


**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**  
Department of Environmental Quality

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**Subject:** Guidance Memo No. GM24-2001 – **Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, Version 1.1**

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

**From:** Mike Rolband, Director 

**Date:** June 25, 2024

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The Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook provides information on stormwater management, including erosion and sediment control, in Virginia and includes guidance to implement water quality and water quantity criteria in the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Regulation, 9VAC25-875 (VESM Regulation), effective July 1, 2024.

**Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, Version 1.1 (Handbook):**

Version 1.1 of the Handbook makes technical corrections and updates to Version 1.0 (effective April 27, 2024), including:

- Updating Section 3.4.1 to clarify that guidance provides information about the application of, and compliance with, state requirements, rather than suggesting guidance is a “state requirement;”
- Updating guidance on multijurisdictional projects (Section 4.2.7) so it is consistent with the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management (VESM) Regulation, 9VAC25-875-110 and 9VAC25-875-290;
- Updating Section 4.2.8 and Appendix J to add persons engaging in more than one jurisdiction in the creation of a wetland mitigation or stream restoration bank to the list of entities that may submit standards and specifications. This makes the Handbook consistent with state law (§ 62.1-44.15:31 of the Code of Virginia);
- Updating Section 6.3.1.5.3, Solar Stormwater Runoff Computations, so that it includes guidance on how to demonstrate “Interconnection Approval.” This makes the Handbook consistent with Guidance Memo No. GM22-2012, effective February 18, 2023;
- Clarifying information about the use of offsite options and nutrient credits in Sections 6.3.4 and 6.3.4.3 so that it is consistent with § 62.1-44.15:35 of the Code of Virginia and 9VAC25-875-610;
- Adding affirmative statements in new Section 5.1.7 indicating that for PRM (permittee responsible mitigation), MS4s (municipal separate storm sewer systems), ILFs (in-lieu fee mitigation programs), and mitigation banks, there are no water quality or quantity

requirements for the following practices: wetlands and stream restoration, and reforestation for nutrient banks or for any purpose;

- Updating and/or adding downloadable CAD and PDF drawings for the Design Specifications for Construction BMPs in Chapter 7 to make the format consistent;
- Updated line drawings in Chapters 7 and 8 to improve clarity;
- Updating Section 8.4.4.2 to include phosphorus conversion rates for manufactured treatment devices (MTDs) for consistency with previous DEQ guidance and policy;
- Updating Section 9.8 for consistency with the General VPDES Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities, 9VAC25-880, which is effective July 1, 2024;
- Adding Section A.6.2 to Appendix A. The new section includes water quality criteria for brownfields and reclaimed mine development to make the Handbook consistent with Guidance Memo No. GM22-2012;
- Throughout the Handbook, correcting typos, deficiencies, and errors identified by DEQ staff and commenters during the public comment period for Version 1.0;
- Updating blurry and outdated figures throughout the Handbook;
- Revising figures to be consistent with the VESM Regulation (e.g., Figures 5-3 and 5-4);
- As necessary, adding or correcting regulatory and statutory references; and
- Ensuring relevant information from the guidance documents that have been incorporated in the Handbook (and will be rescinded July 1, 2025) is complete, consistent, and provides clarity, consistency, and certainty to stakeholders.

A full list of revisions is available under the “Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, Version 1.1” banner on the DEQ website at: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/our-programs/water/stormwater/stormwater-construction/handbooks>

### **Implementation and Use:**

The Handbook replaces the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, Third Edition, 1992 (to be rescinded July 1, 2025) and the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook, First Edition, 1999 (to be rescinded July 1, 2025). It also incorporates relevant information from and replaces the following guidance documents (to be rescinded July 1, 2025):

- Guidance Document on VSMP Site Inspection Strategies;
- Guidance Document on Utilization of Nonpoint Nutrient Offsets;
- Guidance Memo No. 14-2002 Implementation Guidance for the 2009 General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities, 9VAC25-880;
- Guidance Memo No. 14-2014 Implementation Guidance for Section 47 (time limits on applicability of approved design criteria) and Section 48 (grandfathering);
- Guidance Memo No. 15-2003 Postdevelopment Stormwater Management Implementation Guidance for Linear Utility Projects;
- 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; and
- Guidance Memo No. 22-2012 Stormwater Management and Erosion & Sediment Control Design Guide.

To allow time for the regulated community and other stakeholders to transition to the Handbook, DEQ will accept applications, plans, specifications, and other submissions developed using the Handbook and Virginia Runoff Reduction Method (VRRM) 4.1 beginning on July 1, 2024, concurrent with the effective date of the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Regulation, 9VAC25-875. Where DEQ serves as the VSMP authority, any stormwater management plan submitted and deemed complete (9VAC25-875-110) before July 1, 2025, may use either specifications in the existing manuals, handbooks, and guidance listed above or the Handbook and VRRM 4.1.

After July 1, 2025, when modifications are submitted to approved plans that were developed without using the Handbook and VRRM 4.1, if the land-use assumptions upon which the stormwater management facility was designed and implemented change (e.g., increase in impervious cover), then the areas which result in an increase in nutrient loading should comply with the Handbook and VRRM 4.1.

Because Version 1.1 of the Handbook is limited to updates and technical corrections and does not include any changes to the BMP specifications, going from Version 1.0 to Version 1.1 is not expected to impact plans that have been submitted or are in progress based on Version 1.0.

### **Electronic Copy:**

When effective, Version 1.1 of the Handbook will be 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, including a list of revisions made in Version 1.1, the Virginia Runoff Reduction Method (VRRM) 4.1 compliance spreadsheets, the VRRM 4.1 User Guide, and approval letters for Manufactured Treatment Devices.

The enCodePlus 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 used comments to make technical revisions to the Handbook for Version 1.1. DEQ will review substantive comments it has received to date and comments on Version 1.1 to make future revisions to 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 Rebekkah Rochet, Deputy Director, Water Permitting Division, at (804) 801-2950 or [Rebekkah.Rochet@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Rebekkah.Rochet@deq.virginia.gov). You may also email [SWMguidance@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:SWMguidance@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.

**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.**