



The Certified Inspector of Sediment and Erosion Control Newsletter

Special Interest Articles:

- Certification Partnership Agreement Between IECA and CISEC, Inc.
- Effluent Limitations Guidelines Released by EPA
- The Dual Site--Making Sure the Integrity of a SWPPP is not Compromised
- Frustrations of a CISEC Inspector
- Tip of the Month
- Getting Better all the Time!

Certification Partnership Agreement Between IECA and CISEC, Inc.

By J. Fifield, President
CISEC #0006

On December 22, 2008, the CISEC, Inc. Board of Directors approved the signing of a certification partnership agreement with the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) to establish a professional relationship between the two organizations. Specifically, IECA will support CISEC, Inc. by

- Recognizing CISEC registrants as certified individuals,
- Encouraging the IECA membership to partake in the CISEC certification program,
- Provide training and educational opportunities for CISEC registrants, and
- Advancing the CISEC mission at its events and through IECA publications.

By this agreement, the Board of Directors of CISEC, Inc. and IECA concur that each have an obligation to provide professional responsibilities to the sediment and erosion control industry by adhering to the following:

1. Each will control their Code of Ethics and enforcement mechanisms,
2. Each will share their mailing lists for education offerings, membership, and registrants,
3. Each will share ideas in developing the educational content of courses that meet the needs of the CISEC certification program,
4. CISEC, Inc. will provide material about its certification program for review and approval by

the IECA,

5. Each will share the use of their logos, trademarks, and promotional icons,
6. IECA will provide booth space to CISEC, Inc. at their annual conference, and
7. CISEC, Inc. will provide a liaison to IECA's Professional Development Committee.

CISEC, Inc. looks forward to many years of positive professional relationships with the IECA. We encourage all CISEC registrants to become members of this excellent organization that represents all aspects of the sediment and erosion control industry.

Effluent Limitations Guidelines Released by EPA

By T. Konyavsky
CISEC #0179

In November 2008, the EPA proposed changes to the construction site regulatory program that will include technology-based effluent limitations for construction and development. This new rule will require construction

and development sites to meet effluent limitations to reduce sediment and turbidity, as well as other pollutants, from leaving the site.

Major components of this proposed regulation include the requirement for sites of 10+ acres to install

sediment basins and require a minimum standard of design. One of the most concerning components of the proposed regulation involves areas of high rainfall and significant clay soils to remove the
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The Dual Site--Making Sure the Integrity of a SWPPP is not Compromised

By F. Cosgrove
CISEC #0195



You're worst nightmare is here! You are assigned to work on what was supposed to be a pad ready site for a Big Box Retail outlet. It's your first day at this "pad ready" site and you suddenly discover the site contractor is not conducting weekly inspections nor maintaining E&S drawings! To make matters worse, he just informs you that you will be inheriting the SWPPP since he is no longer responsible for the site. You further discover that the subcontractor is under contract with the developer, which means you have no direct control over his actions.

Wow! What a way to start a Monday morning! And to make matters worse, the local and regional weather is forecasting heavy rains over the next 24 to 36 hours. What do

you do in these situations? The answer is simple – DIG IN!

Start out by attacking the major problem areas. The most important things to be done are to make sure that (due to local regulations) only crystal clear water is leaving the site. "It's a little cloudy" is not an acceptable answer or condition. Remember, it has to be crystal clear (which may be impossible to achieve). The second issue is track out. Clean it up immediately and not after the storm event! If your site contractor does not have access to a sweeper, go the route of the old fashioned way – a few good men (or women) with a few good street brooms!

Let's face it. Today, many projects are under the watchful eye of abutting property owners or citizens group who may be opposed to the project. In either case, the two

conditions quickly become fodder for complaints to the local Inlands-Wetlands Conservation Commission, the State DEP, the USEPA, or your local news channel.

Complaints can be avoided by a little bit of planning and forethought.

Remember, pre-planning is your quickest path to success! The best way to prevent any run-off or track-out from leaving your site is to have a plan of action developed and be ready to put it into use when things start to go bad.

Listen to the weather – both locally and regionally. If inclement weather is forecast, do a comprehensive review of all of your E&S measures to make sure that you have everything in place as per the SWPPP and E&S drawings. Where you think a blowout may occur, take an extra measure of caution and take plenty of

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Frustrations of a CISEC Inspector

By B. Peters
CISEC #0026

Selling your services as an inspector can sometimes be a frustrating task, especially if a potential client really thinks they have the job under control.

Consider an owner or contractor hiring you to perform an evaluation of potential violations! You are informed in the initial phone call that inspections are currently being completed by the office secretary or the boss's son that is on summer vacation. Right away your

thoughts are "This is going to be great! I'll show them what a CISEC can offer and then I'll get hired."

You arrive at the project an hour before the meeting. As you enter the project, you note a less-than-adequate rock drive. Next, you notice that no signage exists related to the NPDES permit, there is no contact information for the owner or operator, and any evidence of a SWPPP box is non-existent. As you proceed, you document that no sediment retention devices exist and the

"downed" ten feet of sediment fence looks to have been installed many months ago.

Next, you wheel your SUV up a road cut that appears to be dry. Suddenly, your vehicle sinks into the silt that lies beneath. Since the tires are already muddy, you decide to keep barreling up the hill, only to find an uncontained fuel storage area with a spill the size of a neighborhood swimming pool. Of course the fuel leaking tanker trailer has a portable toilet leaning against it that is not anchored. Now that the

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Effluent Limitations Guidelines Released by EPA ...(cont.)

