

Roaring Brook News

Spring 2003



Our new logo.

For over 25 years, the engineers at Roaring Brook Consultants have been "Engineering a Better Future" for our clients and the environment. Our new logo, shown above, was designed to indicate to you, our clients, that we have a commitment to both engineering and the environment. Because we believe that our clients are best served when they can go to one source for multiple engineering disciplines, thus integrating the engineering services, we have expanded our services during the past year and now offer the following:

- ï Civil Engineering & Surveying
- ï Structural Engineering
- ï Construction Management
- ï Geotechnical Engineering
- ï Environmental Engineering
- ï Crane Inspection Services

We look forward to continuing to serve our existing clients with our expanded services and to serving new clients with our integrated engineering approach.

Third Party Inspections

Third party inspections for the construction industry.

The independent third party inspection is an integral part of the construction process that ensures that projects are completed safely and in accordance with building plans and specifications. The function of the third party inspection is to insert an objective "outsider" into the construction process to assist in quality control and safety. This process allows the third party to independently document site conditions and compliance with project plans and safety regulations. Third party inspections that are routinely made on construction sites include concrete testing, structural steel compliance and soil density testing.

Third party crane inspections are required by OSHA.

OSHA requires that overhead general industry and mobile construction cranes be inspected and certified on a monthly and an annual basis. The value of an independent third party inspection is in having a fresh set of eyes look at your equipment. It is important to choose an inspecting company whose only interest is in inspections. An inspections-only company will perform the inspection with no expectation of selling you costly parts and repair services afterwards.

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Do you know about the new Maine Construction General Permit?

Background

As of March 10, 2003, certain construction activities in Maine will require coverage under the Maine Construction General Permit (MCGP). The MCGP is based on the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater program that applies nationwide. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency has delegated the authority to administer this program to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The program provides that certain discharges of stormwater from construction activities are not allowed unless they are licensed. The DEP can license certain discharges when the requirements of the MCGP are met.

Who comes under the Maine Construction General Permit?

Stormwater that results from rain and snowmelt can pick up pollutants, including soil, as it flows over disturbed areas. These runoff flows are likely to concentrate, resulting in a direct discharge of pollutants into the wetlands and waterbodies of Maine. Given the soil, weather, and widespread water resources in Maine, the Department expects most construction sites disturbing an acre or more of land to have the potential to create a direct discharge. Some areas, such as internally drained gravel pits, will not. A landowner, contractor, or developer may need coverage under the MCGP if his or her construction project will directly discharge to a surface waterbody, and the construction will result in any of the following:

- one acre or more of disturbed land;
- a common plan of development located in an area subject to Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) jurisdiction and requiring a LURC permit; *or*
- a common plan of development located outside LURC jurisdiction and requiring a Stormwater Law or Site Location of Development Law permit.

Note: An example of a common plan of development would be a commercial site plan or subdivision.

What is disturbed area?

Disturbed area includes any area where soil is cleared, graded, and/or excavated. Cutting trees alone, without grubbing, removing stumps, disturbing or exposing soil, etc., does not produce disturbed area. Disturbed area does not include areas of routine maintenance, but does include areas of re-development. (Routine maintenance is maintenance performed to maintain the hydraulic capacity and the original line, grade, and purpose of the facility.)

How do I apply for a Maine Construction General Permit?

Maine's CGP process has been modeled after the Permit-by-Rule (PBR) process under the Natural Resources Protection Act. Like PBR, the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the MCGP is a one-page form filed with the DEP. The NOI must be filed and approved *prior to* any disturbance by construction. Using the NOI form, you will provide information including but not limited to your address, the project location, the size of the disturbed area, and a brief description of

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Maine Construction General Permit (Continued)

the project. By signing the NOI, you are agreeing to meet the requirements of the general permit, including standards for erosion and sedimentation control, inspection and maintenance of any stormwater control practices, and housekeeping (for example, preventing fuel spills and controlling dust on the construction site). Specific standards for these activities are found in the MCGP. When you have completed your project and the disturbed areas have been permanently stabilized, you must submit a Notice of Termination (NOT) and photos to the DEP. Notification forms and copies of the MCGP can be obtained by calling your regional DEP office. They can also be obtained on the web at the following address:

<http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docstand/stormwater/construction.htm>

What else do I need to send with my Notice of Intent?

All NOI forms must be accompanied by a site plan for your project. The site plan must show the extent of the disturbed area(s), identify nearby wetlands and water bodies, and show the location of downgradient vegetated buffers. Plans must be legible, reproducible, and drawn to scale. Written approval from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) must accompany your NOI if your project is located in an essential habitat area. Maps showing essential habitat areas are available from the IF&W and at DEP regional offices.

Who needs to do an erosion and sedimentation control plan?

You must complete and maintain an ESC plan if your project includes any of the following:

Disturbed area, if:

- one acre or more will be disturbed in the watershed of an impaired waterbody(C); *or*
- three acres or more will be disturbed in any watershed.

A common plan, if:

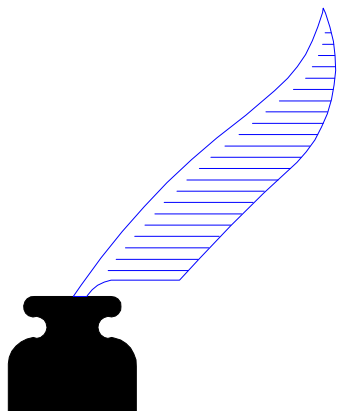
- the common plan of development drains to an impaired waterbody(C), *and* also requires a Stormwater Law permit, Site Location of Development Law permit, or LURC permit; *or*
- the common plan of development does not drain to an impaired waterbody(C), will include three acres or more of disturbed area, *and* also requires a Stormwater Law permit, a Site Location of Development Law permit, or a LURC permit.

How can we help?

We are here to help you with your project needs, large and small. We are always ready to provide you with a timely quotation or to discuss your project plans. Do you want more information? Visit us on our website, www.roaringbrook.com, and click on [response form](#) to reach a proposal request. Then simply fill in the information and submit the form. If you prefer, you can call us toll free at 1-888-RBC-2643, fax us at 207-384-5383, or e-mail us at bill@rbc.mv.com.

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We Welcome Your Comments

If you have thoughts, opinions or suggestions that you would like to share with us, please contact us using any of the methods or addresses listed below. We want to serve our customers better and look forward to hearing from you.

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