



January 27, 2026

Contractors, Developers, and Operators

RE: Construction Site Mud Tracking and Compliance with Virginia Stormwater Regulations – Stop Work Order

I would like to bring to your attention ongoing concerns regarding mud/dirt and sediment tracking from construction sites onto public roadways.

As you are aware, construction site operators are required to prevent mud and sediment from being tracked onto public roads. Sediment deposited on roadways must be removed daily through sweeping, shoveling, and proper disposal at a designated sediment disposal area. Street washing is permitted only after sediment removal, in accordance with state regulations (9VAC25-875-560 A(17)). This requirement is mandated primarily to protect public safety by preventing slick and hazardous roadway conditions, as well as to safeguard environmental quality.

The requirements are detailed in the Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook under Minimum Standard 17 (MS-17): Vehicular Tracking and Construction Entrances. Furthermore, if dirt tracking onto a public road resulted from the commencement of land-disturbing activities prior to the establishment of functional perimeter control measures, as required under Virginia Minimum Standard 4 (MS-4), such conditions would constitute violations of both MS-4 and MS-17.

If an operator fails to comply in a timely manner following a verbal warning, inspection report, or Notice to Comply issued by the County, the County may issue a Stop Work Order requiring the immediate cessation of all land-disturbing activities, pursuant to Section 23.2-45(a)(2) of the Prince William County Code. Additionally, if the County determines that a violation is grossly affecting or presents an imminent and substantial danger of causing harmful erosion or sediment deposition within the watersheds of the Commonwealth, or otherwise substantially impacting water quality, a Stop Work Order may be issued immediately, without advance notice or hearing.

Please ensure that all necessary measures are implemented and maintained to prevent sediment tracking and to remain in full compliance with applicable State and County regulations.

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I am sure most operators are aware and in conformance with the subject issue, and I appreciate your support. If the conditions at permitted sites are, otherwise, I am compelled to issue a Stop Work Order to ensure public safety and protect water quality. I appreciate your continued cooperation to comply with the County and State requirements for this vital issue. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Environmental Management Division at 703-792-7070 or EMDSubmissions@pwgov.org.

Sincerely,

Khattab Shammout

Khattab Shammout, P.E.
Director of Public Works

cc: Deputy CXO, Wade Hugh
Rick Canizales, Director of DOT