

Notice of Termination photo guidance

NPDES/SDS Construction Stormwater Permit Requirements

All permittees with projects covered under the NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit must submit a Notice of Termination (NOT) once construction activity is complete. The NOT must include photographs showing that permanent stabilization has been achieved via permanent cover. This requirement is intended to verify construction has ended and site conditions are appropriate for permit termination.

Photos submitted must show:

- Permanent cover has been installed.
- Areas with permanent vegetative cover have reached a density of 70 percent of expected final growth.

Permanent cover means surface types that will prevent soil failure under erosive conditions (i.e., gravel, concrete, perennial cover, or other landscaped material). Permanent vegetative cover must consist of uniform perennial vegetation. The cover should be evenly distributed, without large bare areas. If specific locations have not reached adequate cover density, inspections and supplemental seeding must continue. Vegetation is not required where it would interfere with the function of a specific area, such as impervious surfaces or the base of a sand filter.

Photos should not show temporary best management practices (BMPs). The permit requires temporary BMPs to be removed prior to permit termination.

Photos submitted must be well taken photographs. That means the photos should:

- Be clear and in focus.
- Include the date the photo was taken.
- Be in color, not black and white.
- Show the site unobscured by snow.
- Be zoomed out enough that the site is identifiable.
- Be representative of the site.

Permittees are not required to take photographs of the entire site; however, the conditions portrayed must be substantially similar to those areas that are not photographed. Areas must have similar slopes, soils, and topography to be considered substantially similar. The level of stabilization achieved in the photographed v. unphotographed areas must be comparable.

Example Photos

Acceptable Vegetation Density

The following photos show acceptable vegetative coverage for permit compliance.



This image shows an acceptable vegetative cover, as it appears to be 70% or greater. However, permittees must remove all temporary synthetic erosion prevention and sediment control BMPs prior to submitting the NOT. The silt fence shown above should be removed.



While the vegetative coverage in this image would be acceptable, as it appears to be 70% or above, permit termination would not be allowed. There is ongoing construction. Permanent cover has not been installed outside the vegetated area.



Vegetation is not required where it would interfere with the function of a specific area, such as impervious surfaces or the base of a sand filter. This sand filter system is intended to have a non-vegetated surface. Photo courtesy of [Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District](#).

Unacceptable Vegetation Density

The following photos show unacceptable vegetative coverage for permit compliance.



This image shows around 50% vegetative cover and would not be acceptable.



This image shows ground that has been disturbed and then stabilized with temporary hydraulically applied erosion control. This is not permanent vegetative cover and would not be acceptable.



This image shows around 10% cover and would not be acceptable.



While the surrounding areas have plenty of vegetative cover, the area with erosion control blankets has around 10% vegetative cover and would not be acceptable.



This slope appears to have no vegetative cover, as well as adjacent ongoing construction, and would not be acceptable.



This image shows vegetative coverage of around 50% and would not be acceptable.

Unacceptable Photos

The following photos do not clearly depict that stabilization requirements have been met.



This photo is out of focus.



This photo is low resolution.



It isn't clear which lot in this residential development is being terminated. The lot in the foreground is not ready for termination.



This photo is zoomed in too close to be identifiable.