



November 21, 2019

Winter Erosion Control Practices

As you wrap up construction season, please remember to have your sites stabilized and prepared for the winter season. Controls need to be properly placed now, before the ground freezes, so that they are ready for the first snow melt and spring rains.

Per the NPDES General Permit #2, if a site will not be worked for a period of 14 or more calendar days (such as over winter), stabilization measures shall be initiated immediately. GP2 states, “Stabilization practices may include: temporary seeding, permanent seeding, mulching, geotextiles, sod stabilization, vegetative buffer strips, protection of trees, preservation of mature vegetation, and other appropriate measures.” **Silt fence is not a stabilization practice. Snow cover or frozen ground is not a stabilization practice.** It’s getting late for seeding or sodding, but applying mulch is still an option, see guidance in SUDAS Design Chapter 7E-17.

- SUDAS Design Chapter 7: <https://iowasudas.org/manuals/design-manual/#chapter-7-erosion-and-sediment-control>
- SUDAS Specifications Section 9040: <https://iowasudas.org/manuals/specifications-manual/#section-9040-erosion-and-sediment-control>
- GP2: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/idnr/uploads/water/npdes/gp2.pdf>

This is also a good time to make sure that:

- all perimeter and slope controls are in place and firmly anchored (for locations along curbs, consider a small buffer for snow plows),
- construction entrances are well maintained,
- stockpiles are covered and protected, and
- accumulated sediment is removed from silt fence, intake baskets, and sediment basins.

Per the Iowa DNR and the Federal EPA, “waiting for snow” or “waiting for frozen ground” is NOT an acceptable stormwater management practice. The policies for construction site stormwater management are state and federal requirements; they are not unique to Urbandale.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Engineering Department: 278-3950
Building Department: 278-3930
stormwater@urbandale.org