

Section 8. Low Impact GESC Permit

Overview of Section 8

8.0

The streamlined process provided in this section applies to a Low Impact GESC Permit.

Confirm that a Low Impact GESC Permit is required (see Section 8.1).

Prepare a Low Impact Permit Application and Drawing (see Section 8.2).

Submit the Low Impact Permit Application and Drawing to SEMSWA for review and acceptance and revise documents as necessary to address SEMSWA comments (see Section 8.3).

After SEMSWA acceptance, pay fee, submit Collateral if required, and pick up Low Impact Permit, Approved Low Impact GESC Drawing, and GESC Field Manual (see Section 8.4).

Review GESC Field Manual and ensure that Permittee(s) understand Low Impact Permit requirements (see Section 8.5).

Install Initial BMPs on the project site (see Section 8.6).

Start construction, implementing erosion and sediment control in accordance with the Low Impact Permit Drawing. The Low Impact GESC Permit, Drawing, and GESC Field Manual are to be kept on site at all times during construction (see Section 8.7).

Address issues raised during any SEMSWA GESC Inspections (see Section 8.8).

Drill seed and crimp mulch all disturbed areas in accordance with the GESC Field Manual (see Section 8.9).

Schedule Vegetation Acceptance Inspection when vegetative growth has reached the required coverage. After receiving written acceptance of vegetation establishment from SEMSWA, remove the on site BMPs, then project is complete (see Section 8.10).

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Projects that Require a Low Impact GESC Permit

This section describes the GESC Permit Process for Low Impact GESC Permits. This process is more streamlined than the Standard GESC Permits.

8.1

The first step in the process is to examine the information in Section 2.1.2 to confirm that a Low Impact GESC Permit is required for the project. This Low Impact GESC Permit applies to projects with a disturbed area less than one acre where there is a potential for negative impact to adjacent properties or drainageways.

SEMSWA can be contacted to clarify GESC Permit requirements and interpret which GESC Permit, if any, applies to a particular project. Contact information is provided in Appendix A.

i *Even though the Low Impact GESC Permit offers streamlined application and inspection procedures, the erosion and sediment control practices discussed herein shall be adhered to and penalties for non-compliance will apply.*

A simplified permitting process is associated with a Low Impact GESC Permit. A Low Impact GESC Permit does not require GESC Drawings to be prepared or stamped by a Professional Engineer because typically the work does not involve engineering design.

Even with streamlined application and inspection procedures, the erosion and sediment control practices discussed herein shall be followed. If SEMSWA finds a Low Impact Permittee to be non-compliant, the violations as described in Section 5.9 will apply, the Permit may be revoked and a Stop Work Order issued in accordance with Section 5.9.7.

Low Impact GESC Permit Application and Drawings

8.2

8.2.1 Low Impact Permit Application Requirements. For Low Impact Permits, GESC Drawings shall be accompanied by a completed Low Impact GESC Permit Application (a copy of the application form is included in Appendix K). No GESC Report is required for the Low Impact Permit, but the application form requires descriptive information regarding the proposed project. Review fees in accordance with the current Fee Schedule are required to be submitted with the Low Impact GESC drawing.

Low Impact GESC Permit Application and Drawings, continued

8.2.2 Low Impact Drawing Requirements. Although a detailed GESC Plan need not be prepared for sites where a Low Impact GESC Permit is sought, the following drawings shall be prepared and submitted to SEMSWA to provide enough information to determine if a Low Impact Permit is acceptable for the proposed work:

1. General location map – at a scale of 1-inch to 1000-feet to 1-inch to 8000-feet, indicating the general vicinity of the site location, including all roadways and north arrow.
2. Detailed plan showing:
 - North arrow.
 - Approximate scale of drawing.
 - Limits of work area.
 - Proximity of work area to property lines.
 - All surface water hydrologic features within 100-feet of proposed work area.
 - Directional flow arrows indicating stormwater runoff.
 - Erosion and sediment control BMPs in accordance with these criteria.

