**DNREC Sediment & Stormwater Listserve Update: March 2021**

**This month's topics:**

1. **Delaware Issues First Standalone Construction General Permit (CGP)**
2. **Sediment & Stormwater Program Website Migration**
3. **SAS GIS App: UPDATE**
4. **Biosoil-14 Certification**
5. **Link of the Month: New Trees Bring Stormwater Benefits Even Before Full Maturity**

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## 1. Delaware Issues First Standalone Construction General Permit (CGP)

The Delaware Construction General Permit (CGP) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program has been converted from a permit by regulation under 7 **DE Admin. Code** 7201 subsection 9.2 to a stand-alone general permit authorizing discharges from construction. The Delaware CGP and revisions to 7 **DE Admin. Code** 7201 subsection 9.2 were public noticed concurrently on November 1, 2020 and a concurrent public hearing conducted on December 1, 2020, with comments received until December 16, 2020. All comments received were considered in the Delaware CGP and 7 **DE Admin. Code** 7201 subsection 9.2. The effective date of the Delaware CGP will be concurrent with the effective date of revisions to 7 **DE Admin. Code** 7201 subsection 9.2, March 11, 2021. The Delaware CGP will expire March 10, 2026. Both the Delaware CGP and a CGP fact sheet to assist permittees in their understanding of the permit are provided on the Sediment and Stormwater Program webpage.

## 2. Sediment & Stormwater Program Website Migration

In November 2020, DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program's webpages migrated to the Department's new alpha site. The previous webpages, while still available, were not maintained to current status and included redirect language to the new webpages. As of January 25, 2021, the previous Sediment and Stormwater Program webpages are no longer available. Please update any bookmarks you may have for the DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program to the following:
https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/sediment-stormwater/

## 3. SAS GIS App: UPDATE

If you've used the SAS GIS App recently and thought there was something different about it, your eyes are not deceiving you. All DNREC web applications that use the FirstMap data layers are transitioning to the FirstMap 2.0 data. Unfortunately, this broke some of the functioning of the SAS GIS App so a temporary fix has been applied while the problems are being addressed. The most obvious difference is the initial basemap that is used for the opening view. However, all the data should be available to prepare a Stormwater Assessment Study. If users note any problems, please send an email describing the problem to the Sediment & Stormwater Program: DNREC.Stormwater@delaware.gov

## 4. Biosoil-14 Certification

The DNREC Sediment and Stormwater Program will be notifying currently approved Biosoil-14 suppliers of the requirement to recertify their materials to continue to be listed as an approved supplier of Biosoil-14. If your company would like to become a approved supplier of Biosoil-

14, please contact the Sediment and Stormwater Program at DNREC.Stormwater@delaware.gov to receive Biosoil-14 certification information.

5. **Link of the Month: New Trees Bring Stormwater Benefits Even Before Full Maturity**

A recent study from the UK has found that planting trees can result in improved soil structure and increased permeability before they reach full maturity. The research was conducted in Dartmoor National Park (DNP) in southwest England. The research team identified three tracts within DNP where sheep, cattle, and deer once grazed. In each tract, new native broadleaf trees had been planted within the last 15 years. A fourth tract, which served as a control for the experiments, was home to an abandoned pasture and contained only sparse tree coverage.

According to the team's results, surface soils beneath new woodlands absorbed water about twice as efficiently as soil in adjacent, unplanted tracts. As trees grow, they create new cavities in soil while chipping away at areas of compaction, dramatically slowing the speed at which rainwater leaches out of the soil during storms. The study also notes that soils demonstrated greater resilience in areas where organic contents in the soil — such as those deposited by grazing animals — were higher before new trees took root. For that reason, upland areas formerly used for cattle make ideal locations for new woodlands, the researchers write. Additional information, including a link to the full study results, is available at the following link:

Study: New Trees Bring Stormwater Benefits Even Before Full Maturity - Stormwater Report (wef.org)