Construction Stormwater

Frequently Asked Questions

Acronyms

Here is a list of frequently used acronyms for Construction Stormwater:

- **AEPACS** – Alabama Environmental Permitting and Compliance System
- **Blue Book** – Alabama Handbook
- **BMP** – Best Management Practices
- **CBMPP** (**SWPPP**) - Construction Best Management Practice Plan (Equivalent to Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan)
- **CGP** – Construction General Permit
- **CSW** – Construction Stormwater
- **CWA** – Clean Water Act
- **EPA** – Environmental Protection Agency
- **FOD** – Field Office Division
- **GIS** - Geographical Information Permitting and Compliance System
- **NPDES** - The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
- **OAW** – Outstanding Alabama Water
- **ONRW** - Outstanding National Resource Water
- **QCI** – Qualified Credentialed Inspector
- **QCP** – Qualified Credentialed Professional
- **RO** – Responsible Official
- **TAL** – Treasured Alabama Lake
- **TMDL** – Total Maximum Daily Load

Questions

Here is a list of frequently asked questions for Construction Stormwater. If you have other questions, please contact (334) 394-4372 or cswmail@adem.alabama.gov:

1. *How do I know if I need a permit?*

   If you are unsure if your site requires a permit, you can email **cswmail@adem.alabama.gov** a Project Review Request with the following information:

   - Site/parcel map (please provide the area(s) to be disturbed, acreage, and property boundary).
   - Address or latitude/longitude coordinates of the project location.
   - Detailed description of the proposed site activity to take place at the project location.
   - Any additional information that you would like us to review and/or consider.
   - If you are located within a municipality, and they have requested you to contact ADEM regarding the potential need for NPDES permit coverage, please provide the name and

contact details, including email address, so that we may include them in the permit determination correspondence.

2. *Why do I not have the option to sign a form?*

   You may have not verified your identity through AEPACS. Please follow the identity proofing guide on page 29 on the WebPortal Users Guide in order to complete identity proofing for your account. Please only use your personal information during this process. Including your home address. Do ***not*** enter your business address.

   - If this does not resolve your issues, please reach out to the WebPortal Help Desk at *ademwebportal@adem.alabama.gov*.

3. *How do I know if my site is a priority site?*

   Please enter the address or latitude and longitude coordinates of your proposed site into the linked map. If your site falls within one of the colored polygons, it is a priority construction site.

   CSW Map

4. *Why am I unable to pay the permit fee?*

   Both the Responsible Official, and the Qualified Credentialed Professional need to sign the application before payment may be submitted.

5. *I am locked out of AEPACS. What do I do?*

   If you have been locked out of your AEPACS account, please contact the Web Portal Help Desk at *ademwebportal@adem.alabama.gov*.

   Do not attempt to input your password or password question **more than twice** or AEPACS will lock your account. If you have forgotten one of the above, please return to the portal and reset your password or password questions.

6. *Which form do I need to complete?*

   - **Initial Issuance Notice of Intent (NOI)** - If you are applying for a new permit, you will need to apply with a Notice of Intent (NOI) through our permitting system, AEPACS, labeled as "Construction Stormwater (ALR100000) - NOI - New (Form 024)."

