

City of St. Cloud

The City of St. Cloud is a permittee under the MS4 permit and is required to have a local regulatory mechanism at least as stringent as the requirements for erosion, sediment and waste controls described in the Construction Stormwater (CSW) Permit. The City is also a CSW permittee for several projects each year.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft 2023 CSW Permit. Below are detailed comments from the City of St. Cloud.

City Comment #1 – Section 10.2

Action

The draft permit language states: Permittees must visually check and photograph dewatering discharge at the beginning and every 4 hours of operation to ensure adequate treatment has been obtained and nuisance conditions (see Minn. R. 7050.0210, subp. 2) will not result from the discharge.

The City requests that the draft permit requirement be changed to reduce the frequency to visually check and photograph to every 48 hours of operation (or less frequent) for dewatering that is lowering the groundwater elevation by points or wells where no excavation is occurring in the dewatering zone.

Reasoning

Dewatering used to lower groundwater through use of points and wells where no excavation is occurring in the dewatering zone is not a concern for a nuisance condition. Requiring a visual check and photograph every 4 hours of operation for this type of dewatering is overburdensome, not necessary and will add a significant cost to projects without a water quality benefit. The City suggests working with dewatering contractors to define types of dewatering and apply different levels of visual inspection frequency based on nuisance condition potential.

City Comment #2 – Section 16.11

Action

The draft permit language states: For design purposes, permittees must divide field measured infiltration rates by 2 as a safety factor or permittees can use soil-boring results with the infiltration rate chart in the Minnesota Stormwater Manual to determine design infiltration rates. When soil borings indicate type A soils, permittees should perform field measurements to verify the rate is not above 8.3 inches per hour. This permit prohibits infiltration if the field measured infiltration rate is above 8.3 inches per hour.

The City requests to either modify the last sentence to also be divided by 2 or add a new permit section for just the last sentence.

Reasoning

The City requests the reason/research for a safety factor of 2 for design purposes, but not for the

prohibition of infiltration. If current research supports prohibiting infiltration if the field measured infiltration rate is above 8.3 inches per hour, please add a new permit section just for this sentence to eliminate potential confusion related to the safety factor of 2.

The City appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft CSW Permit.