

Owasco Watershed Rules and Regulations State-Local Technical Workgroup Report

For OLWMC Monthly Meeting: September 20, 2022

General Update:

The technical workgroup worked efficiently to revise the Sediment Generation & Control provision of the proposed regulations. Minor revisions were suggested to align with the NYSDEC SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-20-001). Concerns in section 1 were discussed. The workgroup decided to keep the provision as written and will ultimately defer to DOH, DEC, AGM, DOT attorneys as well as City Counsel.

Summary of 8/17/2022 Meeting: Sediment Generation & Control

Reviewed provisions in each bucket:

1. Straightforward and not contradictory to other regulations:
 - Roadside Ditch Maintenance Work, Section 4(c). Scraping ditches while they are conveying stormwater runoff is prohibited.
2. Need additional detail and clarification
 - Will keep “Construction” definition (17) but will revise “Soil Disturbing Construction Activities” definition (68) to match the SPDES “Construction Activity” definition.
 - Roadside Ditch Maintenance Work, Section 4:
 1. Revise to “prior to ditching,” “during ditching, and “after ditching.”
 2. Apply same concept as Part 1(B)(1)(b) Soil Stabilization of NYSDEC SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-20-001) to timing of maintenance.
3. Contradictory to state regulations or programs and require further examination
 - Section 1. “Soil disturbing construction activities which expose five thousand (5000) square feet or more and one (1) acre or less of soil are prohibited except under the following conditions...” Current DEC regs cover larger (>1 acre) projects, discussion now focusing on whether there is a need to regulate smaller, <1 acre, projects. Workgroup would like State attorney and City Council input before finalizing.

Proposed Meeting Schedule for Remaining Provisions:

1 st Nutrient Management	October 5, 2022 (in-person)
2nd Nutrient Management & Variances	October (virtual)
Follow up meeting on Pesticide	October (virtual)
Conclusion/Wrap Up	November

Overall Process Timeline:

- State Interagency Workgroup meets with Owasco Technical Committee – June 2022
- New Workgroup will meet approx. 6 times - June to Oct 2022
- DOH publishes proposed amendments to WRRs- Nov 2022
- Three-month public comment period- Feb 2023
- DOH submits response to comments- Mar 2023
- DOH publishes amendments to WRRs - May/June 2023