

The New Way of Doing Business: Soil Erosion, Sediment Control, and Compliance Assistance (March 18, 2015)

Workshop Summary and Evaluation

Prepared by URI Cooperative Extension, RI NEMO

Overview of Training

This workshop was part of RIDOT Winter Training, where RIDOT employees are provided with a course catalog and voluntarily choose which courses to attend. The purpose of this particular workshop was to address roles and responsibilities for stormwater management on RIDOT construction sites, review the history of soil erosion and sediment (SESC) control issues, introduce the RIDEM Compliance Assistance Program, and obtain RIDOT staff input to improve compliance.

A total of 17 RIDOT staff participated in this workshop, primarily Engineering Technicians and several Resident Engineers. The workshop was led by staff of the RIDOT Natural Resources Unit, RIDEM supervisory staff, URI Department of Engineering, and URI Cooperative Extension.

Summary Results

This document contains the results recorded by Turning Technologies Software during the training, when participants had the opportunity to answer questions about material presented and share opinions about appropriate actions using an electronic keypad. The most common response to each question has been highlighted in yellow.

Results from the use of the electronic keypads are organized into three sections: questions about material presented during training; group exercise questions; and training evaluation questions. An additional section has been added to the end of the document, summarizing written feedback from participants during the group exercise.

The group exercise section summarizes the results of the small group discussions during the work session on system-wide solutions. The choices in this section were generated by participants during the exercise. Complete results are reported on pages 4 and 7. However, the top problems identified by participants were: compliance with SWPPP is not a priority; lack of enforcement; concrete washout; and fuel spills.

Based upon these results, as well as discussion during the training, it seems that there is some confusion about roles and responsibilities, however, some of this is due to the different names used by attendees versus those used in construction documents, such as the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. When questioned on material presented, the majority responded correctly. Overall, participants seemed to value the training, most noting that it was relevant for their work and that they planned to use what they learned.

1. Questions About Material Presented During Training

What is an SESC Plan?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Are we allowed to talk about that here?	0.00%	0
Same as a SWPPP (c)	75.00%	3
Simple Escape in the event of Sudden Catastrophe	0.00%	0
A GINORMOUS pain in the...	25.00%	1
Totals	100%	4

Who is the owner?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
SWPPP Inspector	0.00%	0
Contractor	0.00%	0
Resident Engineer	7.69%	1
RIDOT (c)	92.31%	12
Owner of what?	0.00%	0
Totals	100%	13

Who is the operator?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
The person you talk to when you dial 411. Wait...who dials that?	0.00%	0
SWPPP Inspector	8.33%	1
Contractor	83.33%	10
Resident Engineer	8.33%	1
Field Inspector	0.00%	0
Totals	100%	12

Who is the SESC inspector?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
We have Inspectors?	9.09%	1
Design Consultant (c)	27.27%	3
Contractor	0.00%	0
Resident Engineer	36.36%	4
Field Inspector	27.27%	3
Totals	100%	11

A contractor fails to maintain E&S controls...repeatedly. Intentionally. WWYD?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Ahhh...he's a good guy. He's doing his best.	0.00%	0
Nothing - the SWPPP is covering it.	0.00%	0
Use a tiered fine.	100.00%	13
Ask the contractor to stop doing that....pretty please.	0.00%	0
Totals	100%	13

A 2-inch rain event is forecast for tomorrow morning. There's an excavator on a slope on your site, and the slope is exposed. WWYD?

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Go get coffee and an umbrella!	0.00%	0
Call the NRU for a field visit on Friday at 12:30... that's only 4 days away.	0.00%	0
Install more hay bales, as designed!	22.22%	2
Call the contractor to get E&S installed before the end of the day.	77.78%	7
Totals	100%	9

2. Group Discussion Questions

Top ten HEINOUS crimes (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)*		
	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Compliance w/ SWPPP not priority	16.67%	3
E&S Not installed properly	11.11%	2
Lack of Enforcement	16.67%	3
Trash containment & removal	5.56%	1
Concrete Washout	16.67%	3
Quick Action from Contractor	0.00%	0
Issuing Fine – Good Relationship	5.56%	1
Active vs Non-Active stockpile	5.56%	1
Fuel Spills	16.67%	3
Overflow of Concrete Chute/Pump trucks	5.56%	1
Totals	100%	18

*The choices for this question were generated by participants during the group exercise.

3. Training Evaluation Questions

This training was relevant for my work.

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Strongly Agree	75.00%	12
Agree	25.00%	4
Neutral	0.00%	0
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly Disagree	0.00%	0
Totals	100%	16

I plan to use what I learned at this training.

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Strongly Agree	75.00%	12
Agree	18.75%	3
Neutral	6.25%	1
Disagree	0.00%	0
Strongly Disagree	0.00%	0
Totals	100%	16

The level of technical information today was....

Responses		
	Percent	Count
easy	29.41%	5
somewhat easy	11.76%	2
appropriate	58.82%	10
somewhat difficult	0.00%	0
difficult	0.00%	0
Totals	100%	17

The pace of the training was....

Responses		
	Percent	Count
slow	0.00%	0
somewhat slow	17.65%	3
appropriate	47.06%	8
somewhat fast	29.41%	5
fast	5.88%	1
Totals	100%	17

For this training... I wish you would change....

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Absolutely nothing – you guys ROCK	21.43%	3
Absolutely everything – are you kiddin' me!?	0.00%	0
Not much – you mostly got it.	64.29%	9
You have no clue what I deal with	14.29%	2
Totals	100%	14

4. Details From The Group Exercise

The following is a verbatim copy of the flip chart papers that were returned at the end of the group exercise, where participants were asked to brainstorm top problems and solutions:

Group 1

Ease communication with contractor regarding non-compliance

- Prepare a template/examples

Withhold payment when SESC BMPs are installed improperly; if it's wrong, don't pay!

Meet with post-construction supt. early and often!

- Tell him/her SESC will be a priority
- Share what inspections will entail
- Inform of new EPA/DEM initiatives to go after violations; let's work together

Group 2

Washout issues

Lack of policing and maint. ECD/SCD by PC

Trash containment/removal

Vehicle refueling

Protect environment from stockpiled mat.

- Location
- Containment options

Group 3

P1. Anticipating bad weather and getting quick action from the contractor

S1. Compel the contractor to install needed measures on force account or risk fines

P2. Issuing a fine while maintaining a good relationship with contractor

S2. Need strong support from management/contract language

P3. Problem of active vs. non-active stockpile management

S3. Clearly designate active piles, take appropriate measures to cover all non-active, make provisions to cover active piles for storms

P4. Limiting clear and grub area limit

S4. Need better definition in contract to enforce

P5. How to determine a better solution for failing BMPs

S5. Involve design/consultant in getting a solution

Group 4

Spills/overflows

Washout/Wetlands control fence