



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



Bureau of Clean Water

Agriculture Erosion and Sediment Control Technical Guidance Document

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

History

- Pa Code 25 § 102.4(a)
 - Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control requirements
 - First enacted in 1972
 - Most recently revised in 2010
 - Includes Animal Heavy Use Areas (AHUAs)
- Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Manual for Agriculture
 - January 1, 1975

Need for Technical Guidance

- No current guidance (or standard format) exists
- Challenging to explain to producers and others what defines an Ag E&S Plan
- Reliant upon institutional knowledge (steep learning curve without written guidance)
- PA In the Balance
 - Technical Assistance Capacity Building
- Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program
 - Focus on compliance with Ag E&S and Manure Management planning requirements

Ag E&S Technical Guidance Document – Pre-Draft

- Timeline

- July - September, 2017 – DEP staff met with SCC, NRCS, PSU representatives to work through outline and framework for the TGD.
- October, 2017 – developed initial draft and shared with a small internal workgroup, consisting of statewide representation of conservation districts, DEP, and SCC
- October – February, 2018 – held multiple conference calls with the workgroup and made revisions to the initial draft based upon feedback provided.
- March, 2018 – shared most recent draft with DEP regulatory counsel and policy staff
- April, 2018 – shared pre-draft with Ag Advisory Board

Ag E&S Technical Guidance Document – Pre-Draft

- Elements in the TGD
 - What – what is an Ag E&S Plan, and what are the required elements?
 - Who – to whom does it apply?
 - Why – attempted to focus on the benefits to the farmer as well as regulatory compliance
 - When – when would it need to be developed, updated, implemented, etc.
 - How – how should it be developed (i.e. how to identify and address resource concerns)
 - Includes reference to tools and resources (i.e. NRCS, PAOneStop, Conservation District planning assistance)

Ag E&S Technical Guidance Document – Pre-Draft

- Advisory Board Considerations -
 - Audience of the TGD – farmers, planners, regulatory staff, etc.
 - Provide enough information without being overwhelming (Keep it Simple)
 - Consistency – can this be consistently applied?
 - Applicability – need to ensure that accelerated erosion and sedimentation will be addressed when this guidance is followed

Ag E&S Technical Guidance Document – Pre-Draft

- Next Steps – Goals

- AAB to create small workgroup
- May – July, 2018 – DEP staff will meet with AAB workgroup to gather comments and suggestions
- August, 2018 – DEP staff will work with the District/DEP/SCC workgroup on incorporating comments and suggestions from the AAB
- October, 2018 – DEP staff will prepare the document for internal circulation and public comment
- December, 2018 – the TGD will be posted for public comment
- February, 2019 – DEP staff will prepare the document for final internal review
- February, 2019 - April, 2019 – Review final document with AAB and other relevant advisory boards
- April, 2019 – the TGD will be finalized and a subsequent outreach/training program will be developed



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