



## *The Certified Inspector of Sediment and Erosion Control Newsletter*

### **Special Interest Articles:**

- The Past, Present, and Future of CISEC, Inc.
- A Year Later in California
- When One Thing Leads to Another...
- Meet Zac Martin, CISEC Board Member

## **The Past, Present, and Future of CISEC, Inc.**

*By J.S. Fifield, Ph.D.  
CISEC #0006*

What is the status of CISEC, Inc. today? In a nutshell, GREAT and GROWING!

There has been a tremendous growth in the CISEC program for which everybody can be proud. Some of our accomplishments include the following:

- The CISEC program is recognized nationally as providing the premier training and certification program for inspectors of sediment & erosion control and stormwater management.
- United States has over 825 CISEC registrants, located throughout the nation (see map).
- The CISEC registration is required in California and Alaska, as well as in cities and counties throughout the United States.
- The Canadian CISEC program is administered through the Toronto Regional Conservation Authority.
- Canada has over 60 Canadian CISEC registrants.
- The web site ([www.cisecinc.org](http://www.cisecinc.org)) provides names and US cities where CISEC registrants can be found. Soon, a similar link will be ready for Canada.
- Our one and one-half day CISEC training modules have been taught to over 2,250 individuals located throughout the United States and Canada.



What is in the future? The CISEC program is developing plans to avoid being outdated and not relevant to its registrants. Some examples include:

- Updating the training module manual and Power Point Presentations to reflect inspector's responsibilities for EPA's new Construction General Permit (CGP) requirements.
- Working to ensure the CISEC training modules are on-lined by the end of 2011.
- Updating the test to better evaluate the requirements of inspectors on construction sites.
- Developing on-line modules so that CISEC registrants can maintain their CDHs.
- Updating records on CISEC registrants as to their current status, record of CDHs, expiration dates, and so forth.

Without a doubt, the CISEC program is raising the bar of professionalism for inspectors. Help us grow even more in the upcoming years.

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## A Year Later in California

By J. Duarte  
CISEC #0160

Well, it's been a little over a year now since the State Water Resources Control Board adopted California's new Construction General Permit (CGP). Many of us in the industry have struggled through this first year trying to get our arms around what this new permit really means to all of us. As everyone knows by now, CISEC, Inc. is one of the two approved national stormwater inspection programs under the California CGP training requirements that allow one to become a Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP).

As a QSP, we are tasked with the implementation of the SWPPP that has been prepared by the Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD). We are finding out, this is drastically different than the way we used to design and implement SWPPPs. QSDs are responsible for designing a SWPPP that meets the permit requirements, as well as the risk level requirements for the project, including meeting numeric effluent limits at the project's boundaries. QSPs are responsible for the implementation of the SWPPP, conducting inspections, performing sampling and working with the QSD to ensure that compliance can be met.

Increased inspections and monitoring are required of all risk levels under this new permit. All sites must perform weekly inspections, quarterly non-stormwater inspections, as well as the storm related inspections. Effluent sampling must be conducted every day it rains on all risk level 2 & 3 sites. While most projects were grandfathered as a risk level 1 site during this last rainy season, there were still a number of new projects that were assessed at a risk level 2 or 3 during this last winter season. These grandfathered sites will either need to be completed by September 2, 2011, or conduct a risk assessment to determine the site's risk level. Once the risk level has been determined, a SWPPP amendment is required to bring the SWPPP documents into compliance with the new risk level.

Compliance with the new regulations have been confusing during the first year and will likely be costly to the developer in the future as many of the existing permitted sites lose their grandfathering and must conduct a risk assessment. Enforcement has been made a bit easier as well for the regulators with the state's new SMARTS system (Stormwater Multi Application Reporting & Tracking System) which puts all CGP compliance documents online for the general public to view. California stormwater regulators have spent much of the past year reviewing SWPPPs to ensure that they meet the new permit requirements, have all the appropriately trained and certified staff on site and that all SWPPPs have been prepared by a QSD. Although this permit has been in effect for over a year now, there are still developers who are not up to speed on these new regulations. Fines in California are currently set at \$37,500 per day per violation and can include discharge violations as well as deficiencies in the documentation or inspection program.

One of the more exciting components of the program this year for the CISEC group is that the State of California acknowledges the CISEC, Inc. training modules meet the required qualifications of construction stormwater management. In addition, the CISEC certification examination and program has been recognized by the State of California. For the past year, CISEC, Inc. has been conducting classes in California with over 500 people attending the training modules and 470 have passed the exam since July 1, 2010. Classes are continuing throughout California and for more information, go to [www.cisecinc.org](http://www.cisecinc.org).





## Should Barriers be in Front of all Inlets?

By T. Evans  
CISEC #0095



Today, a multi-million dollar industry provides a variety of products created to meet EPA's mandate of installing construction site BMPs to "minimize pollutants" in the discharge of runoff waters. A common use of barriers is their installation in front of curb inlets---which can divert runoff and cause *downstream flooding*.

