



ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Stormwater and Erosion Control Division

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To: All Development Community Members, Consultants and Development Design Professionals Practicing in Durham County, NC

From: Ryan D. Eaves, PE, CFM, CPESC
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Engineering and Environmental Services
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Subject: Letter to Industry 11/30/2020: Changes to Durham County Stormwater Ordinance

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to inform Durham County and the Development Community of recent amendments to the Durham County Stormwater Ordinance, as well as policy changes to the plans submittal process for both Stormwater and Erosion Control Construction Drawings.

Applicability

On November 23, 2020, the revised Durham County Stormwater Ordinance became effective. There were several amendments to the Durham County Stormwater Ordinance, and full text of the amendments can be found at <https://durhamnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/28687/Attachment-B-CC-Ordinance-TC1900001-final-10-29-19>. The most significant changes include:

- Updates to require stormwater control measure design to meet the NC DEQ Minimum Design Criteria.
- Added exemptions for stormwater compliance for small projects, including:
 - Meets the following criteria:
 - Less than 12,000 square feet of disturbance; and,
 - Less than 500 square feet of new impervious surface area; and,
 - No new structural stormwater conveyance.
- Stormwater development required to meet runoff treatment or runoff volume match.
- Removed requirements for nutrient loading targets in the Jordan Lake Watershed.
- Electronic plan submittal via the Durham County Electronic Portal, found at <https://www.dconnc.gov/county-departments/departments-a-e/engineering-and-environmental-services/stormwater-and-erosion-control-division/electronic-plan-submittal>
- Changes to the permitting process. A permit will now be required to begin construction and will be called a Construction Stormwater Permit. Once construction is complete, as-built and permit requirements have been submitted for review, an Operational Stormwater Permit will be issued for a ten year period.

- Certificates of Occupancy will be held until the Operational Stormwater Permit has been issued.
- Stream determinations will now be conducted internally by certified Durham County Staff.

Effective Date

This Letter to Industry will become effective for all projects submitted through the Durham City/County Planning Site Plan Process on or after December 1st, 2020.

Staff Contact

Please contact Ryan Eaves, reaves@dconc.gov, or McKenzie Myers, mfmyers@dconc.gov, with any questions or comments related to this Letter to Industry.