



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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Planning & Development Services Building Division Policy

- Title:** Construction Site Dewatering and Plan Preparation Policy
- Code Name:** Boise City Code – Title 9, Chapter 14, Construction Site Erosion Control
- Code Sections:** 9-14-2-4 Erosion, Sediment and Fugitive Dust Control Standards, S. and U.
- Code Language:**

S. Pollutants: Dewatering process and procedures which will remove pollutants in discharges that will comply with all applicable water quality standards for the receiving waters.

U. Turbidity Monitoring: Turbidity monitoring may be required at construction sites that directly discharge to a water body, as required by the most current construction general permit or the State.

Scope of Policy:

A Construction Dewatering Plan must be submitted to the Erosion & Sediment Control (ESC) Section for excavation activities that encounter groundwater or other water that needs to be removed from the excavation and disposed of. The plan must detail a system that will remove silt and other pollutants from this water in order to place clean water back into waterways of the United States. The plan must comply with the following policy and guidelines and include the information listed below.

Policy:

DEWATERING POLICY

1. Construction projects and utility installations that anticipate dewatering must prepare a dewatering plan. This plan shall be included in the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) or Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) submittal for the project and reviewed by the ESC Section.
2. If unanticipated groundwater is encountered, the contractor must immediately stop all work. Prior to resuming excavation, the contractor must submit a dewatering plan, install the dewatering system, have it inspected, commence dewatering, and drawdown the groundwater below the deepest excavation. Contractor may continue doing non-excavation work on site while waiting for plan approval and implementation.
3. The ESC Section requires that dewatering discharges to a receiving surface water or municipal storm drain be tested for turbidity in nephelometric turbidity unit (NTU)s. Turbidity monitoring must be conducted at the start of dewatering and per the current IDPES Construction General Permit or ACHD dewatering permit requirements, whichever is

applicable. The contractor must retain records of testing nephelometric turbidity unit (NTU)s during construction activities. If the presence of other pollutants or pH outside the range of 6-9, the ESC Section may request additional testing or monitoring during the dewatering process.

4. Turbidity meter in use must meet USEPA Method 180.1 design criteria and have been calibrated with non-expired calibration samples within 14 days of water sample. Failure of either will cause sample to be considered invalid. In case of discrepancy between inspector and contractor, NTU readings from inspector's reading will be used on all official city correspondences and reporting.

5. If dewatering discharges are 50 NTUs or greater than the receiving water's background turbidity directly upstream from discharge location, dewatering will be stopped immediately and the dewatering plan modified to bring water into compliance with IDPES Construction General Permit or ACHD dewatering permit water-quality based effluent limits.

6. The person responsible for dewatering operations and turbidity monitoring must be on site daily during active discharge. Contractor may appoint multiple stormwater team members to monitor dewatering and to have the authority to modify dewatering plan as needed to bring water into compliance with water-quality based effluent limits.

PLAN PREPARATION

1. The Construction Dewatering Plan must be prepared by the contractor, or a third party approved to produce the required plan by the site owner. The Plan must be presented on its own separate sheet and include a description of the treatment methods that will remove silt and other pollutants prior to discharge offsite, or a description of onsite land application or infiltration methods. A construction dewatering plan map showing location of treatment and discharge must be identified. The ESC Section Construction Dewatering Plan template may be used as a reference.

2. The Construction Dewatering Plan must be reviewed and approved by the ESC Section. The plan is not required to be included in the pre-construction Building Permit submittal, however if the implementation of a dewatering process becomes necessary during construction, then the Dewatering Plan must be prepared and submitted to the ESC Section for approval prior to offsite discharge. The plan should include a turbidity monitoring log if discharging to a surface water or municipal storm drain.

3. The Construction Dewatering Plan and Plan Map must be legible and understandable. The ESC Section may request revisions or additional information prior to approval.

4. The location for discharging dewatering water shall be into the nearest, most practical outlet or infiltration site as indicated on the approved dewatering plan. The ESC Section requires well point(s) below excavated grade to pump undisturbed groundwater, limiting the amount of sediment and pollutants requiring treatment. Discharge into Ada County Highway District (ACHD) MS4 facilities is prohibited unless specifically approved by ACHD. The Plan submitted to ACHD for the required ACHD dewatering permit may be used to satisfy ESC Section requirements.

5. Discharge into any canals, ditches, private stormwater facilities, or adjacent properties shall require permission from owners or authorized agent. It is ESC permittee's responsibility to obtain applicable permissions prior to commencement of dewatering and to make available to ESC Section upon request.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEWATERING PLAN

1. The installation of the dewatering system shall conform to the approved "Construction Dewatering Plan" contained in the permit document. A copy of the dewatering plan must be available onsite and updated if corrective actions or modifications are needed to maintain compliance with water-quality based effluent limits.

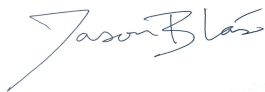
2. All construction activities and the storage of materials in the street and/or sidewalk area, including drainage pipe placement and sidewalk restoration located in ACHD right-of-way, shall first be approved by ACHD.

3. The ESC Section shall be contacted for inspection of dewatering plan implementation prior to discharge. The ESC Inspector onsite will confirm that best management practices (BMP)'s are in place to ensure the appropriate quality of the water to be discharged and conduct turbidity monitoring when applicable. The ESC Inspector may request corrective actions as needed to meet water-quality based effluent limits.

Intent:

The intent of this policy is to require the submittal, implementation, and inspection of a dewatering plan that is compliant with ESC permit conditions and applicable Water Quality Standards for all construction sites that require groundwater dewatering in the City of Boise. This policy replaces a previous version of this policy dated 5/10/18 with updated language.

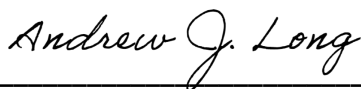
Construction dewatering activities are subject to City, State, County and Federal regulations. Ultimately, the Permittee is responsible for preventing sediment and contaminated groundwater from discharging to municipal storm drain systems and Waters of the United States during site dewatering activities. Violation of this requirement may result in site shutdown and inspection fees. Failure may result in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) audit and/or fines. The approved Construction Dewatering Plan is a general guideline only and does not relieve the Permittee of satisfying the above responsibilities.



Jason Blais
Building Official

3/27/23

Effective Date



Andrew Long
Erosion Control Coordinator

Retired Date