



RIDEM

Office of Water Resources

Fact Sheet

RI Model SESC Plan

RHODE ISLAND MODEL SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. *What is a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan?*

A Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (SESC Plan) is a working document that describes the erosion, runoff, sediment, and pollution prevention control measures that will be employed during an active construction project. It generally consists of a written portion known as a narrative and an illustrative portion containing drawings typically referred to as SESC Site Plans.

2. *What types of construction projects are required to have a SESC Plan?*

All projects subject to compliance with the RI Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual – Minimum Standard 10. This includes construction activities that will disturb one (1) or more acres of land where stormwater runoff is directed, via a point source, into a separate storm sewer system or into the waters of the State, and are required to seek coverage under the Rhode Island Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction Activity (Construction General Permit).

3. *Are all construction projects required to use this model SESC Plan?*

No... but a site-specific SESC Plan is still required. Use of this model SESC Plan is strictly voluntary. This model SESC Plan, if filled out accurately and completely, meets the requirements set forth in the RIPDES Construction General Permit and the RI Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual – Minimum Standard 10.

4. *What are the benefits of using this model SESC Plan?*

Following the principals and the format outlined in this model SESC Plan will ensure that your proposed project will receive a faster regulatory review, faster project approval, and will result in improved compliance with environmental regulations applicable to construction sites.

5. *What requirements does the SESC Plan cover?*

This model SESC Plan, with all attachments, if filled out properly and appropriately, will provide the Owner and Operator with a document that satisfies the SESC Plan requirements outlined in the RIPDES Construction General Permit and the RI Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual – Minimum Standard 10.

6. Are there other requirements applicable to construction sites that are not covered by the program?

Certain state, federal, or local requirements that apply to your project site (such as building codes, local soil and erosion control requirements, fire codes, etc.) may not be covered. You must comply with all state, federal, and local requirements relevant to your project.

7. Does participation in the program guarantee that a site will not be subject to inspection?

No. Local, state, and federal environmental agencies still have the authority to perform inspections, but site owners and operators that develop and implement a site specific SESC Plan based on the RI Model SESC Plan will be better prepared in the event of a regulatory inspection.

8. What are the requirements for owner/operator inspections?

Construction site owners and operators are required to conduct Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (SESC Plan) inspections at least once every seven (7) days, and within twenty-four (24) hours after significant rain events (>0.25 inches/day). Inspections must be conducted as soon as site disturbance activities (i.e. soil disturbance, creation of soil stockpiles, etc.) begin.

9. What happens if sediment is still leaving my construction site?

Even if all control measures are correctly installed on a site according to the SESC Plan, the site is only in compliance when erosion, runoff, sedimentation, and pollution are effectively controlled throughout the entire site. If the SESC Plan is not ‘working’, amendments to the control measures and SESC Plan must be made. Instructions regarding how to document amendments are included in the model SESC Plan.

10. How much time will creating a SESC Plan take?

It depends. The model SESC Plan is intended to make the development of a site-specific SESC Plan easier and faster than if developing one from scratch. Typically, the time requirement will depend upon the size and complexity of the project and the experience level of the person developing the SESC Plan.

11. Who is responsible for the development and implementation of the SESC Plan?

Both the Owner and the Operator of the construction project are legally responsible for the implementation of the site-specific SESC Plan, including keeping the documents on site, ensuring the required inspections take place, and ensuring that corrective actions are completed in a timely manner. The SESC Plan includes an owner certification, an operator certification, and party certifications that must be signed before construction begins.

12. Where can I obtain more information about the Rhode Island Model Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, and where can I get a copy?

More detailed information and an electronic version may be downloaded on the *Coordinated Stormwater Permitting* webpage on the RIDEM website at:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/swcoord/index.htm>

13. How can I reach the RIDEM to discuss the RI Model SESC Plan in more detail?

Additional information can be obtained by sending questions via email to water@dem.ri.gov or by contacting RIDEM at:

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