



EPA Ramps up Surprise VSMP Inspections

Representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have recently begun performing un-announced inspections at construction sites throughout Virginia. The inspections were coordinated with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The focus of the inspections was on both commercial and residential construction projects and included problem sites where Contractors perform inspections in house. Staff from the EPA Region 3 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Enforcement section indicated that the inspections help them to gauge compliance with the Clean Water Act. According to the EPA, the inspections are also used as a deterrent in order to raise awareness of permit requirements. One aspect of their inspections is the proper installation and maintenance of required erosion and sediment control measures. They are also inspecting sites to ensure that the proper Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Permit has been obtained and that the required Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) has been prepared, is on-site, and is being followed. This includes the mandatory inspections of the construction site by a qualified professional at the intervals required in the permit.

Under the Clean Water Act, the EPA has the ability to issue administrative penalties to violators with a maximum fine of \$11,000 per day per violation and up to \$157,500 per site. Please note that criminal penalties are also possible.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the requirements of the VSMP permit, please contact your WEG Project Manager at any of our office locations: Williamsburg (757) 220-6869, Richmond (804) 267-3474, Herndon (703) 437-3096 or Fredericksburg (540) 785-5544.