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fine suspended particles in storm water. Runoff having high clay content that cannot be removed with conventional BMPs will be required to implement an Active Treatment System (ATS), which typically consists of polymer-based treatment followed by a filtration type BMP.

Currently, the EPA is considering three options. Option 1 is very similar to existing regulations, with

some requirements for sediment basins on larger sites. Option 2 adds a numeric limit on turbidity based on site size and soil type, requiring ATS in some instances. Option 3 extends the effluent limits to all sites disturbing more than 10 acres.

The cost analysis (in \$million/year) conducted by the EPA is as follows:

Option 1	
Cost	Benefit
\$132	\$18

Option 2	
Cost	Benefit
\$1,900	\$333

Option 3	
Cost	Benefit
\$3,800	\$470

EPA's proposal can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgs/tr/EPA-WATER/2008/November/Day-28/w27848.htm>

Comments must be submitted to EPA on or before February 26, 2009.



The Dual Site--Making Sure the Integrity of a SWPPP is not Compromised ...(cont.)

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pictures before and after a storm event takes place. Keep copious notes detailing as much as possible what you are being told. Make sure that your SWPPP board is posted at the entrance to the site and ensure the information is complete and accurate.

Next, perform a comprehensive inspection with your site contractor. Make sure what is detailed on the drawings and in the SWPPP are similar to what have been installed in the field. This is also an opportunity to ensure that all of your E&S controls and other critical items are in place. Check for silt fence

repairs, check dams, concrete and mortar washout areas, truck and tire wash areas, dumpster, storage trailer and whether job trailers are properly documented. Also, check your inlet protection and determine whether they are being compromised due to infrequent repairs.

Ask the contractor for:

- Records of his inspections prior to you starting on this site.
- A copy of his SWPPP and E&S drawings.
- Locations of gauges for monitoring rainfall events.
- Any complaints logged with local, state or federal authorities.

- Anything that indicates opposition to this project by any individual landowners or citizens groups.
- Requests for information to view the SWPPP and site by any jurisdiction having authority or by any private citizen or citizen groups.

The final step is to be proactive. Contact both your local and state authorities and invite them out to your site. Have them perform an inspection with you. It is much better to take this approach than have them visiting you after a storm event after receiving complaints about non-compliance situations.



Tip of the Month

When writing those inspection reports, be sure you document everything in a manner that anybody can read, understand, and visualize. Specifically,

- Be clear and concise.
- Write legibly.
- Use proper English.
- Share your results with the superintendent or

contractor.

- Write reports as if an attorney will use them in court (it might happen)!





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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.cisecinc.org

Frustrations of a CISEC Inspector ...(cont.)

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SUV tires are all balled up, you decide it would be a better idea to put the boots on and make the grueling quarter mile walk in the mud to the outfall, only to discover a gully large enough to accommodate three of your SUV's.

What a great life it is to be an inspector!

You're going to have to walk back uphill that quarter mile with twenty pounds of mud on each boot, but not until you finish this portion of your report. Suddenly the

vibration of your BlackBerry startles you. Hoofing it up the hill you discover the owner arrived early and is standing against his SUV, with crossed arms impatiently waiting. Although you had only done a partial site inspection, the owner is very displeased with such a bad and extensive report. This is hardly what he was looking for, and he informs you it will cost him a fortune to be in compliance. Your meeting ends with "Thanks for your time...send me a bill... don't call us we'll call you.

And, by the way, don't show that report to anyone!"

Does this sound familiar? There can be many reasons for an attitude like this. Maybe enforcement is lacking in your local area. Perhaps politics plays a part. It can easily be the hard economic times we now live in because money is tight everywhere. It certainly is NOT because you are a CISEC.

Sorry for the ranting. It's just frustrating being a dedicated CISEC sometimes.

Getting Better all the Time!

By Jim Mulkey
CISEC #0178

As a project superintendent, I've seen numerous changes and witnessed quite an evolution in the construction and storm water industry over the past 25 years. Like many, I used to wonder how something so important to a few could be so negligible to most. I've seen numerous construction sites that were not prepared to adequately control runoff or didn't address erosion control at all. Examples include silt fence flapping in the breeze as if only to mark the limits of construction, poorly installed inlet protection that seemed to indicate no more than a good place to wash out paint buckets, and inadequate construction entrances, which do little to control track out.

In the past year or two, it's become obvious that the industry is progressing and compliance is

increasing. Highway and city street projects in my area are much more compliant than in years past. Construction projects seem to be at least following minimum requirements. And there is a new big box home improvement store going in close to my home which from ground breaking has been a seemingly text book site in regard to NPDES and TECQ requirements. People are "Getting it", and the environment is better. OK so I'm sounding like a poster child for the EPA. However, how about these examples of improvement?

- 1- Drinking water from a lake that contains no battery acid or paint thinner!
- 2- Planting grass or shrubbery that doesn't die from poisons in the soil.
- 3- Eating fish or vegetables that do not contain mercury, lead, or other chemicals.

- 4- Breathing air that doesn't give you respiratory problems or choke the surrounding vegetation.

All are attainable if we

- 1- Know our job, (Get educated, keep up with industry changes, and stay involved).
- 2- Do our job, (Don't get lazy or complacent, and do the inspection---- NOT JUST THE REPORT).
- 3- Be honest, (If it didn't work, say it didn't work. If it needs addressing, address it).

Call upon the resources we have for advice and be honest in our reporting and diligent in our duties. I think educating those we interact with is an important responsibility we all should accept gracefully. Follow the guidelines set out by your certifying organization with this goal in mind: "A cleaner, safer and more sustainable environment."