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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)
- Potential for inconsistent application of enforcement
- 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

- Timeline

- July - September, 2017 – DEP staff met with SCC, NRCS, PSU representatives to work through outline and framework for the TGD.
- Fall 2017 – Winter 2018 – developed initial drafts and shared with a small internal workgroup, consisting of statewide representation of conservation districts, DEP, and SCC
- Spring 2018 – Summer 2018 – DEP staff met with Ag Advisory Board and Ag Advisory Board Subcommittee to work through the draft document.
- Fall 2018 – Last meeting with internal workgroup to review changes made to the draft. Received comments as of October 5.
- Late Fall 2018 – Winter 2019 – Seeking to post for public comment.
- Spring 2019 – Finalize for statewide use.

# Ag E&S Technical Guidance Document

- 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

- Part 1 – Farmers/Producers
  - Flow charts, questionnaires, and short section written specifically for farmers and others not familiar with E&S planning for agriculture to review
- Part 2 – Planners/Plan Developers
  - Written with more specific language for those with more experience and knowledge of planning and implementing agricultural BMPs
- Part 3 – Sample Plan and Plan Template
- Appendices –
  - Other resources and tools to assist with planning



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