When downstream flooding occurs due to placement of barriers in front of an inlet opening that is on a grade, "Who is legally liable for potential damages associated with the flooding and sedimentation?"

1. Is it the contractor liable for installing what was shown on the approved drawings?
2. Is it the designer when local regulatory criteria require barriers be installed in front of all inlets?
3. Is it reviewer for approving the sediment and erosion control plan on behalf of a regulatory agency?

Only when inlets are in "sump" locations should the installation of barriers exist. Thus, when observing barriers in front of inlet openings not in a sump, inspectors may want to note in their reports about potential diversion problems and suggest designers assess the situation for possible flooding problems during runoff events.

## When One Thing Leads to Another...

By M. Mastronardi  
CISEC #0259

Dateline: Long Beach California, February 2006



I was fresh off of 1 full year in a new position. It was a great job providing direction and support to construction engineers from middle to southwest Georgia. As an aside to my core responsibilities, my supervisor advised he would like to pass the torch of responsibility to; manage writing/updating erosion and sediment control related specifications, train employees on the topic and coordinate with several other Offices within the Georgia Department of Transportation, as well as various regulatory agencies on all things erosion and sediment control related. It was a simple concept really; transfer and maintain a knowledge base within a statewide agency that would otherwise be lost upon his future retirement. The execution of his plan meant being mentored by him wherein he called on his previous years of gathering and honing this knowledge, to assign reading, more reading, some light reading, studying, more reading, and training to thoroughly digest the governing regulations and practices surrounding compliance with our State's NPDES permit, laws rules and regulations. While I already had more than a decade of "experience" with erosion and sediment control, I quickly found out I really only knew some of the "what and how" and lacked a lot of the "why/why not".



The economy was a bit better back then so off I was sent to IECA's 2006 Environmental Connection to attend several training sessions and get a feel for the national scene. Never one who would plan to sit in a hotel room out of town and watch television I instead hit all the available booths and displays of the advancing erosion and sediment control techniques and technology all the while collecting way too many brochures to bring home. Wandering about the convention center and eyeing what to attend next I read a sign about an open forum to discuss an inspector certification program. The room was quite full and the discussions that ran long where facilitated by what I later learned were and are true ambassadors within the field of erosion and sediment control.

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## When One Thing Leads to Another... (cont.)

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I was immediately drawn to the idea of developing an inspector certification program. I was also intrigued about the conversations of virtual site inspections being part of the exam. I contributed thoughts and ideas and the perspective I brought from the southeast and left my contact info with our group's facilitator and went on my way. Sometime later I was contacted to beta test some questions and submit some of my own for the emerging inspector certification exam.

*One thing lead to another* and well..., years later I am only a few days shy of my one year anniversary of becoming a Board Member to that little inspector certification program. What a year it has been too! Each and every one of you combine to make up an elite group of individuals representing a professional credential that has set a bar for others and has quickly become the sought after credential for sediment and erosion control inspectors. As you can read elsewhere in this newsletter, we are Due Date: March 31, 2010 expanding our impact and being recognized beyond our nation's borders for the professionalism and credibility of our program and its registrants. I am truly thankful to be part of such an organization during this exciting time. I look forward to the continued challenges that our program faces as we become the premier program certifying the best in erosion and sediment control inspection.

*Marc is an Assistant State Construction Engineer for Georgia DOT. He has over 20 years of experience in highway, light industrial and commercial construction. He has worked with his State's regulator to develop NPDES permit language and supporting Rules while also becoming the resource to GDOT his mentor had envisioned. Marc and his wife and son live in a suburb outside of Atlanta where they just can't seem to escape the heat this time of year.*

## Meet Zachary Martin, CISEC Board Member, CISEC # 0201

Hello, CISEC Colleagues!

I know that all of you are highly motivated and very experienced in the erosion/sedimentation realm, so I am privileged to be a part of this great program.

As for me, here is a little bit of my educational background, I received my B.S. and Masters Degree in Environmental from Texas State University. With the support of my family, I decided to start on my PhD in Environmental Sciences and Engineering.

As for my work experience, I have over 15 years at the city, county and state levels of Government performing Environmental regulatory work as well as implementing NPDES, MS4 and other Environmental programs. Also, I have worked in private industry performing Environmental inspections/audits. Currently, I work in private industry as a Complex Environmental Manager in the South Texas region.

Additionally, I have been teaching Environmental Geography for several years as a Professor for Northwest Vista College and at Texas Lutheran University.

Now, you might think that I have too much on my plate? Not really. I have been blessed with a wonderful supportive wife and a small child, which occupies ALL my free time. And when I am not up late at night changing diapers, you can assume that I am still thinking about stormwater, erosion and sedimentation, as that is how I am "wired".



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See us at:

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