

It's our mission and goal to be seen as resources available to the project team, assisting with keeping our projects compliant with environmental permits and requirements. But...is this role sometimes perceived as creating hurdles and obstacles? C.M. 1-110.150 and .160

Written Orders Specifications 101.02 Definitions and C.M. 2-150.60

- What is the purpose of a Written Order?
- Are there more opportunities to utilize WO's as a tool to address non-compliance issues such as situations where turf establishment or landscaping is lacking?

Turf Establishment C.M. 4-651; Spec Section 651

- Vigorous growth- More than just being **green**: we pay to have multiple varieties of grass species within each seed mixture. How do you know we are getting what we are paying for? Call us. Send Pictures.
- Is there an even distribution of those seeds/grasses?
- Timing- Contractor needs to understand the risks of late season seeding. If they seed outside the seasonal dates then it will be their responsibility to reseed in the spring if the establishment is not adequate. 651.03 Seasonal Limitations- May 1 to September 15. Do we pay them if they seed after September 16th?
- Encourage testing of soil

Landscaping C.M. 4-656; Spec Section 656

- If a project has landscaping items, reach out to Jane Brown (VTrans Landscape Architect 828-2724) as soon as possible so that she can allocate resources for required inspections.
 - Arborist (Jane or consultant) needs 2 weeks notice to be on-site for inspections. Plan ahead so there are no last minute emergencies.
- **Follow and enforce Specification 656**
 - This section is currently being revised as part of Spec Book updates, but biggest issues we have seen in recent years are more attributed to the existing specifications not being followed.
 - Inspection, rejection and replacement are critical to completing project on time.
- When landscaping is being performed besides an arborist is there an inspector present as well? Are you clearly setting expectations of the Arborist (i.e. Documentation, reporting, time charges)

River Management C.M. 11-140

- Coordination with ANR River Management Engineers is required as part of the Title 19 Consultation (similar to Stream Alteration Permit)
- T19 standard conditions require on-site pre-construction meeting with RE, ANR RME, and Contractor to discuss in-stream work
- T19 standard conditions also list allowable dates for in-stream work (When reviewing schedule submittals, check to ensure the in-water work is consistent with these dates.)
- Any deviations from the conditions need to be in writing
- Special Provisions for Temporary Relocation of Stream & Stone Fill Stream Bed Material require ANR RME coordination & approval
- When in doubt, utilize RME expertise- they are one of the few regulators that will provide feedback on items such as stone selection and placement and will help when challenges are encountered when dealing with streams and rivers.
- It can be challenging during the season to get RME's on-site. Please let us know if they aren't responding.

Threatened & Endangered Species - Two federally-listed bat species (Northern Long Eared Bat & Indiana Bat)

- Environmental section biologists have been working with State and Federal regulators on ways to adhere to the State Statutes and Federal Endangered Species Act, with regular evolutions in guidance throughout 2016. Guidance now in place.
- Measures to minimize and avoid impacts to these species (such that a T&E permit would not be triggered) have resulted in Time of Year (TOY) restrictions on activities that could potentially disrupt bat habitat. Primarily tree cutting and bridge work.
- All projects going to construction now have Environmental Special Provisions to address whether there has been suitable habitat identified within project limits, and, if so, how to mitigate impacts to that habitat. This generally has included TOY restrictions.
- TOY dates vary according to town, proximity to known hibernacula, and project extent. The Environmental Section is determining which TOY dates apply during design, but we will continue to coordinate with them for specific project questions, as well as at the broader, programmatic level.
- Depending on the date of bid award, some of 2017 projects require contractors to conduct early tree cutting outside of the normal construction season, while other projects have had the necessary tree cutting performed by VTrans Maintenance and Operations Bureau (MOB).
- Advance cutting by MOB has not always sufficiently matched the needs or desires of the contractors, leading to extensive bat surveys (Pittsford) or peculiar pattern of habitat trees being left in place amidst other clearing (Charlotte). --> **Coordinate with your contractors to get them out as soon as possible to cut trees. Don't wait to cut. Get it all done now.**

OSA C.M. 11-110; Spec 105.25-105.28

- FAQ on website is a good resource: [OSA FAQ](#)
- Previously referred to as "Waste, Borrow, and Staging" areas, these are now referred to as "Off-Site Activities" and encompass any project related activity that uses land that extends beyond the project limits that have been defined for a given project. (Typically defined by PDF or Barrier Fence limits shown on the plans.) This may include needing OSA for land within VTrans' ROW
- OSA approval process is internal to VTrans and does not necessarily address other permitting needs that may be triggered. It's common for a project, as designed, to have less than 1 acre of earth disturbance. However, use of an adjacent OSA results in the total disturbance exceeding 1 acre, thereby triggering the need for a Construction SW Permit. Any additional permitting needs that are triggered by the OSA are the contractor's responsibility.
- Important to know where material is coming from and going! Even if the site is outside of VT, it still goes through the process.
- No use of site without proper documentation
- Understand what the intentions are at the end of the project for waste material
- State owned ROW will need District Sign off or Rail office sign off. Whoever maintains the ROW should be in the loop.
- Have contractors provide as much detail as they can so it is crystal clear what the intentions are. Especially material type(s).
- Encourage contractors to disclose the requirements of the spec to the landowner
- OSA submittals will start utilizing Doc Express

Doc Express

- Provides ability for all users to "a see" the EPSC plans and other submittals (such as OSA, temp relocation of stream) as they come in and as they are transitioned.
- Requires establishing new protocol for how we interact internally and with contractor
- Our intention is to keep RE in the loop as we develop comments prior to transitioning on Doc Express
- The success or failure of Doc Express is dependent on how well the users commit to understanding how it works. Are you all prepared to commit to the effort?

Bridge Demo Spec Section 105.24(b) & 529.04

- Low level of information/documentation required, but high level of environmental risk
- Containment- emphasize the need to prevent debris from entering water
- Concrete saw cutting with chain. We need to know about these so we can ensure that adequate containment is implemented as well as collection of slurry.
- Spec is broad so when the contractor develops their means and methods please involve us so we can understand any risks to the water.

Invasive Species Management

- Need to have permit from Agency of Ag for pesticide application and this must be in place prior to spraying
- Must coordinate with Jennifer Callahan in MOB to disclose chemical use within ROW- reach out to us as soon as the need is recognized
- Contact us so we can help coordinate

Unexpected discoveries during construction:

- Illicit Discharge C.M. 11-150.30
 - AKA "Non-Stormwater Discharges" -house perimeter drains, lawn french drains, field drains, septic/sewer discharges
 - Report any suspected illicit discharges to Regional Engineer and Stormwater Engineer (Jon Armstrong).
 - The district takes over to understand what the discharge is and whether it is acceptable or not.
 - Take Pictures, Reference landmarks and local roads. Be specific.
- Historic and Archaeological Discoveries C.M. 11-160; Spec 107.14
 - Must report immediately to Archaeologist (Jen Russell 828-3981 for NE & NW; Brennan Gauthier 828-3965 for SE & SW)

Keep the CEEs in the loop. We know you are all capable but **we are here to help you.**

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Offered at each regional office:

SE 2/9/2017

NW 3/1/2017

NE 3/22/2017

SW 3/27/2017