



# NEW HANOVER COUNTY

## ENGINEERING

230 Government Center Drive, Suite 160, Wilmington, NC 28403

P: (910) 798-7139 | F: (910) 798-7051 | NHCgov.com

**Jim Iannucci, PE, CFM**, County Engineer

# Memorandum

July 10, 2019

To: Engineers, Surveyors, Developers, Builders and Grading Contractors

From: Jim Iannucci, PE, CFM, County Engineer

Subject: Update to Changes in the Local Sediment and Erosion Control Program

New Hanover County continues to embrace a new approach to permitting and inspecting land disturbing activities to provide more efficient service to anyone using the program. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update to submitting plans and maintaining sediment and erosion control measures on sites located within New Hanover County. The three main focus areas are:

- Fees
- Plan Review Process
- Inspections

## Fees

### Plan Review Fees

Review fees will continue to be a one-time fee of \$200.00 for Sediment and Erosion Control plans. Re-review fees will only be charged as an overuse fee of \$200.00 in the event that there are excessive plan resubmissions.

### Land Disturbance Fees

Land disturbance fees have been revised. All land disturbance fees will be \$300.00 per acre regardless of project type to simplify the process. This will benefit all users of the program and eliminate any issues with change of use.

## **Plan Review Process**

### **Plan Review Process**

The plan review process was revised to expedite reviews and to reduce the amount of time required to begin land disturbing activities. Preconstruction Meetings are optional. However, the contractor must notify New Hanover County of the date that the land disturbing activity will begin. The feedback we have received on preconstruction meetings has been positive and we will continue to offer them to ensure everyone is aware of the plan and permit requirements.

### **Combined Plan Review**

Combined Plan Review will continue to be offered. This is not required and individual Sediment and Erosion Control Plans or Stormwater Plans can still be submitted per current procedures. We have slowly begun to see engineers take advantage of combined plan review. Electronic plan set submittal is preferred. The Chief Project Engineer will review stormwater and temporary stormwater control measures and the Sediment and Erosion Control Specialist will review the sediment and erosion control measures. The County Engineer will handle all appeals as per the current ordinance.

### **Plan Review Comments**

Review comments will continue to be sent out in the Request for Additional Information format. Comments regarding compliance with the Sediment and Erosion Control Ordinance will be listed in the first paragraph. These comments will be limited to those things required by ordinance and within scope. Any plan suggestions will be included in the second paragraph, but it is completely voluntary to follow suggestions to modify or improve the project plans.

### **Requests for Additional Information**

Our objective is to minimize requests for additional information and to reduce the amount of time needed to issue Land Disturbing Permits. The overall goal is an initial review period of 20 calendar days and a re-review period of 10 calendar days.

## **Inspections**

### **Inspection Process**

The inspection process has been modified to gain efficiency and to prevent sediment from leaving a construction site. Inspections will be performed (1) periodically and (2) after major phases of construction.

### **Field Inspection Report**

The Field Inspection Report was revised to include corrective actions needed to bring into compliance. The report contains two sections. The first section includes actions requiring immediate attention to bring the site into compliance. Any items reported in this section will require the site to be re-inspected in 7-10 calendar days. The second section includes items that

must be corrected by the next periodic inspection. Inspection reports are transitioning to a full electronic format utilizing Energov software IG Inspect.

### **Complaints**

Complaints regarding sediment and erosion control issues are handled separately from periodic sediment and erosion control inspections. Complaints are treated as code compliance cases and are tracked utilizing Energov software IG Enforce. A complaint can be linked to an inspections case on a specific site.

### **Notice of Violations**

A Notice of Violation (NOV) shall be issued for any significant violation of the Sediment Pollution Control Act of 1973 (SPCA), rules adopted pursuant to the SPCA, or the local erosion and sedimentation control ordinance documented in an inspection report. The goal is to remedy all issues when possible with corrective action to bring the site back into compliance prior to issuing a NOV.

### **Fines**

Fines or civil penalties can be assessed if the site is not brought into compliance within the time specified.

### **Feedback**

New Hanover County will continue to assess the effectiveness of these changes and keep our ordinance up to date for our delegated local erosion and sedimentation control program.

Please provide feedback on the effectiveness of the changes or feel free to make other recommendations that would help the program serve you better. Contact Jim Iannucci, PE, CFM at (910) 798-7142 or [jiannucci@nhcgov.com](mailto:jiannucci@nhcgov.com).