



**Letter to Industry
LTI #2024-01**

Date: April 15, 2024

DCSM Reference: Article 8

Summary of Issue/Topic: Storm Drainage Systems and Erosion Control Requirements

Effective Date: December 29, 2023, **Update Effective May 15, 2024**

Policy/Requirements: Updates to Chapter 4 & 8, Erosion Control Requirements & Storm Drainage Systems of the City of Manassas Design and Construction Standards Manual (DCSM)

Background: **In December the City issued an LTI #2024-01. Since then DEQ has issued their updated draft manuals and regulations for erosion control as well as for stormwater requirements. Due to this update the City has updated this LTI with some new elements as noted in items 4 and 5 below:**

Item 1: DCSM Section 8-100 - Increases in sheet flow/concentrated runoff resulting from regulated land disturbing activities associated with minor site plans submitted after December 29, 2023, including infill single family lot development, must be identified and evaluated to ensure that no downstream flooding or erosion is created or exacerbated. Engineers are recommended to contact our Engineering Department/Stormwater Division to determine if specific issues exist within their stormwater conveyance network and to discuss locations of known flooding and erosion problems.
No changes.

Item 2: DCSM Section 8-500 - Currently the City's policy is to allow pro-rata share as a compliance option for developments upstream of existing regional facilities, if they meet certain criteria. The grandfathering provision for Part IIC of the Virginia Stormwater Management Regulation is set to expire on June 30, 2024 at the end of the current Construction General permit (CGP) cycle.

As of December 29, 2023, the City will no longer allow pro-rata share as an option for stormwater management compliance and all projects will be responsible for meeting the current Virginia Stormwater Management Regulations ([9VAC25-870](#)). Projects approved under the pro-rata program are not eligible for CGP issuance or renewal as of June 30, 2024. In addition, any project requiring CGP coverage using the pro-rata program must achieve final stabilization by June 30, 2024. Any project not requiring CGP coverage using the pro-rata program must obtain City land disturbance permit issuance by June 30, 2024

No changes.

Item 3 (Informational Only): FEMA has notified the City that they are adopting a new Flood Insurance Study (FIS). This will mean that new updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) will become effective on a certain date, and that the community is required to adopt a compliant floodplain management ordinance by that date to remain eligible for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These changes are likely to result in changes to flood insurance requirements and rates for individual parcels in and adjacent to regulated floodplains. The City will hold a public meeting to discuss the changes and adoption of these maps prior to their effective date. **The publishing of the maps has been delayed by FEMA and once they are revised and approved the City will review and hold a public meeting. Thru discussion with FEMA they stated that a community must regulate all development to effective FEMA FIRM/FIS products. A CLOMR is a proposed change to mapping products and NOT a regulatory product. Thus, a proposed development must meet the requirements of the effective mapping products and not what is proposed in the CLOMR until the LOMR is issued which revises the map and this would be enforced until the updated maps are approved and adopted.**

Item 4: Effective July 1, 2024 the City will be adopting the latest state requirements for erosion control requirements. These requirements will take affect at that date. Site plans that are submitted following that date will need to comply with either the old standard or the latest standards during this transitional period. On July 1, 2025, the older regulations cannot be used.

Any rezoning or special use permit applications that are submitted during this transition period should comply with the latest standards so as to avoid issues and non-compliance with future site plans.

Item 5: Effective July 1, 2024 the City will be adopting the latest state requirements for stormwater requirements. These requirements will take affect at that date and site plans that are submitted following that date will need to comply with either the old standard or the latest standards during this transitional period. On July 1, 2025 the older regulations cannot be used.

Any rezoning or special use permit applications that are submitted during this transition period should comply with the latest standards so as to avoid issues and non-compliance with future site plans.


In relationship to items 4 and 5 above, the City is in the process of updating the DCSM and, once completed, will make it available on the website as a separate LTI. For additional information please see the attached memorandum from DEQ.

Contact: Lance Kilby, P.E. or John Keenan, P.E., CFM
Department: Engineering
Manager Approval: Lance Kilby, P.E.
Manager Title: Director of Engineering

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Environmental Quality

Subject: Guidance Memo No. GM24-2001 – **Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, Version 1.0**

To: Regional Directors, Central Office, Office of Stormwater Management

From: Mike Rolband, Director 

Date: January 29, 2024

Summary:

The Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, Version 1.0 (Handbook) provides guidance to implement water quality and water quality criteria in the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Regulation, 9VAC25-875, effective July 1, 2024. The Handbook replaces the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, Third Edition, 1992 (rescinded July 1, 2025) and the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, First Edition, 1999 (rescinded July 1, 2025). It also incorporates relevant information from and replaces the following guidance documents, which will be rescinded July 1, 2025:

1. Guidance Document on VSMP Site Inspection Strategies
2. Guidance Document on Utilization of Nonpoint Nutrient Offsets
3. Guidance Memo No. 14-2002 Implementation Guidance for the 2009 General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities, 9VAC25-880
4. Guidance Memo No. 14-2014 Implementation Guidance for Section 47 (time limits on applicability of approved design criteria) and Section 48 (grandfathering)
5. Guidance Memo No. 15-2003 Postdevelopment SW Mgmt Implementation Guidance for Linear Utility Projects
6. Guidance Memo No. 22-2011 Streamlined Plan Review for Construction Stormwater Plans and Erosion and Sediment Control Plans submitted by a Licensed Design Professional and reviewed by a Dual Combined Administrator for Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management
7. Guidance Memo No. 22-2012 Stormwater Management and Erosion & Sediment Control Design Guide

The reason that all of these documents are rescinded effective July 1, 2025, is that they have been incorporated into the Handbook to reduce complexity and improve the ease of use. However, as explained in associated documents, there is a one-year transition period to allow plans submitted between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 to utilize either the existing manuals, handbooks and guidance or the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, Version 1.0.

Electronic Copy:

The Handbook is available entirely online at <https://online.encodeplus.com/regs/deq-va/index.aspx>. On this page, users may access the entire Handbook, or access individual chapters and specifications. Users may also download content in Portable Document Format (pdf). The website banner provides links to complementary material on the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) website, such as the Virginia Runoff Reduction Method (VRRM) 4.1 compliance spreadsheets, VRRM 4.1 User Guide, and approval letters for Manufactured Treatment Devices, among other materials.

The website also provides instructions, and functions, for users to provide feedback on Handbook content. Instructions are available from the "comment" section of the website banner. All feedback is collected into a central repository, which is available for download to DEQ staff. DEQ staff will review this content and revise the Handbook in accordance with the processes described in Chapter 1: Introduction.

In addition, once effective, a link to the electronic copy of this guidance will be available on:

- The Virginia Regulatory Town Hall webpage under the Department of Environmental Quality: <https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/gdocs.cfm?agencynumber=440>. The DEQ webpage will also provide the URL for the Handbook.

Contact information:

For additional information regarding the Handbook, please contact Becky Rochet, Deputy Director, Water Permitting Division, at (804) 801-2950 or Rebecca.Rochet@deq.virginia.gov.

Certification:

As required by Subsection B of § 2.2-4002.1 of the Administrative Process Act, the agency certifies that this guidance document conforms to the definition of a guidance document in § 2.2-4101 of the Code of Virginia.

Disclaimer:

This document is provided as guidance and, as such, sets forth standard operating procedures for the agency. However, it does not mandate or prohibit any particular action not otherwise required or prohibited by law or regulation. If alternative proposals are made, such proposals will be reviewed and accepted or denied based on their technical adequacy and compliance with appropriate laws and regulations.

Effective Date: _____

Initials: _____