

## GET THE DIRT OUT - IN YOUR WATERSHED

### GTDO – PART I

If you know of a construction site that you think is contributing sediment to a waterway (creek, river, pond or lake), the best way to find out is to get out on a rainy day and look at your waterway. Reddish brown, muddy water, may be the result of sediment being carried by rain water from a nearby construction site.

Follow these steps and help make a difference in stopping the flow of dirt into our waterways.

#### **PART ONE I – VISIT THE SITE + RECORD YOUR FINDINGS**

VISIT SITE  
RECORD FINDINGS

- 1) Find the probable construction site source(s) of your waterway contamination. (Most creek contamination is caused by more than one site.)  
**\*\* Important note: When are you visiting the site, never trespass on private property! Not only is trespassing illegal, if the developer discovers that you have trespassed, he may have a potential claim against you. This can be expensive for you and also detract from what is really important – the developer's illegal activities.**
- 2) Reference the enclosed **Pictorial Field Guide** to Best Management Practices (BMP's), and make a determination of their effectiveness. Record your findings in your blue **Site Journal** making notes of locations on the construction site with problems (eg. northwest corner, eastern edge, along the roadway, etc.).
- 3) Fill out the laminated **Site Report Card** and grade each of the BMP's.
- 4) Take photographs of the problem areas that you want to mention in your letter to the Local Issuing Authority. Note date and details on the back of the print photos. If the photos are digital, be sure to key the file name to the details. Add these photos with written descriptions to the **Site Journal**.
- 5) Transcribe your findings, individual grades & cumulative grades to the orange **Site Report Card**.

Try to observe the entire site (**without trespassing**), not just the front. Use public right-of-ways (roads) as much as possible. Many sites drain to the back of the property. Most violations occur in the back of the property where they are not easily observed.

Each Site File should include:

- Site Report Card (orange)
- Site Journal (blue)
- Photos – with descriptions
- Enforcement Log (yellow)
- As well as, all letters, correspondence, research and documentation pertinent to the site.

CONT'D



# GET THE DIRT OUT

Erosion + Sediment Control

## GTDO – PART I

CONTACT LIA + EPD

### **CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ISSUING AUTHORITY (LIA)**

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#### **AND THE APPROPRIATE GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION (EPD) DISTRICT OFFICE**

- 1) Contact your local issuing authority (LIA) (city or county) and EPD by telephone to report the problem. – **Appendix A**
- 2) Follow-up the phone call with a letter. – **Appendix B**
- 3) Develop the letter based upon the Sample in Appendix B using your photographs and the notes taken at the site. Be as specific as possible on what is wrong and where the problem is located on the site.
  - Scanning and/or printing color photographs is best. Attach 2 - 4 different pictures of the problem areas on the site to the letter. If scanning and printing is not feasible, attach originals. Keep copies of photographs for your records, in case the local authority loses them.
  - Send the letter to the appropriate contact person for each local authority, whether county or city.  
The appropriate EPD District Office can be found in Appendix A.
- 4) Follow – Up! If the local authority does not call you back, call them and ask what steps are going to be taken to resolve your concerns. Use your **Enforcement Log** to evaluate government action.
- 5) Continue monitoring and documenting the site to ensure adequate resolution of the problem.

**If the problem hasn't been resolved within one week, go to PART II of this Manual**



*Keeping Watch Over Our Waters*