
To: Employees of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Tennessee, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC),
Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA), and Tennessee Soil Conservation
Districts

From: Robert J. Martineau, Jr., Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Environment
and Conservation
Julius Johnson, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Ray Weaver, President, Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts (TACD)
Kevin Brown, State Conservationist, NRCS Tennessee

Subject: Permit Streamlining Agreement between NRCS, TDEC, TDA, and TACD

Date: February 29, 2016


Implementation of some types of conservation practices on agricultural land requires coverage under TDEC's Construction Stormwater Permits (CGP) or Aquatic Resource Alteration Permits (ARAP). In an effort to streamline the permitting process for NRCS and TDA soil and water conservation practices, NRCS, TDEC, TDA and TACD cooperatively developed a fact sheet in 2012. This fact sheet has been revised and is being published in conjunction with the renewal of this agreement. The revised fact sheet entitled "*TDEC Construction Stormwater & ARAP Permit Requirements for NRCS Conservation Practices*" is to be used by field personnel from all the agencies and Soil Conservation Districts to help farmers, landowners, and other program participants determine when a permit is or is not needed. The fact sheet is intended to provide clarification for our respective staff and is not intended for general distribution to the public.

All parties to this agreement recognize the value of joint, ongoing communication between our staff on the meaning, purpose and coverage of this agreement. Improved communication promotes the understanding of our mutual roles and requirements and fosters greater cooperation among our staff when dealing with private landowners. In support of the need and importance of interagency communication, TDEC agrees to host an annual interagency forum at each of their eight environmental field offices. This forum will be specific to the subject of construction stormwater permitting and aquatic resource alteration permitting as it relates to the parties of this agreement and other topics as the parties deem appropriate. Subject matter experts from TDEC's central office as well as TDEC field office representatives will be present for each of the forums. TDEC, NRCS, TDA and TACD leadership will work together to determine the dates of the events. All parties will commit to providing their staff with the opportunity to attend the events and conveying a commitment to their benefit. The first events at each of the eight environmental field offices will be held within six months of the signing of this agreement and will take place annually for the life of the agreement. The format of these events will be informal and will provide an opportunity for all parties to contribute.

We appreciate these cooperative efforts that ensure the protection and conservation of Tennessee's natural resources. Informed, coordinated activities at the field level are paramount to our shared success, and we sincerely appreciate the work done in this fashion by each of our respective agencies on behalf of all Tennesseans.



Robert J. Martineau, Jr.
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation



Julius Johnson
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Agriculture



Ray Weaver
President
Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts



Kevin Brown
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Attachment:

"TDEC Construction Stormwater & ARAP Permit Requirements for NRCS Conservation Practices"