

# State Construction Stormwater General Permit

The City of Spokane requires the applicant provide verification from the Washington State Department of Ecology that all construction sites are in conformance with the State Construction Stormwater General Permit. The applicant must apply directly with the Washington State Department of Ecology for construction stormwater permit, the City of Spokane does not administer this program. The applicant must provide verification of the application, approval or denial to the City of Spokane prior to any permits being issued.

This information will need to come from the Washington State Department of Ecology and address the state Construction Stormwater General Permit. For additional information call or email.

## **Miya Spratt**

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## Background

Stormwater runoff from construction sites can carry and transport muddy water, debris and chemicals into local waterways. Sediments, chemicals and debris can harm aquatic life and reduce water quality.

The Washington State Department of Ecology requires construction sites with a disturbance of one or more acres to get coverage under the State's current Construction Stormwater General Permit (CSWGP). Following the requirements in this permit helps control and reduce water pollution. If the project is required to get a CSWGP, a Notice of Intent (NOI) must be submitted to Ecology 60 days prior to project start. If water or soil on your construction site is contaminated, refer to [Guidance for Contaminated Water on Construction Sites](#).

Operators of construction sites are required to:

1. Develop stormwater pollution prevention plans.
2. Implement sediment, erosion and pollution prevention control measures.
3. Obtain coverage under this permit.

The current modified permit went into effect January 1, 2021, and expires December 31, 2025.

## Who Needs Coverage?

Many construction sites will need to apply for coverage under the CSWGP. Construction site operators are required to be covered if both of these apply:

1. Your construction project disturbs land\* through clearing, grading, excavating or stockpiling of fill material.
  - Sites that disturb one acre or more.
  - Sites that are smaller than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development that will ultimately disturb one acre or more and discharge stormwater to surface waters.
  - Sites of any size discharging stormwater to state waters (Waters of the State) that are determined to be a significant contributor of pollutants.
  - Sites of any size that are reasonably expected to cause a violation of any water quality standard.
2. There is any potential that during construction, stormwater could run off your site or enter a conveyance system that leads to surface waters. **Please Note: In almost every case it does.** If the location of your site poses no possibility that rainfall or snow melt could leave the site or enter a waterway, you do not need a permit.

\*count the cumulative acreage of the whole project, contiguous or non-contiguous, whether it's single or multi-phase. Include off-site disturbance acreage from support activities related to the construction site. This applies if your project is a portion (less than one acre) of a larger project planned over time.

## How to Apply

Refer to the [Construction Stormwater General Permit](#) information on the Department of Ecology's website. You will need to set up an account using their [WQWebPortal](#) to apply for coverage.

Note: Construction site operators may qualify for an erosivity waiver from the CSWGP if certain conditions are met (e.g. less than 5 acres, R Factor < 5, etc.). Consult the [Construction Stormwater General Permit](#) to determine if an Erosivity Waiver is applicable. Note that the City of Spokane will require a copy of the waiver if granted by the DOE.