
Storm Water Discharge Permits for Maintenance Projects

Design Manual
Chapter 10
Roadside Development
and Erosion Control

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Routine maintenance projects that maintain original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, and original purpose of the site do not require an NPDES permit and Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP) if they disturb less than 5 acres. Examples of routine maintenance projects that maintain original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, and original purpose include:

- Berm repair.
- Topsoil placement along shoulders to repair edge rut or washouts.
- Bridge abutment repairs.
- Bridge deck overlays.
- Bridge deck replacement.
- Chip sealing.
- Culver repair and/or lining.
- Culvert replacement (replaced with same size pipe and apron, and foreslope or ditch is returned to original cross section).
- Curb repairs.
- Ditch cleanout (if maintaining or restoring original flowline and cross section).
- Flood debris removal projects.
- Full depth pavement repairs (isolated repairs).
- Guardrail installation and/or replacement (unless changing cross sections).
- Lighting maintenance.
- Loop detector repair.
- Noise wall repair.
- Partial depth pavement repairs (isolated repairs).
- Pothole filling.
- Resurfacing with no additional pavement beyond original footprint).
- Sign repair and/or maintenance (signs and posts).
- Signal installation and/or maintenance (signals and posts).

Clearing and grubbing for vegetation management or for landscaping purposes does not require a permit as long as the work is not related to current or future construction projects.

When determining if a maintenance project requires an NPDES permit and PPP, the total acres of the project need to be considered. For example, if a project involves regrading guardrail blisters at several locations and a total of 5 acres or more is disturbed, the project would require an NPDES permit and PPP even if each location is less than 5 acres.

Maintenance projects that disturb 5 acres or more (or will alter line and grade, hydraulic capacity, and/or original purpose or footprint) require an NPDES permit and PPP. Follow the procedures of Section [10D-1](#). Contact the [Earthwork Engineer](#) with questions regarding whether a maintenance project requires an NPDES and PPP.

Chronology of Changes to Design Manual Section:

010D-002 Storm Water Discharge Permits for Maintenance Projects

4/23/2020	Revised Add flood debris removal projects.
8/9/2018	Revised Revised to address clearing and grubbing.
2/1/2018	NEW New