

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

Arizona Construction General Permit (AZCGP)

Provides authorization to discharge under the Arizona Discharge Elimination System; specifically authorizes only discharges from construction activities in Arizona by those owners and operators who meet eligibility requirements and comply with the general permit terms and conditions.

ADOT

The Arizona Department of Transportation as the permittee, owner/operator and project manager of all its contractors and sub-contractors.

Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES)

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Program by which permits are issued for allowable discharges to waters of the United States and authorization is granted to qualified candidates for coverage under the Arizona Construction General Permit.

Aquifer Protection Permit (APP)

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality permit that covers discharge of pollutants directly or indirectly to an aquifer or to the land surface or vadose (the areas between the aquifer and the land surface) zone in such a manner that there is a reasonable probability that the pollutant will reach an aquifer.

Arizona Revised Statutes

Statutory laws in the state of Arizona.

Best Management Practice (BMP)

A technique, process, activity, or structure used to reduce the pollutant content of a storm water discharge minimizing the potential impacts upon receiving waters.

Clean Water Act (CWA)

Establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. The basis of the CWA was enacted in 1948 and was called the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but the Act was significantly reorganized and expanded in 1972. "Clean Water Act" became the Act's common name with amendments in 1977.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

The codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

Concentrated Flow

Runoff that accumulates or converges into well-defined channels with greater velocity than Sheet Flow.

Construction Site

The land or water area where construction activities will occur and where stormwater controls will be installed and maintained. The construction site includes construction support activities, which may be located at a different part of the property from where the primary construction activity will take place, or on a different piece of property altogether. The construction site is often a smaller subset of the lot or parcel within which the project is taking place. (NPDES definition)

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Construction BMP

Temporary measures to manage (control) storm water quality during the construction process.

Construction Support Activities

A construction-related activity that specifically supports the construction activity and involves earth disturbance or pollutant-generating activities of its own, and can include activities associated with concrete or asphalt batch plants, equipment staging yards, materials storage areas, excavated material disposal areas, and borrow areas. (NPDES definition)

Contractor

The individual, partnership, firm, corporation, or any acceptable combination thereof, or joint venture, contracting with ADOT for performance of the work.

Crown Ditch

A swale installed at the tops of slopes to divert sheet flow from adjacent undisturbed slopes onto newly constructed cut slopes.

Cut Slope

A slope that is excavated. Contrast with Fill Slope.

De Minimis General Permit

Designed to cover point source discharges released to a stormwater sewer system. Discharges from potable or reclaimed water systems, subterranean dewatering, well development, aquifer testing, hydrostatic testing of pipelines, fire hydrants and tanks, residential cooling water, charitable car washes, building and street washing and dechlorinated swimming pool drainage are covered under this permit.

Detention / Retention Basin

Facilities typically constructed below the roadway shoulder where the appropriate footprint is available to hold runoff, and are also referred to as pond-in-place practices. Retention and detention basins are excavated in most any configuration to meet footprint restrictions and can be vegetated.

Discharge

Any addition of any pollutant to waters of the United States from any point source.

Embankment Curb

Installed on fill slopes at the edge of the roadway to intercept flow from paved surfaces. Openings in the curb are constructed to drain into a spillway or down drain.

Environmental Clearance

Documentation that all relevant environmental factors have been appropriately addressed and mitigated in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Primary documents include Categorical Exclusions, Environmental Assessments, or Environmental Impact Statements depending on the environmental impacts of the project.

Erosion

The process by which solids (sediment, soil, rock or other particles) are removed from the surface of the earth by the action of water, wind, glaciers or waves, etc.

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Erosion Control Coordinator (ECC)

Hired by the contractor and approved by ADOT. The ECC shall be responsible for preparing, implementing, monitoring, and revising the approved SWPPP throughout the project, and for implementing any other permit requirements stipulated in the AZPDES general permit. The ECC shall be knowledgeable in the principles and practice of erosion and sediment controls, and possess the skills to assess conditions at the site that could impact stormwater quality and the effectiveness of the contractor's erosion control measures used to control the quality of the stormwater discharges. Specific required qualifications for the erosion control coordinator are specified in the ADOT Stored Specification 104SWDEQ and 104SWEPA.

Fascine

A bundle of live sticks or branches tied together into sausage like structures and then placed to provide slope stability or prevent erosion.

Final Stabilization

All soil disturbing activities at the site have been completed and the criteria specified in the *ADOT Methodology for Determining Final Stabilization* document have been met.

Federal Construction General Permit (FCGP)

Issued by the EPA this permit provides authorization to discharge from construction activities in Indian Country in Arizona.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Part of the U.S. Department of Transportation whose mission is to 'improve mobility on our nation's highways through leadership, innovation and program delivery'.

Fill Slope

An embankment created with excavated (borrow) material. Contrast with Cut Slope.

Impaired Water

A surface water that has been assessed by ADEQ of EPA under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, as not attaining a water quality standard for at least one designated use and is listed in Arizona's 2006/2008 303(d) and Other Impaired Waters List.

