



Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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SUBJECT: Waterbar and Utility Access Road Advisory Committee Meeting #2,
Meeting Minutes

Date: October 16, 2024

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) held an advisory committee meeting on 10/15/2024 at 9:00 am at the DEQ Piedmont Regional Office located at 4949-A Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060. The purpose of the meeting was to help DEQ continue the process of reviewing and revising specifications in the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook (Handbook) for waterbars and utility access roads.

The following advisory committee members attended the meeting:

Table with 3 columns and 3 rows listing advisory committee members: Cory Chalmers, EQT; Josh Henry, Williams; Jared Webb, AEP; Eric Clay, Dominion Energy; Kyle W. Marshall, Williams; Brian Clauto, EQT; Chris Solden, Arcadis (DEQ Consultant).

The following interested members of the public attended the meeting:

Table with 2 columns and 2 rows listing interested members of the public: Jay Lemmerman, WSSI; Nathan Staley, WSSI; Chris Schrinel, WSSI.

The following DEQ staff attended the meeting:

Table with 3 columns and 2 rows listing DEQ staff: Chantz Ballard, Plan Review Manager, Office of Stormwater Management; April Rhodes, Manager, Office of Stormwater Management; Zack Robinson, Construction Stormwater Compliance Coordinator, Office of Water Compliance; Nelson Daniel, Policy Analyst; Rebecca Rochet, Deputy Director, Water Permitting Division; Jeanette Ruiz, Regulatory Analyst, Water Division.

Welcome and Introductions:

DEQ staff opened the meeting by welcoming participants, outlining the purpose of the group and finalizing the meeting minutes published from the first waterbar advisory committee meeting on 8/20/24. Additionally, staff reviewed guidelines for members participating in advisory discussions, including what constitutes a public meeting and the FOIA requirements for public meetings.

DEQ staff facilitated discussions on markups submitted by advisory committee members prior to the meeting. DEQ staff presented the markups received, and the advisory committee members discussed the suggestions.

Markups for the following sections of the Stormwater Handbook were addressed by the committee:

Waterbars

The advisory committee began by reviewing markups from committee members for C-ECM-08 Waterbars and Sheet Flow Breakers, which is a section in Chapter 7, Design Specifications for Construction BMPs, in the Handbook.

The markups provided by committee members for section *2.0 Purpose & Applicability of Best Management Practice* led to a discussion about how waterbars and sheet flow breakers are addressed in the Handbook. Traditionally, design standards for waterbars and sheet flow breakers are in the same specification. The committee debated the best approach and brainstormed possible options for separating the design specifications for waterbars and sheet flow breakers. Members reviewed markups for sections *3.0 Planning and Consideration* and *4.0 Stormwater Performance Summary*. Most of the discussion focused on section *5.0 Design Criteria*. Members discussed the topics of minimum waterbar height following compaction (18”), slope (2.5/1), minimum width (with respect to the edge of the right-of-way, easement, or disturbed area/corridor (preferred)), drainage area (no more than 2 acres), spacing (should be no less stringent than FERC requirements), and the construction sequence (including installing a j-hook at the end of a waterbar until vegetation is established). DEQ staff and advisory committee members also talked about removing unnecessary language to improve clarity and consistency across sections of the Handbook. Finally, committee members reviewed markups for proposed details that were provided by a member of the advisory committee prior to the meeting, agreeing that it would be beneficial to add more diagrams to the specification to address different scenarios.

Gravel Access Roads

DEQ staff explained that only minimal markups were submitted to DEQ by members of the advisory committee on this section, and the markups received were focused more generally on clarifying language rather than substantive changes. DEQ staff will compile the comments in one mark-up and share it with committee members for them to continue reviewing and provide

markups for the next meeting. The current specification is limited to gravel access roads for electric transmission lines. Committee members expressed interest in expanding the specification cover gravel access roads that other linear utilities install and utilize.

Public Forum:

A member of the public asked a question about the differences between temporary and permanent configurations for waterbars. DEQ staff indicated that the committee is developing language that best describes each configuration. DEQ staff further explained that the committee is also evaluating whether the best approach is to keep both temporary and permanent requirements for waterbars in one specification or to separate them into two specifications to increase clarity.

A member of the public asked about types of temporary waterbars. Committee members and DEQ staff discussed temporary waterbars during active construction, once grading is complete at the end of construction, and the permanent end treatment for waterbar discharge.

Action Items:

DEQ staff will incorporate minor changes received on waterbars and gravel access roads and provide a copy of the revised specifications no later than Tuesday, October 22, 2024, for members to review and propose recommended changes.

Committee members are asked to continue to work on reviewing the specification and submit markups or feedback to DEQ by close of business on Friday, November 15, 2024.

Follow-up Meeting:

A follow-up meeting is expected to continue specification review. DEQ staff will send a doodle poll to members gauging availability for the next meeting which is expected to be held in November the week beginning Monday, November 18.