



# EROSION CONTROL NEWSLETTER

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**IDEM to audit Delaware County sites**

During the first quarter of 2009, IDEM crews will be visiting random sites throughout Delaware County.

**Point of Interest to IDEM:**

- Points of Discharge
- Public posting of SWPPP info
- Self-inspection records
- Installation and maintenance of Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Stabilization
- Updated, current plan (What your plan says and what you are doing must be the same)
- Violation history
- Concrete wash-out areas

For more information on how to ensure compliance on your site and avoid costly IDEM fines, contact :

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## EPA proposes guidelines to control the discharge of pollutants from construction sites

The proposal would require all construction sites to implement erosion and sediment control best management practices to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges.

grading significantly disturb the land. The disturbed soil, if not managed properly, can easily be washed off the construction site during storms and enter streams, lakes, and other waters. Stormwater discharges from construction activities can cause an array of physical, chemical and biological impacts.

In addition, for certain large sites located in areas of the country with high rainfall intensity and soils with a high clay content, stormwater discharges from the construction site would be required to meet a numeric limit on the allowable level of turbidity, which is a measure of sediment in the water. In order to meet the proposed numeric turbidity limit, many sites would need to treat and filter their stormwater discharges.

Sediment is one of the leading causes of water quality impairment nationwide, including reducing water depth in small streams, lakes and reservoirs.

For more information on the proposal and to learn how to submit comments go to <http://www.epa.gov/ost/guide/construction/>



Construction activities such as clearing, excavating and

### EXAMPLE PRACTICES INSTALLED AT PRAIRIE CREEK

The White River Watershed Project Steering Committee has installed example practices at Prairie Creek Reservoir. This project was funded by the Public Education portion of a 319 Watershed Grant. Several practices are used in the swale north of the beech parking lot. They include different types of erosion control blankets and anchoring systems. The display also includes 4 different check dams.

There are many different techniques to make check dams using natural materials. These techniques are fast, and given local supplies, relatively inexpensive. Below is a brief description of natural check dams.

#### Coir fascines

Lay willow branches in a long pile that is generally the length of the channel. The pile should be 18-30" in height. Tie the bundle along its entire length, compacting the bundle as you go. Place this in a pre-dug channel approximately 3-6" deep. Stake the fascines using tine or wire to prevent them from floating away. Place soil or sphagnum moss on top of the bundles to allow the willow branches to grow.

#### Wattle fences

Pound stems of dogwood or some other wood approximately 8" apart. Take long branches of dogwood or willow and weave them through the stakes like a basket. Make sure to push the branches into a tight bundle. A second technique is to make two rows of stakes and weave a basket with an opening in the middle. This can be filled with more sticks, creating thicker check dam.

#### Straw bale check dams

Place straw bales in a row in the channel. Stake them down using hardwood stakes.

These two products are commercially available through wholesalers like DC Land and Water. They are especially well adapted to areas where the flow is highest.

#### Sediment Stop

This is a specially designed straw mat that is rolled and staked in place. Details are available through North American Green ([www.nagreen.com](http://www.nagreen.com)).

#### Nilex GeoRidge

GeoRidge is a permeable ditch berm designed for erosion and sediment control. By acting as an energy dissipater, GeoRidge reduces flow velocities and provides a smoother, less damaging release of water. Advantages are:

- Effectively traps sediment
- Reusable
- Quick and easy installation
- Lightweight, portable and stackable
- Low cost

This display is accessible for drive-by viewing.

<http://whiteriverwatershedproject.org/projects>