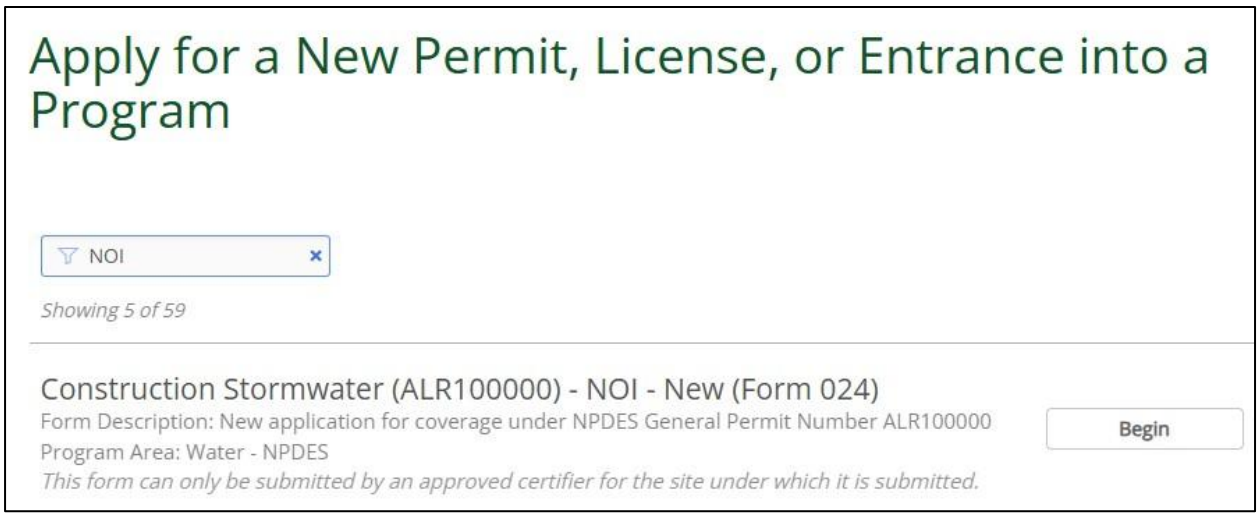


Figure 1 Screenshot of the Start a New Form page in AEPACS. The search suggestion to find the right form is "NOI."

- **Reissuance NOI -** If your project will continue after March 31, 2026, you will need to submit a reissuance application. Currently, this form is not available. We anticipate this form being available in January 2026.
- **Modification/Transfer –** Modification to a permit.
    - Application for requesting permit changes such as:
        - transfer of ownership or permittee name change (both of which require a signed Transfer Agreement, Form 466);
        - adding receiving waters;
        - adding outfalls.
- **Information Update –** Application to change and or update permit contact information, mailing address, add or update Qualified Credentialed Professional (QCP) information.
- **Resumption/Suspension of Monitoring –** Request suspension of monitoring for sites that have paused construction on certain areas of a development that have been stabilized and a form for resuming monitoring when construction is planned to resume.
- **Notice of Termination –** Form to be completed by the permittee and the QCP to terminate permit when it meets permit stabilization requirements.

Click here to review Schedule F for associated CSW fees for NOIs and Modifications.

7. *I need access to an application/site that I am not associated with. How do I gain access?*

To gain access to a site in AEPACS you will need to submit an access request to the site in AEPACS. You can do this from the home page by selecting “Add a Site.” You can then request

access using an address or by verification code if you have one. Alternatively, the site administrator may send you an invitation to the site.

