committee can be found at:
<http://www.virginiadot.org/info/resources/RuralRusticProgram.pdf>

These guidelines define the eligibility criteria and approval process for candidate projects.

- Ideally, Rural Rustic Road Projects:
 - Provide a paved travelway width that approximates the existing gravel width (For roadways with an excess of 400 vpd, an 18' paved surface is desirable).
 - Require no improvements to the existing horizontal or vertical alignment.
 - Require roadside ditch work only to reestablish existing line, grade or hydraulic capacity, provide positive drainage or address safety concerns.

- Require drainage pipe work to extend existing structures, replace structurally deficient structures or address safety concerns.
 - Do not change the characteristics of the stormwater run-off leaving the project site, i.e., no increase in peak rates of flow, volume or velocity.
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POLICY

- Rural Rustic Road projects that disturb one acre (2,500 square feet in designated Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas) or greater must obtain coverage under the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Permit for discharges of stormwater from construction activities. One of the many requirements of the VSMP Construction Permit is the development of a project specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). For more information about a SWPPP, see Road and Bridge Specification 107.16(e) and IIM-LD-246 (Under Development).
- Rural Rustic Road projects that disturb 10,000 square feet (2,500 square feet in localities define as Tidewater, Virginia in the Chesapeake Bay Act) or greater must have an Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Plan and must comply with VDOT's Approved ESC and SWM Standards and Specifications. A part of that compliance is adherence to Minimum Standard (MS) 19 of the Virginia ESC Regulations. MS19 contains criteria for documenting adequacy of all off-site outfall channels for capacity and erosion protection. MS19 also contains requirements for adequate onsite drainage facilities. That requirement mandates that such drainage facilities have the capacity to convey the run-off from a 10 year storm event.
- Any grading, filling, scarifying or manipulation of the surface of the existing gravel travelway is to be included in the calculation for total land disturbance for the purposes of determining the application of the ESC Regulations and VSMP Construction Permit. This requirement is applicable regardless of the nature of the activity (i.e., construction or maintenance).
- By law and published guidelines, Rural Rustic Road projects do not meet the intent of MS19 for onsite drainage facilities, as such facilities on Rural Rustic Road projects are only improved as necessary to reestablish existing line, grade or hydraulic capacity, provide positive drainage or address safety concerns. As a result, the Rural Rustic Road projects are considered a special classification of land disturbing activities. They will be considered meeting MS19 provided **all** of the following criteria are met:
 1. There will be no increase in impervious area as a result of the project (i.e., the proposed paved area will approximate the existing compacted gravel area).
 2. There will be no improvements to the existing horizontal or vertical alignment.
 3. Roadside ditch work will only be performed as necessary to reestablish existing line, grade or hydraulic capacity, provide positive drainage or address safety concerns.
 4. Drainage pipe work will only be performed as necessary to extend existing structures, replace structurally deficient structures or address safety concerns.
 5. There will be no change in the characteristics of the stormwater run-off leaving the project site, i.e., no increase in peak rates of flow, volume or velocity.

6. There will be no increase in the number of concentrated flow discharge points and the existing drainage patterns between the concentrated flow discharge points will remain the same.
 7. The project files will be thoroughly documented with regards to the project meeting the requirements of items 1 through 6.
 8. A Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Reviewer or Professional Engineer with expertise in the field of ESC and SWM shall certify that the project meets the requirements of items 1 through 7. This is accomplished by the Plan Reviewer completing the appropriate sections of Form LD-445C as a part of the overall review and approval process for the erosion and sediment control plan for the project.
- Projects not meeting the above requirements must either provide adequate (10 year design) for onsite drainage facilities or request a project specific Variance from DCR. Instructions for submitting a project specific variance can be found in the latest version of IIM-LD-11.