

E&S In The Field

— Presented by: Ryan Peckheiser & —
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**Qualified Visual Site
Inspectors (QVSI)s**

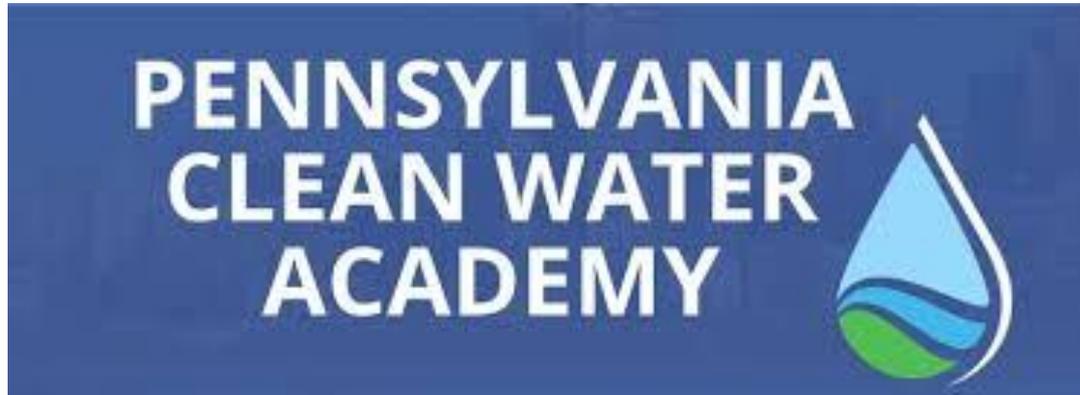
Who are They?

- Anyone responsible for conducting visual site inspections of earth disturbance activities under Chapter 102
- **Inspectors must be qualified** in order to conduct Visual Site Inspection Reports (VSIRs)
- Multiple ways to become qualified



Clean Water Academy Qualification

- Training can be found on Clean Water Academy (CWA)
 - Training is approximately 10 hours long with 5 courses
- Qualified inspectors can be from the contractor, engineering firm, or a third party company
- **Certification only lasts 2 years**





How to Access the Qualified Visual Site Inspector Training Programs

This training contains a short instructional video on how to create a Login in Clean Water Academy and access Qualified Visual Site Inspector Training Programs. There are two QVSI Training Programs. A general QVSI Training program for those covered under the PAG-02 and a PennDOT specific QVSI Training Program.

FORGOT PASSWORD?

If you have forgotten your password, you can click on the **"Log IN"** button and then click on **"Forgotten your username and password"** to reset your password.

QVSI Training Programs

[Click to Return](#)

Course Video



How to Access QVSI Training Programs



Other Qualifications

- Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (**CPESC**)
- Certified Erosion, sediment, and Stormwater Inspector (**CESSWI**)
- Submitting experience to a **county conservation district that has jurisdiction over a project site**
- Submitting experience to **DEP's Bureau of Clean Water for projects in multiple counties**



Other Qualifications for Conducting Visual Site Inspections on Project Sites with Chapter 102 NPDES Permits (Alternative Qualifications List)

Revised, January 21, 2026

Other Qualifications Document

The PAG-02 General Permit and Individual NPDES Permits (as they are issued, renewed or amended) require that visual site inspections be conducted by qualified personnel upon an effective date identified in the permit (i.e., December 8, 2025 for PAG-02). A qualified inspector is someone who meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Has completed the [Qualified Visual Site Inspector Training Program](#) in the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) [Clean Water Academy](#) (CWA) initially and every two years thereafter (note that a CWA account is needed to access this program); or
2. Holds active certification as a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) or as a Certified Erosion, Sediment, and Stormwater Inspector (CESSWI) from a recognized organization; or
3. Can demonstrate to the satisfaction of DEP or a delegated county conservation district (CCD) that they have qualifications equivalent to or exceeding those identified in criteria #1 or #2.

DEP/CCD recognizes the following training and experience to satisfy criterion #3:

- a. A licensed professional, as defined at 25 Pa. Code § 102.1, that has a minimum of six (6) months of experience in the installation or oversight or inspection of erosion and sediment control (E&S) best management practices (BMPs) and/or post-construction stormwater management (PCSM) stormwater control measures (SCMs).

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF CLEAN WATER

CHAPTER 102 VISUAL SITE INSPECTION REPORT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Site Name: _____ Permit No.: _____

Permit Type: PAG-01 PAG-02 Individual NPDES Individual E&S ESCGP

Approval Date: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Permittee Name: _____ Municipality: _____

Inspector Name: _____ County: _____

Inspector Firm: _____ Inspector Title: _____

Inspector Email: _____ Inspector Phone: _____

 The inspector named above is qualified (*check the appropriate box below*) DEP's Clean Water Academy Program CPESC CESSWI Other (equivalent)

INSPECTION INFORMATION

Inspection Date: _____ Inspection Time: _____ AM / PM Inspection No.: _____

Precipitation (Previous 24 hrs): _____ inch(es) Source: _____

Current Site Conditions: Active Earth Disturbance Fully Stabilized Snow Covered OtherCurrent Weather Conditions: Rain/Sleet/Snow Overcast Sunny/Partly SunnyInspection Type: Routine (Weekly) Post-Storm (≥ 0.25 inch) Corrective Action

INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Inspect all of the following areas of the project site. Check the box to certify these areas have been inspected and describe problems or deficiencies identified, if any. Use a separate sheet as necessary.