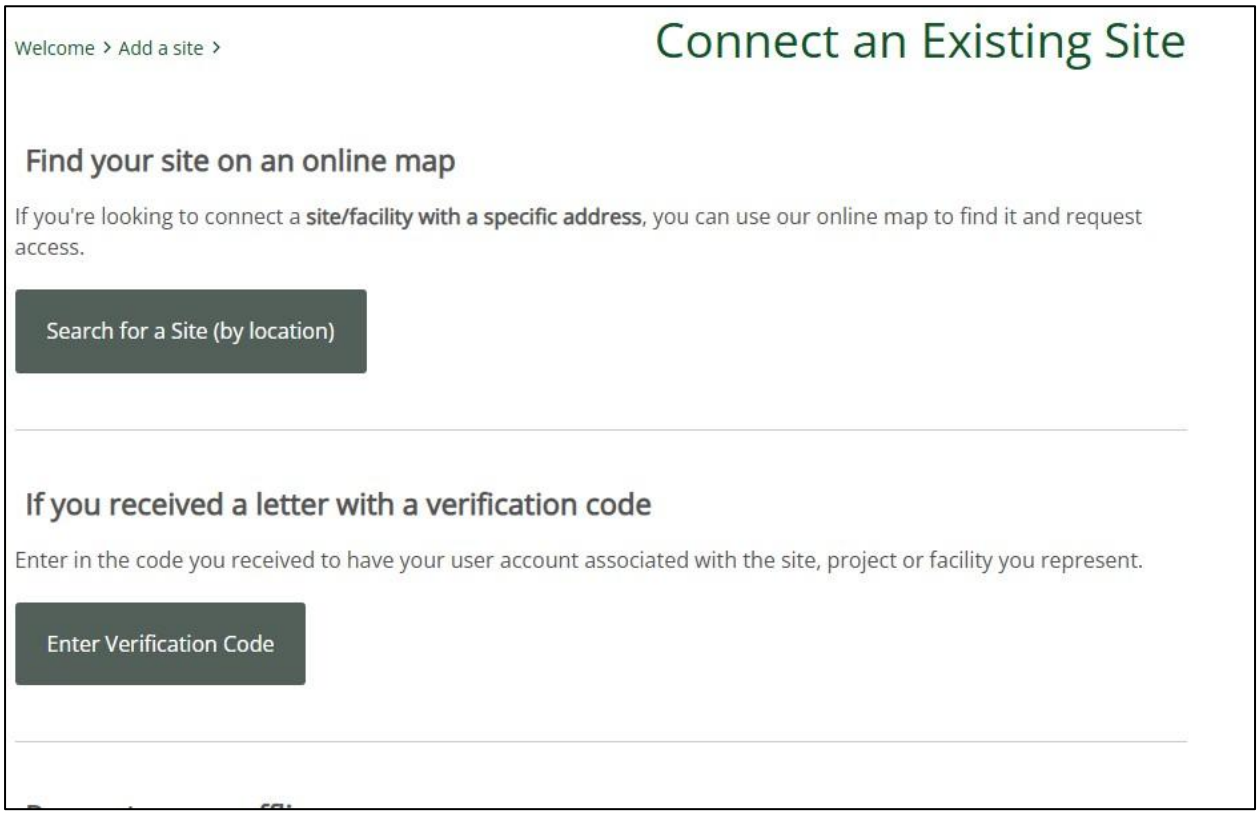


Figure 2 Screenshot of the Add a Site page in AEPACS. You can either search for a site by location or use a verification code which would be given in your inspection letter.

8. *What is the difference between a 303(d) impaired water and a TMDL?*

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes that states are to list (the 303(d) list) waters for which technology-based limits alone do not ensure attainment of applicable water quality standards (WQS). The 303(d) list is to be submitted by the states to EPA on April 1 of each even numbered year. The 303(d) list includes priority rankings set by the state for the listed waters.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is a tool for reducing water pollution in impaired waters. A TMDL calculates the amount of a pollutant that the waterbody can receive and still meet applicable water quality standards. Basically, a TMDL is the sum of the allowable loads of a single pollutant from all contributing point and nonpoint sources with a margin of safety (MOS) that accounts for uncertainty. The TMDL also addresses reductions needed to meet water quality standards and allocates those reductions among the point and nonpoint sources in the watershed. As such, development of TMDLs is an important step toward restoring our waters to their designated uses.

Please visit the TMDL webpage for information related to TMDLs and the 303(d) List.

9. *What is the estimated processing time of an application?*

Permits are generally issued within 30-45 days of application received date. Permit processing times may vary; however, we strive to review permit applications within 30 days of receipt. The time to review an application may be extended due to factors such as the scope of the project, the project is located within a priority watershed or potentially high volume of permit applications received.

10. *What is a QCP and why do I need one?*

A Qualified Credentialed Professional (QCP) is an environmental consultant that will prepare your Construction Best Management Practice Plan (CBMPP), help you with the permitting process, and conduct the required inspections of your site.

11. *What is a Common Plan of Development or Subdivision?*

A common plan is any announcement or piece of documentation (e.g., sign, public notice, or hearing, sales pitch, advertisement, drawing, permit application, zoning request, computer design, etc.) or physical demarcation (e.g., boundary signs, lot stakes, surveyor markings, etc.) indicating construction activities may occur on a specific plot.

12. *Who is considered the Responsible Official?*

To answer this question, we refer to the ADEM Admin. Reg. 335-6-6-.09 Signatories to Permit Applications and Reports.

(1) The application for an NPDES permit shall be signed by a responsible official, as indicated below:

(a) In the case of a corporation, by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president, or a manager assigned or delegated in accordance with corporate procedures, with such delegation submitted in writing if required by the Department, who is responsible for manufacturing, production, or operating facilities and is authorized to make management decisions which govern the operation of the regulated facility;

(b) In the case of a partnership, by a general partner;

(c) In the case of a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor; or

(d) In the case of a municipal, state, federal, or other public entity by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.

13. *Where can I find a QCP?*

Please search for local environmental consultants in your city/county or search for a licensed individual with the following links:

- Professional Engineer (PE) (Alabama Board for Engineers & Land Surveyors)
- Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) (CPESC Registry.)
- Certified Designer of Sediment and Erosion Control (CDSEC)

14. *I have a complaint, what do I do?*

Please submit any complaints to the department via the link below.

- Complaints - Alabama Department of Environmental Management