COVID-19 & Stormwater

With COVID-19 running amok I thought this would be a good time to outline what KDOT is doing to try and maintain Specification and NPDES compliance.

First off, all oversite inspections are on hold until further notice. This is to prevent any unnecessary traveling and potential exposure to the virus. Oversites will resume once the “All Clear” is given out by KDOT. Oversite inspectors will need to complete their inspections ASAP once the “All Clear” is given.

Routine and Rainfall Inspections- Continue doing these inspections as normal. Maintain the recommended 6ft social distancing while doing inspections.

WPCMs and Area Engineers- If you are under self-quarantine and cannot physically or digitally sign the report, you may forward the email with the report attached with a note stating you have reviewed it.

Prime Contractors- If possible use a “local” WPCM and SWPPP inspector for your project. This will help minimize the amount of cross-state travel. If your WPCM or inspector is a DBE make sure and contact Doria Watson, Office of Civil Rights, before any changes to SWPPP inspections are made.

All completed inspection reports must be submitted to the responsible Area Engineer and the contractor’s WPCM within 24 hours of each inspection. The Area Engineer must sign within 3 calendar days and submit to KDOT.stormwaterinspection@ks.gov

Failure to complete and submit inspection reports on time may result in disincentive assessment.

Reminder: All persons doing SWPPP inspections on all KDOT let projects must be CSW certified by July 2020!

Construction Stormwater (CSW) Training has replaced the EIT/EMT courses. All remaining EIT/EMT Certifications expired October 2019.

All March and May CSW classes are canceled. At the writing of this article the June class is still on. If you were signed up for the March or May classes go ahead and sign up for June. If this class fills up additional classes may be added.

More in person class information will be made available once K-State faculty are allowed back on campus in mid-May. In the meantime KDOT and K-State are

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working together to figure out how to offer on-line versions of all CIT classes. K-State nor KDOT has a specific timeframe on when they will be available.

If the cancelation of the March and May classes has created a hardship for your company, please submit a request to Construction and Materials stating so. Make sure to include in the request who was signed up for the class; if they were certified in the past (EIT) or not; and how you plan on training those who were signed up. Greg Schieber, Bureau Chief, will decide if the hardship is valid. If valid, those people will be able to act as a SWPPP inspector/WPCM. They may sign as the Inspector, but the WPCM line must be signed by someone in the company who is CSW certified. You will get email confirmation if approved. This will remain in effect until the next available class (June).

During this time of self-isolation look for the positives and silver linings. Pick-up or download a book to read. Break out the old gaming console (Sega Genesis is my preference) and show your kids (or grandkids) what old school gaming is all about. Plant a garden. Learn a new skill. Spend time with you kids while trying to understand how common-core math works. Finally call/video chat with your extraverted friends. They are suffering the worst during this time.

We will get through these hard times and when we do stormwater will be there like an old friend. 😊

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Find the positives. Kids won’t remember the hard times. Just the quality time they got to spend with their parents!!!