Indian Country

All the land under supervision of the United States Government that has been set aside for the use of Native Americans including reservations and other areas under Federal jurisdiction and designated for Native Americans' use.

Low Impact Development

A stormwater strategy concerned with maintaining or restoring the natural hydrologic functions of a site to achieve natural resource protection objectives and fulfill environmental regulatory requirements. (Center for Environmental Excellence, AASHTO)

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)

A conveyance or system of conveyances that transport stormwater and are owned by a state, city, town, village or other public entity.

Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP)

Specifically authorizes stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities by those owners and operators who meet the eligibility requirements of the permit and who comply with the general permit requirements and conditions.

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National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States.

Non-point Source Pollution

Occurs when rainfall, snow melt or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picks up contaminants and deposits them into rivers, lakes and coastal waters or introduces them into ground water.

Notice of Intent (NOI)

The application to operate under the Arizona or Federal Construction General Permit.

Notice of Termination (NOT)

The application to terminate coverage under the Arizona or Federal Construction General Permit.

Operator

Operator means any person associated with a construction project that meets one or both of the following two criteria:

1. The person has operational control over construction plans and specifications, including the ability to make modifications to those plans and specifications; or
2. The person has day-to-day operational control of those activities at a project which are necessary to ensure compliance with a SWPPP for the site or other permit conditions (e.g., they are authorized to direct workers at a site to carry out activities required by the SWPPP or comply with other permit conditions).

Outstanding Arizona Water (OAW)

A surface water that is classified as an outstanding state resource water under Arizona Administrative Code R18-11-112.

Point Source Pollution

Pollution that can be traced back to a single origin or source such as a pipe, culvert or sewage treatment plant discharge.

Pollutant

Sediment, fluids, contaminants, toxic wastes, toxic pollutants, dredged spoil, solid waste, substances and chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals, incinerator, residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, petroleum products, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt (e.g., overburden material), and mining, industrial, municipal and agricultural wastes or any other liquid, solid, gaseous or hazardous substances. [A.R.S. § 49-201(29)]

Post-Construction BMP

Permanent measures to manage storm water quality both during and after construction of the project.

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Receiving Waters

A water of the United States as defined in 40 CFR 122.2 into which the stormwater discharges.

Runoff

That portion of precipitation, snow melt or irrigation water that flows off the land into streams or other surface waters. It can carry pollutants from air and land into the receiving waters.

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act

Allows states to certify that the draft 404 permit complies with state law.

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act

Establishes the NPDES Permit Program by which authorization is granted for allowable discharges to waters of the United States.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

Regulates discharge of dredged or fill material to waters of the United States and establishes a permit program to authorize approved discharges.

Sediment

Soil, sand and minerals washed from land into water, usually after rain or snow melt.

Sedimentation

The process that deposits soils, sand, minerals and other materials either on the ground surface or in bodies of water or watercourses.

Sensitive Project

To be deemed "sensitive" a project must include at least 20 acres of ground disturbance AND must discharge into the waters of the U.S. AND must meet at least one of the following conditions: -the project requires an Environmental Impact Statement, -the project is primarily on Federal lands, -the project construction has significant work requiring an individual 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers or an individual 401 water quality certification from ADEQ, -the project requires a Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for potential impacts to aquatic endangered species.

Sheet Flow

Runoff that flows over the ground surface as a relatively thin and uniform layer, not concentrated in channels or pipes; also referred to as Overland flow.

Slope Ditch

Installed between the top and toe of a slope to intercept and carry sheet flow and convey concentrated flows.

Statewide Stormwater Management Plan (SSWMP)

A program to reduce the discharge of pollutants associated with the stormwater drainage systems that serve highways and transportation-related properties, facilities and activities. The plan identifies how ADOT complies with the Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System stormwater program.

Stormwater

Stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage; rainfall that does not infiltrate the ground or evaporate because of impervious land surfaces but instead flows onto adjacent land or watercourses or is routed into drain/sewer systems.

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Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

A site-specific, written document that identifies potential sources of stormwater pollution at the construction site; describes practices to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges from the construction site; and identifies procedures the operator will implement to comply with the terms and conditions of a construction general permit.

Top Soil

The upper, outermost layer of soil containing the highest concentration of organic matter.

Turbidity

A measure of the amount of material suspended in water expressed in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) as determined with a calibrated turbidimeter.

Vadose Zone

The area between an aquifer and the land surface.

Waters of the United States

40 CFR 230.3(s) The term waters of the United States means:

1. All waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
2. All interstate waters including interstate wetlands;
3. All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters:
 - a. Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes; or
 - b. From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or
 - c. Which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce;
4. All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition;
5. Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this section;
6. The territorial sea;
7. Wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraphs (1) through (6) of this section; waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA (other than cooling ponds as defined in 40 CFR 423.11(m) which also meet the criteria of this definition) are not waters of the United States.

Waters of the United States do not include prior converted cropland. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other federal agency, for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, the final authority regarding Clean Water Act jurisdiction remains with the EPA.