1. STORM WATER PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE national POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (nPDES) [208] (Revised 6-8-23)

Description. The EPA regulates storm water discharges under the NPDES program. If the bid package contains blank erosion control plans, a construction storm water discharge permit authorization will be required. If not, a storm water discharge permit authorization may be required for this project depending on Contractor’s operations. Sum the disturbance area (as defined by EPA) identified in the contract with the area of disturbance caused by contractor operations to determine if the permit acreage threshold is exceeded. Contractor operations can include, but are not limited to, the following support activities: staging areas, access roads, material storage areas, temporary concrete, or asphalt batch plants, borrow areas, areas used for fill placement, etc. If the summed disturbance area is one acre or more, use the EPA authorization to discharge under the NPDES General Permit for Discharges from Construction Activities (General Permit) for this project. In order to facilitate permit transfer, separate NOI packages are required for areas within the right-of-way and areas outside of the right-of-way. A NOI package includes a Notice of Intent, with a topographic map, a SWPPP, the erosion control plans, and supporting documentation.

Blank Erosion Control Plans, and a topographic map, are provided with the plans if the plans include greater than 1 acre of disturbance. The blank erosion control plans supplied by the Department do not include Contractor furnished material sources, staging areas, plant sites, or any other site that is not within the project limits. Permit these sites separately. Although permitted separately, the areas of disturbance are considered cumulative with the project disturbance area when determining the requirement for permit coverage. A SWPPP partially completed with “MDT sections” filled in will be provided if permit coverage is sought.

Materials. Follow the requirements described in the Department’s *Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices Manual (December 2016).* Rescind Section 208 detailed drawings. Submit to the Project Manager for review and acceptance BMPs proposed for use that are not included in the Manual.

Construction Requirements.

NPDES Permit Required.

Submit one NOI package for ground disturbance areas shown in the plans or within the right-of-way. Complete the erosion control plans as required by the general permit. Complete the “Contractor sections” of the SWPPP. Ensure the “Contractor sections” do not conflict with the information the Department provided. Do not modify the SWPPP or the Department’s responses. Notify the Project Manager when returning the SWPPP to the Environmental Services Bureau. Return the completed signed SWPPP to the Department at the following address:

Environmental Services Bureau

Attention: Environmental Services Bureau Chief

Montana Department of Transportation

2701 Prospect Ave

PO Box 201001

Helena, MT 59620-1001

Within 7 business days of receiving the completed signed SWPPP, the Department will review the SWPPP. If the Contractor’s portions of the SWPPP are not complete, the SWPPP will be returned to the Contractor for completion. If the Contractor’s portion of the SWPPP is complete, the Department’s Environmental Services Bureau Chief will sign and certify the SWPPP and send the executed SWPPP to the Project Manager. The SWPPP is not executed until it is signed and certified by both parties. The Department’s review of the Contractors’ portion of the SWPPP is limited to the completeness of responses. The Contractor is responsible for the accuracy.

Notify tribes as specified in Section 9.5 of the general permit. Obtain any necessary tribal reviews and approvals as specified. If the EPA or applicable tribes require revised or additional information, submit updated copies of this information to the Project Manager and Environmental Services Bureau within 5 business days of the correspondence.

After execution of the SWPPP, submit a certified NOI to EPA at least 14 calendar days prior to commencing earth-disturbing activities and any applicable tribal authorities as specified in the general permit. Submit electronic NOI to EPA through EPA’s Electronic NPDES eReporting Tool (NeT) Home Page at: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-construction-activities-2017-cgp#accessing>.

The Department is not responsible for delays caused by incomplete or inaccurate submittals by the Contractor.

Email copies of the certified NOI, EPA’s confirmation letters, and applicable tribal approval letters to the Project Manager and to the Environmental Services Bureau at mdtenoi@mt.gov prior to conducting any ground disturbance activities. Include copies of these documents in the executed SWPPP.

Comply with the requirements of the General Permit and implement the SWPPP. Do not begin ground disturbing activities until the above referenced documents are received by the Project Manager and the Environmental Services Bureau and confirmation from EPA is provided to the Project Manager stating coverage under EPA’s CGP is now active for both the contractor and the Department.

Furnish and install public signage as required by the EPA Construction General Permit. Payment for sign(s) is included in the Temporary Erosion Control-Lump Sum bid item.

Submit a separate NOI package to EPA for ground disturbance and support activity areas outside the right-of-way and not shown in the plans. Contractor furnished material sources, staging areas, plant sites, or any other Contractor caused ground disturbance outside the right-of-way and not shown in the plans, are the Contractor's responsibility and must be submitted under a separate NOI package from the ground disturbance within the right-of-way. The Contractor is the sole permittee until stabilization is complete and the general permit authorization is terminated or transferred to another entity. The Department is not responsible for delays caused by incomplete or inaccurate submittals to EPA by the Contractor.

Provide a copy of the NOI Package submitted to EPA and confirmation for receipt of a complete NOI Package from EPA to the Project Manager prior to conducting any ground disturbance activities.

Be responsible for all temporary erosion, sediment, and pollution prevention controls for Contractor furnished material sources, staging areas, plant sites, or any other Contractor caused ground disturbance outside the right-of-way and not shown in the plans.

Complete and document all inspections in accordance with the requirements of the General Permit. Use the Department’s most current inspection form or other form that conforms to the requirements of the permit. Provide a copy of all inspection reports to the Project Manager within 7 calendar days of the inspection.

Report potential noncompliance in accordance with applicable regulations, guidance, and permit conditions. Submit to the Project Manager within 7 calendar days of sending or receiving all correspondence to or from regulatory agencies regarding potential noncompliance or violations.

The temporary erosion and sediment control measures and devices to prevent pollution and control sediment transport and soil erosion will be inspected as part of the final inspection to ensure they are maintained and functioning properly. Do not transfer or terminate the general permit coverage until the BMPs are inspected and accepted and all records required under the permit, including inspection and monitoring reports, are furnished to the Project Manager. The Department may require that certain BMPs be replaced by another type of BMP as a condition of permit transfer. Ensure permit conditions and responsibilities are met until permit coverage is assumed by the Department. The Department will notify the Contractor in writing when permit coverage has been assumed. Defend and hold the Department harmless from any violations, claims, enforcement actions, penalties or fines issued for Contractor activities or recordkeeping that occurred prior to the transfer of the General Permit authorization.

NPDES Permit not Required.

The BMP-Administration item is included in contracts that may not meet criteria for a NPDES permit but include ground disturbing activities. Complete BMP inspections and install BMPs, if necessary, in accordance with Section 208, if no storm water permit is required. Utilize form MDT-ENV-014, Water Pollution Control Inspection Report. A certified SWPPP Administrator is not required to conduct the inspections if no permit is required.

Method of Measurement. Fees and monitoring costs associated with obtaining and maintaining the NPDES general permit coverage for ground disturbance areas within and outside the right-of-way are not measured separately for payment.

If no permit is necessary, include the cost of all erosion control, devices, and inspections in the BMP-Administration bid item.

Basis of Payment. No additional payment will be made for monitoring costs associated with the General Permit. Include these costs in the Temporary Erosion Control-Lump Sum bid item.

For project including the BMP-Administration item, include the cost of all erosion control, devices, and inspections in the BMP-Administration bid item. Partial payment for the BMP-Administration will be monthly based on the lump sum contract price in accordance with Table 208-2 in Subsection 208.05.1.

Payment for BMPs required by an event or extra work, and approved by the Project Manager, will be measured and paid for in accordance with the Erosion Control Rate Schedule contained in the contract at a unit price of $1.00 per unit.