



Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Stefanie K. Taillon
Acting Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

Michael S. Rolband, PE, PWD, PWS Emeritus
Director

March 21, 2025

Dr. Zhongyan Xu
Manager, Land Development
George Mason University
4400 University Drive 1E4
Fairfax, VA 22030

Re: George Mason University (GMU) Standards and Specifications for Erosion & Sediment Control and Stormwater Management (S&S for ESC and SWM)
S&S Agreement No. SS019

Transmitted electronically: zxu8@gmu.edu

Dear Dr. Xu,

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has reviewed the George Mason University Standards and Specifications (S&S) for Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) and Stormwater Management (SWM), certified by GMU on March 18, 2025 and received by the DEQ Office of Stormwater Management on March 19, 2025. The S&S Agreement is deemed approved for ESC and SWM pursuant to the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Act (§ 62.1-44.15:24 et seq.) and associated regulation (9VAC25-875-10 et seq).

Approval of Standards and Specifications by DEQ does not relieve the owner or operator of the duty to comply with other applicable local, state or federal ordinances or regulations. Additionally, approval of this S&S is set to expire five (5) years from the date of this document on March 21, 2030 unless otherwise specified by DEQ or where there are changes requiring DEQ review and approval.

Please note that the approved S&S for ESC and SWM are subject to the following requirements:

1. Variance, waiver, and exception requests must be submitted to DEQ separately from the March 18, 2025 S&S document. DEQ may require project-specific plans associated with requests to be submitted for review and approval.
2. Electronic notification must be sent to DEQ at least two weeks prior to the initiation of any land-disturbing activities subject to approved S&S. Notifications shall be submitted via email to: standardsandspecs@deq.virginia.gov.
 - 1) Project name and any associated Construction General Permit number;
 - 2) Project location (including nearest intersection, latitude and longitude, or access point);
 - 3) On-site project manager name and contact information;
 - 4) Responsible Land Disturber (RLD) name and contact information;

- 5) Project description;
 - 6) Acreage of disturbance for the project;
 - 7) Anticipated project start and finish dates; and
 - 8) Any deviations/variances/exceptions/waivers associated with the project.
3. In addition to the two weeks prior land disturbance notification described above, a semiannual linear project tracking report of all active projects, including acreage, initiated under this S&S agreement shall be submitted via email to standardsandspecs@deq.virginia.gov by January 15th and July 15th of each year through the duration of this approval, including ongoing, previously reported projects.
 4. ESC and SWM plans must be reviewed by DEQ-Certified Plan Reviewers. GMU, as the S&S holder, retains the authority to approve plans and must do so in writing. Should GMU, as an S&S holder, contract with a third-party to fulfill the plan review function, the certified third-party Plan Reviewer may recommend approval of the plan, but final approval must come from GMU, as the S&S holder.
 5. Any ESC and/or SWM plan submitted and deemed complete (9VAC25-875-110) by GMU before July 1, 2025, may use the previously approved S&S Program, dated February 4, 2022. After July 1, 2025, when modifications are submitted to approved plans that were developed using the previously approved S&S Program, if the land-use assumptions upon which the existing stormwater management facility was designed and implemented changes (e.g., increase in impervious cover), then the areas which result in an increase in nutrient loading should comply with this approved S&S Program, the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook and VRRM 4.1.

To ensure compliance with approved S&S for ESC and SWM, and the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Act and attendant regulation, DEQ staff will conduct random site inspections, respond to complaints, and provide on-site technical assistance with specific ESC and SWM measures and plan implementation.

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have thirty (30) days from the date of receipt within which to appeal this decision by filing a notice of appeal in accordance with the Rules of the Supreme Court of Virginia with the Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

To ensure an efficient exchange and response to inquiries, DEQ Central Office is your primary point of contact. Central Office staff will coordinate with our Regional Office staff as appropriate. Please contact Tony Angueira at (804)-584-6265 or antony.angueira@virginia.deq.gov if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



April Rhodes
Program Manager, Office of Stormwater Management
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 698-4000

cc: DEQ-OSWM
Frank Strike, GMU Executive Vice President for Finance & Administration fstrike@gmu.edu