


COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Department of Environmental Quality

Subject: Guidance Memo No. GM24-2001 – **Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, Version 1.0**

To: Regional Directors, Central Office, Office of Stormwater Management

From: Mike Rolband, Director 

Date: January 29, 2024

Summary:

The Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, Version 1.0 (Handbook) provides guidance to implement water quality and water quality criteria in the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Regulation, 9VAC25-875, effective July 1, 2024. The Handbook replaces the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, Third Edition, 1992 (rescinded July 1, 2025) and the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, First Edition, 1999 (rescinded July 1, 2025). It also incorporates relevant information from and replaces the following guidance documents, which will be rescinded July 1, 2025:

1. Guidance Document on VSMP Site Inspection Strategies
2. Guidance Document on Utilization of Nonpoint Nutrient Offsets
3. Guidance Memo No. 14-2002 Implementation Guidance for the 2009 General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities, 9VAC25-880
4. Guidance Memo No. 14-2014 Implementation Guidance for Section 47 (time limits on applicability of approved design criteria) and Section 48 (grandfathering)
5. Guidance Memo No. 15-2003 Postdevelopment SW Mgmt Implementation Guidance for Linear Utility Projects
6. Guidance Memo No. 22-2011 Streamlined Plan Review for Construction Stormwater Plans and Erosion and Sediment Control Plans submitted by a Licensed Design Professional and reviewed by a Dual Combined Administrator for Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management
7. Guidance Memo No. 22-2012 Stormwater Management and Erosion & Sediment Control Design Guide

The reason that all of these documents are rescinded effective July 1, 2025, is that they have been incorporated into the Handbook to reduce complexity and improve the ease of use. However, as explained in associated documents, there is a one-year transition period to allow plans submitted between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 to utilize either the existing manuals, handbooks and guidance or the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, Version 1.0.

Electronic Copy:

The Handbook is available entirely online at <https://online.encodeplus.com/regs/deq-va/index.aspx>. On this page, users may access the entire Handbook, or access individual chapters and specifications. Users may also download content in Portable Document Format (pdf). The website banner provides links to complementary material on the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) website, such as the Virginia Runoff Reduction Method (VRRM) 4.1 compliance spreadsheets, VRRM 4.1 User Guide, and approval letters for Manufactured Treatment Devices, among other materials.

The website also provides instructions, and functions, for users to provide feedback on Handbook content. Instructions are available from the "comment" section of the website banner. All feedback is collected into a central repository, which is available for download to DEQ staff. DEQ staff will review this content and revise the Handbook in accordance with the processes described in Chapter 1: Introduction.

In addition, once effective, a link to the electronic copy of this guidance will be available on:

- The Virginia Regulatory Town Hall webpage under the Department of Environmental Quality: <https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/gdocs.cfm?agencynumber=440>. The DEQ webpage will also provide the URL for the Handbook.

Contact information:

For additional information regarding the Handbook, please contact Becky Rochet, Deputy Director, Water Permitting Division, at (804) 801-2950 or Rebeccah.Rochet@deq.virginia.gov.

Certification:

As required by Subsection B of § 2.2-4002.1 of the Administrative Process Act, the agency certifies that this guidance document conforms to the definition of a guidance document in § 2.2-4101 of the Code of Virginia.

Use of Handbook:

DEQ will accept applications, plans, specifications, and other submissions developed using the Handbook and VRRM 4.1 beginning on July 1, 2024, concurrent with the effective date of the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Regulation, 9VAC25-875.

Disclaimer:

This document is provided as guidance and, as such, sets forth standard operating procedures for the agency. However, it does not mandate or prohibit any particular action not otherwise required or prohibited by law or regulation. If alternative proposals are made, such proposals will be reviewed and accepted or denied based on their technical adequacy and compliance with appropriate laws and regulations.

Effective Date: 4/27/24 Initials: MSR