

VT DEC Municipal Roads Program

Factsheet: Developing the Municipal Roads General Permit

This general permit is intended to achieve significant reductions in stormwater-related erosion from municipal roads, both paved and unpaved. Municipalities will implement a customized, multi-year plan to stabilize their road drainage system. The plan will include bringing road drainage systems up to basic maintenance standards, and additional corrective measure to reduce erosion as necessary to meet a TMDL or other water quality restoration effort. The permit is required by H.35/ Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Act, and the Lake Champlain Phase I TMDL.

For more information on the DEC Municipal Roads program and the development of the Municipal Roads General Permit, contact Jim Ryan at (802) 490-6140 or via email at jim.ryan@vermont.gov.

Updated information can also be found on the program's website at:

<http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/permit-information-applications-fees/municipal-roads-program>

Requirements for Existing Roads

- As a first step municipalities will inventory the sections of their road networks that are hydrologically-connected to surface waters through ditches, culverts or other drainage structures. Hydrologically-connected roads present substantially greater risks to water quality. A map layer of hydrologically-connected municipal road segments is available at: <http://anr.vermont.gov/maps/nr-atlas>
- The second step will be developing Implementation Plans that will prioritize road segment remediation work to bring non-complying road segments up to MRGP standards. Implementation Plans will include remediation plans, cost estimates, construction quantities, labor costs and schedules. Towns will submit Annual Compliance Reports summarizing progress in implementing measures on hydrologically-connected road segments. Standards will likely include measures such as:
 - Grass and stone-lined drainage ditches, stone check-dams, sheet flow, and/or disconnect road stormwater inputs
 - Ditches and turnouts disconnected from surface waters where possible
 - Upgrading road drainage culverts and installing outlet stabilization and/or headwalls where erosion is present

- Soils exposed by maintenance would be seeded and mulched or otherwise stabilized
- Catch basin outlets stabilized
- Municipal Sand Piles- no erosion and sediment conveyance to adjacent waters
- Class 4 roads that are adversely affecting water quality may require the installation of best management practices to reduce erosion, but will not be required to be open to travel as part of this permit.
- In-Culverts and bridges:
 - No new requirements to replace perennial stream crossings, but other conveyances and intermittent stream culverts will be covered by the permit and may require upgrades or retrofits.
 - Maintenance and construction activities would continue to conform to the ANR Stream Alteration General Permit.

Requirements for New Projects

- Stable conveyances
- Designed to Vermont Stormwater Manual if over permit threshold of 1 acre impervious surface, or >5,000 square foot expansion

Permit Process and available resources to assist municipalities

- 2016: stakeholder process to develop permit and standards
- Before January 2017: draft general permit
- Before January 2018: final permit
- Commencing with permit coverage, 2018 and beyond: municipalities conduct road erosion inventories for hydrologically-connected road segments and develop and implement road stormwater management plans
- Technical and Financial assistance is from DEC and VTrans. Technical assistance is also available from regional planning commissions, natural resource conservation districts, and others. A new series of Municipal Road Round Table Forums has been launched by VTrans and DEC for a foremen-foremen exchange of ideas of selecting the most appropriate BMPs to remediate erosion and discuss equipment needs and operation. Additional grant funding is available to municipalities to conduct road erosion inventories, implement best management practices, and to purchase shared equipment.