

# PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR BASIC BMPs NEEDED

BEFORE IMPROVEMENTS IN WATER QUALITY BECOMES A REALITY

By Roger Singleton • President • Silt-Saver Inc.

**B**efore we can expect to see significant improvements in water quality, the barriers to successful erosion and sediment control measures have to be recognized. At the outset, we must first answer this question: How do we achieve the results necessary for healthier water quality without first acknowledging that the guidelines currently in place are inadequate? These guidelines require an urgent overhaul if we are to hope for better water quality for the future.

From educational programs to end-users, everyone shares responsibility for erosion and sediment control practices. Educators need to inject into their curriculum information on newer, better methods which are being introduced to keep the programs fresh and in the best interest of all concerned. We should not anticipate changes for the better in water quality if we continue to use outdated, inadequate methods. Specifically, the misapplication of silt fence as inlet protection is a routine occurrence. Until the differences in concentrated flow vs. sheet flow are acknowledged, along with their diverse requirements to effectively manage erosion and sediment loss, conditions will not improve.

Another link in the water quality chain is the implementation of the erosion control measures designated by the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan that, typically,

traces back to the design engineer. Incorporating inadequate or inappropriate methods into the E & S Plan usually results from a lack of knowledge of a particular product's contribution, (or lack thereof), to the overall treatment train. Designing an E & S plan requires the incorporation of products with known performance standards

Once the engineer has designed and sealed an E & S Plan, the next link to jobsite erosion control is the plan reviewer, who shall be well versed on the performance standards under the plan. This simple fact will make a huge difference in that the reviewer will approve or deny acceptance based on in-depth knowledge of the plan.

Traditionally local authorities are responsible for enforcing the implementation of the E & S plan, but in case of questions, they typically look to the upper level of the hierarchy, usually found at the state level, for guidance and interpretation of the guidelines required for implementation.

Finally, the end-user, i.e., the contractor, will be held accountable for jobsite failures even though he has little knowledge as to the expected outcome of the methods and products the E & S plan requires.. While contractors must be held accountable for responsible development, when BMP choices are taken out of their hands and the only BMPs permitted according to E & S plans are inadequate, the contractor is unfairly placed in a predicament not of his choosing.

So, up to this point we have addressed contributing factors to the jobsite failures that lead to compromised water quality.

Because these factors are a part of the equation to improving and preserving water quality, let us now look at some possible solutions for reducing or eliminating these obstacles to clean water.

First, we need a system in place to establish the benchmark of performance for each product use. By establishing a standard level of performance and efficiency that every product in the treatment train must meet, we will increase our chances for a successful erosion control program. Once this benchmark has been set, a statewide Qualified Products List (QPL) would be restricted to products accepted based on performance and efficiency, thus eliminating other products that fall short of the mark. Furthermore, by establishing a QPL benchmark, both generic and proprietary products would be tested and held equally accountable to the same standards. Uniform testing and the acceptance of products meeting the benchmark would serve to dispel the cloud over use of proprietary products. Proprietary products would simply become one option in a selection of effective choices. If we do not set benchmark levels of performance and efficiency for all products, whether generic or proprietary, we cannot expect to reap the benefits that utilizing better BMPs would offer. Simply put, without knowing a product's capabilities, integrating BMPs into an E & S Plan simply becomes an educated guess.

When we have defined the benchmark of product performance and only the products that meet this benchmark are on the QPL, the next logical step is to update our educational programs. Incorporating

# Is On the Way Help

**Compliance with GDOT's new requirements is more than just an audit.** It is an examination of how you accumulate and report data. By working with us you will benefit from a seamless, proactive process that incorporates and report data. resolution. If you would like to run your business better including:

- Planning your rates with GDOT
- Maximizing expense reimbursement
- Speeding up collections
- Being better prepared for fee negotiations

then contact **Wayne Owens, CPA, 770-498-1400 or 800-852-6075.**

DUMBER  
DUMBERSON

JAT

PSMJ/RESOURCES, INC.

the most up-to-date tools and methods into the curriculum will enable program participants to become better equipped to face the challenges presented on the jobsite.

Benefits to the design engineer come in the form of simpler, clearer choices for designing E & S Plans. Using the updated QPL, an engineer would be better able to design a plan to achieve calculable results. Given that products and methods known to be inadequate have been excluded, BMP selections are made relying on the expected outcome and less on guesswork.

The topics discussed here affect everyone in some way. Maintaining healthy water quality is a vital necessity. We have to collaborate in our efforts towards improving our water quality programs and there needs to be a clear line of responsibility as to who has the final say in matters of utilizing the best tools available to protect Georgia's waterways. The first step towards improving Georgia's water quality needs to begin with establishing minimum performance and efficiency standards. ❖

## DIRECTOR OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

The Director of Design and Construction has a direct reporting responsibility to the VP of Facility Services with the Medical College of Georgia Health Systems in Augusta, Georgia. This highly visible position is an excellent career opportunity for candidates with the specified experience and degree requirements. Position is responsible for space planning, design and construction consultation with executive management levels.

The MCG Medical Center complex forms the core of MCG Health System's facilities and includes a 483-bed adult hospital, an Ambulatory Care Center with more than 80 outpatient clinics in one convenient setting, a Specialized Care Center housing a 13-county Level I regional trauma center and a 149-bed Children's Medical Center. The Health System also includes a variety of dedicated centers and units and more than 90 satellite clinics.

MCGHI holds national recognition with Solucient top 100 Hospitals, in U.S. News and World Report annual list of "America's Best Hospitals" and in 2004 edition of America's Top Doctors. •

Qualified candidates, who hold the stated minimum consideration requirements, are invited to submit interest:

- Ten years plus experience in construction management/architectural design
- Hands-on-experience with federal, state and local regulatory agencies.
- Healthcare master facility design, planning, construction
- Preference for: Degreed candidates from programs accredited by (NAAB) and registry with (NCARB)
- Consideration given to: non-architecture candidates with ten-year comparable level of project management with significant construction and design responsibilities.

Please apply directly at [MCGHealth.org/careers](http://MCGHealth.org/careers) to requisition # 1648 or by emailing recruiter directly at [abhensley@mcg.edu](mailto:abhensley@mcg.edu). You may read about this employer at their website [MCGHealth.org](http://MCGHealth.org).

Medical College of Georgia Health Systems, Augusta, GA  
EEO employer. We value a diverse workforce