



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



Bureau of Clean Water

Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Manual for Agricultural Operations (383-4200-002) Draft Technical Guidance Document

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

Ag E&S Technical Guidance Document

- Timeline

- July - September, 2017 – DEP staff met with State Conservation Commission (SCC), NRCS and Penn State Extension representatives to work through outline and framework for the TGD.
- Fall 2017 – Winter 2017-18 – developed initial drafts and shared with a small internal workgroup, consisting of statewide representation of conservation districts, DEP, and SCC
- Spring 2018 – Summer 2018 – met with Ag Advisory Board and Ag Advisory Board Subcommittee to further develop the draft document
- Fall 2018 – last meeting with internal workgroup to review changes made to the draft. Final edits made.
- January 2019– post for public comment in the PA Bulletin
- Spring - Summer 2019 – finalize/train for statewide use

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- 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)

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- Part 1 – Farmers/Producers
 - Flow charts, questionnaires, and concise text outlining program requirements and plan development guidance written specifically for farmers and others not familiar with E&S planning for agriculture.
- Part 2 – Planners/Plan Developers
 - Written with more detailed direction for those with more experience and knowledge of planning and implementing agricultural BMPs to help address more complex situations.
- Part 3 – Sample Plan and Plan Template
- Appendices –
 - Other resources and tools to assist with planning.

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Part 1 – Section elements designed for Farmers/Producers

- Flow chart to determine if the plan is needed
- When the plans need to be updated
- Questionnaire: Should I write my own plan?
- Self-assessment to look for common issues on operation
- Summary of plan requirements
- Details of requirements and how to address them in the plan
- List and description of common BMPs

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Part 2 – Section elements designed for commercial Planners/Plan Developers

- Greater detail and additional technical information on plan elements to help address more complex planning situations
- Common locations of concerns
- Common BMPs to address those concerns

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Part 3 – Sample Plan and Plan Template

- Administrative completeness checklist
- Instructions and template are divided into 5 sections: General Information, Tolerable Soil Loss, Cropland/Hayland/Pasture BMPs, Near-Stream Fields, and AHUAs
- Also discusses how to determine appropriate implementation schedules
- Example plan shows operations, soil, and topographic maps for reference
- Blank forms created for operators/landowners to pull out of document and use to complete the plan
- Contains charts to record soil loss and all necessary information related to BMPs

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Appendices

- Appendix A – Planning Guidance to meet Tolerable Soil Loss (T)
 - Includes charts if the operation meets the eligibility requirements
 - Charts streamline the task of calculating soil loss
- Appendix B – Chapter 102.4(a) and other environmental requirements and programs
 - Includes a summary of other environmental requirements that a farmer may also have to meet depending upon activities, such as:
 - National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System NPDES Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation
 - Chapter 83, Subpart D. (Act 38) Nutrient and Odor Management
 - Chapter 91 Manure Management
 - Farmland Preservation
 - Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program
 - NRCS Program Requirements
 - Construction E&S Planning requirements (which may include NPDES permitting if threshold is met)
 - Timber Harvesting - Clearing and Grubbing for Conversion to Agriculture

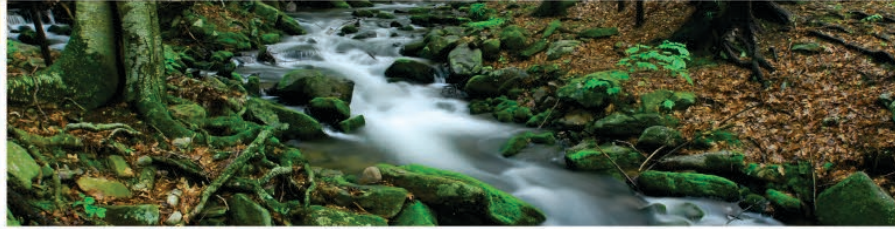
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Summary

- Development of the Ag E&S Manual involved many different parties, including CCDs, SCC, Penn State Extension, NRCS, and Ag Advisory Board members
- Input from the Ag Advisory Board was very much appreciated!
 - Assisted the Department with formatting, readability, and usability
 - Suggestions provided were incorporated into the draft document
- Seeking support from the Ag Advisory Board for posting for public comment in January 2019.



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