

## Guidance on Post-Construction Storm Water Controls for Wind Turbine Facilities

### Background

The earth disturbance associated with new wind turbine facilities can be isolated and include primarily the construction of access roads, pads and the relatively small footprint for each turbine structure. As such, they may seem to have limited impacts to water quality; however the size of disturbance (larger than one acre) and total cumulative impervious surfaces (gravel areas are considered impervious) does require the installation of post-construction storm water management requirements under OHC00005 (Part III.G.2.e, pp. 19-27).

### Post-Construction Storm Water Management Options

Ohio EPA recognizes that wind turbine facilities are often dispersed geographically and constructed in rural farm fields. Ohio EPA also recognizes that standard post-construction water quality best management practices (BMPs) listed in tables 4a and 4b of OHC000005 may be challenging or there may be better-fit or more beneficial alternatives for these sites. Therefore, applicants may consider using a combination of acceptable practices such as runoff reduction practices (for example, grass swales or grass filter strips with accepted criteria) or approvable alternative agricultural conservation practices (for example, stream buffers, stream restoration, wetlands, etc.) that can be applied in or alongside the permitted area, on the same farm parcel or offsite in the same HUC-12 watershed.

Any alternative practice must be pre-approved by Ohio EPA and in some cases, significant time may be needed to plan and negotiate with landowners prior to finalizing this aspect. For this reason, applicants are encouraged to discuss their considerations with Ohio EPA early in the planning process.

In any case, the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) will still need to address all needed erosion and sediment controls that are needed during construction and planned in order to leave the areas stable after construction. Also, whatever post-construction practices are approved, long-term operation and maintenance plans must be developed and implemented by the operator for the BMPs selected.

### Contact

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