April 1, 2018

Ontonagon County Soil Erosion Control

County Enforcing Agency

Over the past several decades, construction activities have increased, creating the potential for serious erosion and sedimentation problems and their associated impacts to the environment.

The effective control of runoff, soil erosion, and sedimentation requires the application of the following 5 principals of erosion and sediment control:

1. To the extent possible, plan the development to fit the topography, soils, and natural vegetation at a site. Attempts should be made in the design stage of a project to identify and preserve those areas that augment infiltration such as wetlands and woodlots. When structures and grading are designed to fit the site, less soil is exposed to erosive forces. The result can be reduced runoff rates, limited environmental damage, and savings in project costs.
2. Expose the smallest practical area of soil for the shortest possible time by scheduling and staging project activities. Stabilize soil surfaces exposed during the first phase of the project before beginning construction on the next phase. Daily seeding and mulching with permanent or temporary seeding mixtures is recommended.
3. Apply soil erosion prevention practices as a first line of defense against on site damage. Use practices that minimize erosion on a site to prevent sediment from being produced and the need for costly controls to trap and control sediment.
4. Apply sediment control practices as a perimeter protection to prevent sediment from leaving the site. Use practices that control sediment once it is produced, and prevent it from getting off-site.
5. Implement a thorough inspection, maintenance, and follow-up program. Erosion and sedimentation cannot be effectively controlled without a thorough, periodic check of the site and continued maintenance of the control measures.

The MDNRE (Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment) uses 2 parts of the NREPA (Natural Resources and Environmental act, 1994 PA45) to comply with the requirements of the federal construction storm water program, they are parts 91 and 31 and the rules promulgated under those parts.

Part 91 permits are generally required for any earth change that disturbs 1 or more acres of land or that is within 500 ft. of the water’s edge of a lake or stream. Permits must be issued to the land owner or easement holder.

Part 31 (Storm water runoff) used permit by rule making full use of part 91 to provide automatic storm water permit coverage for construction sites 1-5 acres with a point source discharge to the surface waters of the state, as long as the landowner has coverage under part 91.

To keep in compliance if you are doing earth work within 500 ft. of the water or an acre or more in size, or answer any questions please contact me at dkolpackos@gmail.com or County Emergency office at 884-4980.

Thank you

Duane Kolpack, Ontonagon CEA