All construction sites should use controls to protect water quality from stormwater runoff. In Arkansas, construction sites of at least one acre are regulated through General Permit ARR150000. This fact sheet is one of a series to help construction site operators understand their responsibilities.

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP or SWP3) is defined in the permit as a plan that includes site map(s), an identification of site personnel, activities that could cause pollutants in the stormwater, and a description of measures or practices to control these pollutants (BMPs).

Land disturbance of 1 acre or larger requires the development and maintenance of a SWPPP.

Access SWPPP templates on ADEQ’s website:
For land disturbance of 5 acres or greater: http://www.adeq.state.ar.us/water/branch_permits/general_permits/stormwater/construction/pdfs/ARR150000_swppp.pdf

For sites disturbing 1-4.99 acres the plan must be completed prior to construction commencement and posted on-site. It does not have to be submitted to ADEQ.

For sites 5 acres or larger the plan must be submitted to ADEQ two weeks prior to construction.

The plan must be accessible during normal business hours (8am-5pm) to ADEQ, EPA, or any state or local agencies. The operator must post the Notice of Coverage (NOC) near the main entrance of the construction site and visible to the public. The NOC will indicate the location of the SWPPP.

SWPPP must include at minimum the following:
- Site description – Topographic view, description of activities, sequence of activities, estimated site area, runoff coefficient
- Responsible parties – Identify all involved parties; general contractor, landscapers, inspectors and their function
- Receiving water – Nearest receiving water or municipal system
- Documentation of permit eligibility related to the 303(d) list and total maximum daily loads (TMDL) – Do any of the discharges enter an impaired waterbody?
Best Management and Compliance Tips

- Disturb the smallest area possible.
- Leave as much original/natural vegetation as possible.
- Stabilize disturbed areas as soon as possible.
- Sequence activities carefully to minimize rework and impacts from one portion of the site on another.
- Avoid steep or unstable slopes and areas with soils susceptible to erosion.
- Time construction activities to limit the impact from seasonal climate changes or severe weather.
- Create as little new impervious (paved) surface as possible.
- Don’t mix other waste streams (such as vehicle wash water containing detergent) with storm water.
- Endangered Species – Contact US Fish & Wildlife to obtain consent to operate and discharge. The letter must be kept with the SWPPP.
- Site Map – Stormwater flow, disturbed areas, structural control locations, entrance/exit, stabilization areas, storage areas, concrete wash-out, surface waterbodies
- Buffer areas:
  - For construction projects where clearing and grading activities will occur, there must be 25 feet of buffer zone from any named or unnamed stream, creek, river, or waterbodies.
  - Fifty feet of buffer zone from any waterbodies listed on the 303 (d) list, Extraordinary Resource Water, Ecologically Sensitive Waterbody, or Natural and Scenic Waterway

Inspections must be kept with the SWPPP.
Inspection Frequency:
  a. At least once every 7 calendar days, or
  b. At least once every 14 calendar days and within 24 hours of the end of a storm event of 0.5 inches or greater (a rain gauge must be maintained on-site).

Record all spills, leaks and clean-ups in the SWPPP.

Record keeping – SWPPP and all related documents must be kept on record for 3 years. Update SWPPP if there are new personnel at the site.

About ADEQ

The Department of Environmental Quality is an agency of the state of Arkansas. We are headquartered in North Little Rock and have offices and area inspectors across the state.

Our regulatory programs for air, water, solid waste, hazardous waste, petroleum storage tanks, and mining help protect the environment. We issue permits to businesses and farms and monitor for compliance.

We also manage many programs to assist businesses, educators, and the public with regulatory, recycling, and other issues. ADEQ offers loans and tax credits for environmental improvement projects.