The principles described in Section 3.1 for preparing a GESC Plan also apply to a Low Impact GESC Drawing. Specifically, Section 4.2 discusses principles of erosion and sedimentation, Section 4.4 describes ten elements of an effective GESC Plan, and Section 4.15 provides design and sizing criteria for BMPs. An example GESC Drawing for a Low Impact GESC Permit is shown in Appendix C.

Section 4.2, especially Section 4.4, Ten Elements of an Effective GESC Plan, and Section 4.15, Design and Sizing Criteria for BMPs, provides guidance for preparing a Low Impact GESC Drawing.

An example GESC Drawing for a Low Impact GESC Permit is shown in Appendix C.

Submit Low Impact Application and Drawing; Address SEMSWA Comments

8.3

After the GESC Drawing has been prepared and a Low Impact Permit Application form has been filled out and signed, the items shall be submitted to SEMSWA.

The GESC Plan will be reviewed with an eye toward the effectiveness of the overall Plan. After review, written comments will be provided to the applicant.

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Pay Permit Fee and Submit Collateral

8.4

Once the GESC Drawing and Permit have been accepted by SEMSWA, the Applicant shall pick up the Drawing, Permit, and a copy of the GESC Field Manual. At the same time, the Applicant shall pay permit fees to SEMSWA, and, if SEMSWA requires, submit collateral for the work. Permit fees shall be paid in accordance with the current SEMSWA Fee Schedule and collateral shall be submitted in accordance with Section 2.16.

Review GESC Field Manual

8.5

The Permittee(s) shall thoroughly review the GESC Field Manual, the GESC Drawing, and the GESC Plan Standard Notes and Details for any BMPs that will be installed to understand all of the requirements of the GESC Permit Process. Any subcontractors and field personnel also need to be made aware of the GESC requirements.

Install Initial BMPs

8.6

Once a copy of the GESC Field Manual has been picked up and reviewed, the Initial BMPs shown on the approved GESC Low Impact Drawing shall be installed.

Section 6, in particular Section 6.2, provides guidance on the correct installation and maintenance of BMPs.

Begin Construction

8.7

After installation of the Initial BMPs, construction may begin. The approved GESC Permit, the accepted construction drawings and the GESC Field Manual are to be kept on site in the Permittee(s)' possession at all times.

During construction, all GESC criteria, including seeding and mulching requirements, shall be adhered to. If SEMSWA finds a Low Impact Permit holder to be non-compliant with the GESC Permit or any other GESC criteria, violations in accordance with Section 5.9 will apply. In addition, the Permit may be revoked. SEMSWA may then require the Permittee(s) to obtain a Standard GESC Permit per Section 2.2.1.

Address any GESC or SEMSWA Inspection Comments

8.8

Under a Low Impact GESC Permit, only a final Vegetation Acceptance Inspection by SEMSWA staff is required (and this only for certain cases); however, SEMSWA Inspectors shall visit a Low Impact site regularly. Permittee(s) shall address any comments or corrections required by the SEMSWA Inspector.

Section 5.9 provides information on violations and enforcement, including the Stop Work Order.

***Drill Seed and
Crimp Mulch All
Disturbed Areas***

8.9

All disturbed areas shall be drill seeded and crimp mulched in accordance with Section 4.9 and the GESC Plan Standard Notes and Details (see Appendix B). All disturbed areas which are either final graded, or will remain inactive for a period of more than 30 days shall be required to be stabilized within 14 days of the completion of the grading activities. See Section 4.9 for more information.

***Schedule
Vegetation
Acceptance
Inspection***

8.10

When required by SEMSWA, a Vegetation Acceptance Inspection shall be required. Section 7.3 describes requirements for vegetative coverage and control of noxious weeds.

After receiving written acceptance of the vegetative coverage, the on-site BMPs may be removed and the project is complete.