Erosion and Sediment Control Policy

In May of 2001 the governmental agencies that make up ALOA joined together to address EPA's upcoming Phase II requirements. As part of the effort to develop a comprehensive storm water program, the ALOA Citizens Committee developed the Erosion and Sediment Control Policy. The policy was adopted on July 1st 2002.

Contact Information

For more information regarding your communities storm water program or to obtain a copy of the Erosion and Sediment Control Policy please contact the following agencies:

- City of Auburn – Department of Public Works
  334-501-3000

- Lee County – County Engineer
  334-745-9792

- City of Opelika – Department of Public Works
  334-705-5400

- Auburn University – Office of Safety and Environmental Health
  334-844-4870

Cleaner streams provide a benefit to all.
WHAT IS ALOA?
ALOA is a group of governmental agencies that have joined together to address the requirements of EPA's Phase II Storm Water Regulations. These governmental agencies include:

City of Auburn  Lee County
City of Opelika  Auburn University

WHAT DOES THE PHASE II STORM WATER REGULATION REQUIRE?
EPA's Storm Water Phase II rule requires operators of regulated small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and develop a storm water management program designed to prevent harmful pollutants (sediments, heavy metals, nutrients, and other contaminants) from being washed by storm water runoff into the MS4.

WHY MAKE A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MUD HOLE?
Construction sediments are just one component of the storm water picture. Unfortunately, it has been identified by both the EPA and ADEM as the most common pollutant in storm water. Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits by Phase II, the ALOA member becomes responsible for the quality of storm water at the outfalls of the system. If the conditions of the permit are not met, fines in excess of $25,000 per day per violation (each outfall) can be imposed.

The ALOA member holding the NPDES permit and all of its residents have a huge stake in meeting the conditions of the NPDES permit for both the economic and environmental future of this region.

WHAT IS THE ALOA EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL POLICY?
The ALOA Erosion and Sediment Control Policy is a document developed to address the requirements of the Phase II Storm Water Regulations. It was implemented in July 2002 and is applicable to all construction within the jurisdictional limits of the City of Auburn, Lee County, the City of Opelika, and Auburn University.

I BUILD HOMES FOR A LIVING, HOW DOES THIS POLICY APPLY TO ME?
Any construction activity disturbing greater than or equal to one acre of land must apply for an Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) construction permit and develop a written Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) plan. ESC plans shall be submitted to the governmental agency (ALOA member) having jurisdiction over the proposed construction site for approval.

A construction site disturbing less than one acre (residential or commercial) requires ADEM permit coverage if it is part of a larger common development (i.e., subdivision or retail development) and is not covered under the common development's permit. Confirm with the common larger development for permit coverage. Construction under this scenario is prohibited until proper permit coverage has been obtained. All construction sites are required to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) as recommended in the most recent version of the BMP manual(s) approved by ADEM.

I AM NOT A PROFESSIONAL BUILDER, I AM ONLY BUILDING ONE HOUSE. DOES THIS POLICY APPLY TO ME?
Yes. all construction must implement BMPs.

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE?
- Issuance of Misdemeanor: "Any person violating any of the provisions herein shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and each day during which any violation of any of the provisions herein is committed, continued, or permitted shall constitute a separate offense." If convicted, can be punished with a fine not more than $500.00 for each offense.

- Expense of Restoration: if convicted of violating existing provisions, will have to bear the expense of restoration for any damages.

WHAT STEPS DO I NEED TO TAKE TO BE IN COMPLIANCE?
For construction sites disturbing 1 acre or more:
- Apply for ADEM permit.
- Submit a copy of ADEM permit along with a written ESC plan to the local authority for approval prior to land disturbance.
- Implement and maintain BMPs, as called for in the approved ESC Plan, throughout construction. BMPs should be inspected after every rain event to ensure proper function.
- The installation of rock construction entrances, and silt fencing on the low side of the property are minimum BMP requirements (other BMPs may be required based on site conditions).

For construction sites disturbing less than 1 acre if part of a common plan of development (i.e., subdivision or retail development) whose land disturbance activities are greater than one acre, confirm coverage under the common development’s permit. If not covered under an existing permit please refer to application process above:
- Implement and maintain BMPs throughout construction. BMPs should be inspected after every rain event to ensure proper function.
- The installation of rock construction entrances and silt fencing on the low side of property are the minimum BMP requirements (others may be required based on site conditions).