

VT DEC Municipal Roads Program

Summary Sheet: 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 develop Road Stormwater Management Plans (Road SWMPs) which will include road erosion inventories (REIs) to determine baseline road conditions and road practice needs and summarizing those results in an Implementation Table. Municipalities will implement practice upgrades to meet new MRGP standards so that all hydrologically-connected roads meet new standards as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2036. The permit is required by Act 64, the Vermont Clean Water Act, and the Lake Champlain Phase I TMDL.

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 GIS 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 Tables. Implementation Tables will include current MRGP compliance status from the REIs (whether individual road segments *Fully Meet*, *Partially Meet*, or *Do Not Meet* standards), and road segments worked on in the previous calendar year now meeting standards. Towns will update their Implementation Tables annually as part of their annual reporting requirements. Standards include measures such as:
 - Grass and stone-lined drainage ditches, stone check-dams, and distributed flow infiltration
 - Cross culverts and turnouts disconnecting road stormwater
 - Road crowning, removal of grader berms, and lowering of high road shoulders
 - Upgrading road drainage culverts and installing outlet stabilization and/or headwalls where erosion is present
 - Soils exposed by maintenance and new practice construction on hydrologically-connected roads will be seeded and mulched or otherwise stabilized
 - Stabilizing catch basin outlets
- Class 4 roads that are adversely affecting water quality may require the installation of best management practices to reduce severe (gully) erosion but will not be required to be

open to travel as part of this permit. (See below for additional information on MRGP requirements for class 4 roads.)

- 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

- 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

- Commencing with permit coverage, July 31, 2018 and beyond: municipalities apply for permit coverage, conduct road erosion inventories for hydrologically-connected road segments, and develop Implementation Tables, and begin upgrading roads to the MRGP standards.
- Technical and Financial assistance is available 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 road foremen-to-foremen exchange of ideas of selecting the most appropriate BMPs to remediate erosion and discuss equipment needs and operation. Grant funding is available to municipalities to conduct road erosion inventories, implement best management practices, and to purchase shared equipment.

For Additional MRGP Information

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>

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