Visual Site Inspection Reports (VSIRs)

- Report that QVSIs fill out each week and after each major rainfall event (0.25in)
- Revised 4/2025
- Report includes:
 - Corrective Actions
 - Discharge Points
 - Stabilized Areas
- **Must include colored photos with date and time stamps**

Sediment Basins



Sediment Basins

- Should be seeded immediately after final grade has been accomplished
 - Hydroseed/ Erosion control blanket slopes 3:1 or steeper
- Riser structures **must have a water tight seal**
 - Recommend Butyl-Mastic Sealant for water tight seals





**Erosion Gully Along
Basin Slope**

2025/06/27 09:20

A landscape view of a stabilized basin. In the foreground, there is a field of sparse, brownish-green vegetation. In the middle ground, a concrete structure is visible on the left, and a gravel area is on the right. The background features a line of trees with some autumn-colored foliage under a cloudy sky.

Stabilized Basin

2025/10/23 11:33

Stabilized Basin



Issue?

2026/02/26 10:01





**Skimmer Not
Connected**

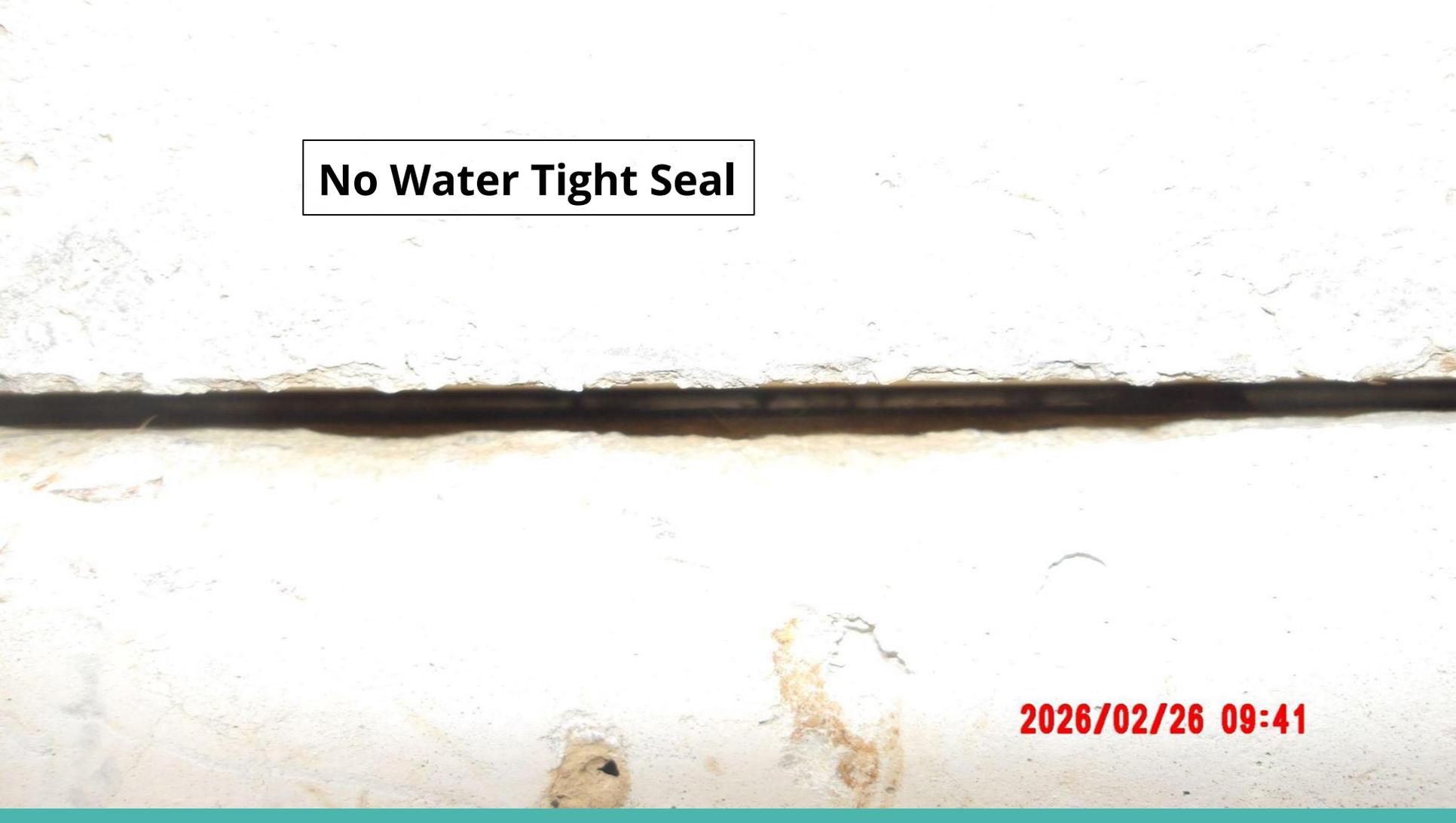
2026/02/26 10:01

Issue?



2026/02/26 09:41

No Water Tight Seal

A close-up photograph of a wall joint. The top surface is white, textured paint that is peeling and chipping away, revealing a dark, recessed gap. The bottom surface is a lighter, smoother material, possibly plaster or concrete, with some minor staining and a small hole. The overall appearance suggests a lack of proper sealing or waterproofing at the joint.

2026/02/26 09:41



2025/10/03 11:38



Damaged Riser Structure

2025/07/24 09:57



Issue?

2025/07/24 10:09

**Cracks
around
outlet pipe**



2025/07/24 10:07

A close-up photograph of a concrete structure, likely a pipe outlet, showing a significant crack. A red arrow points to the crack. The concrete is light-colored and shows signs of weathering and discoloration. A dark, possibly metallic or plastic, pipe is visible on the right side of the frame. The background is dark and textured.

**Cracks
around
outlet pipe**

2025/07/24 10:07

Channels



Channels

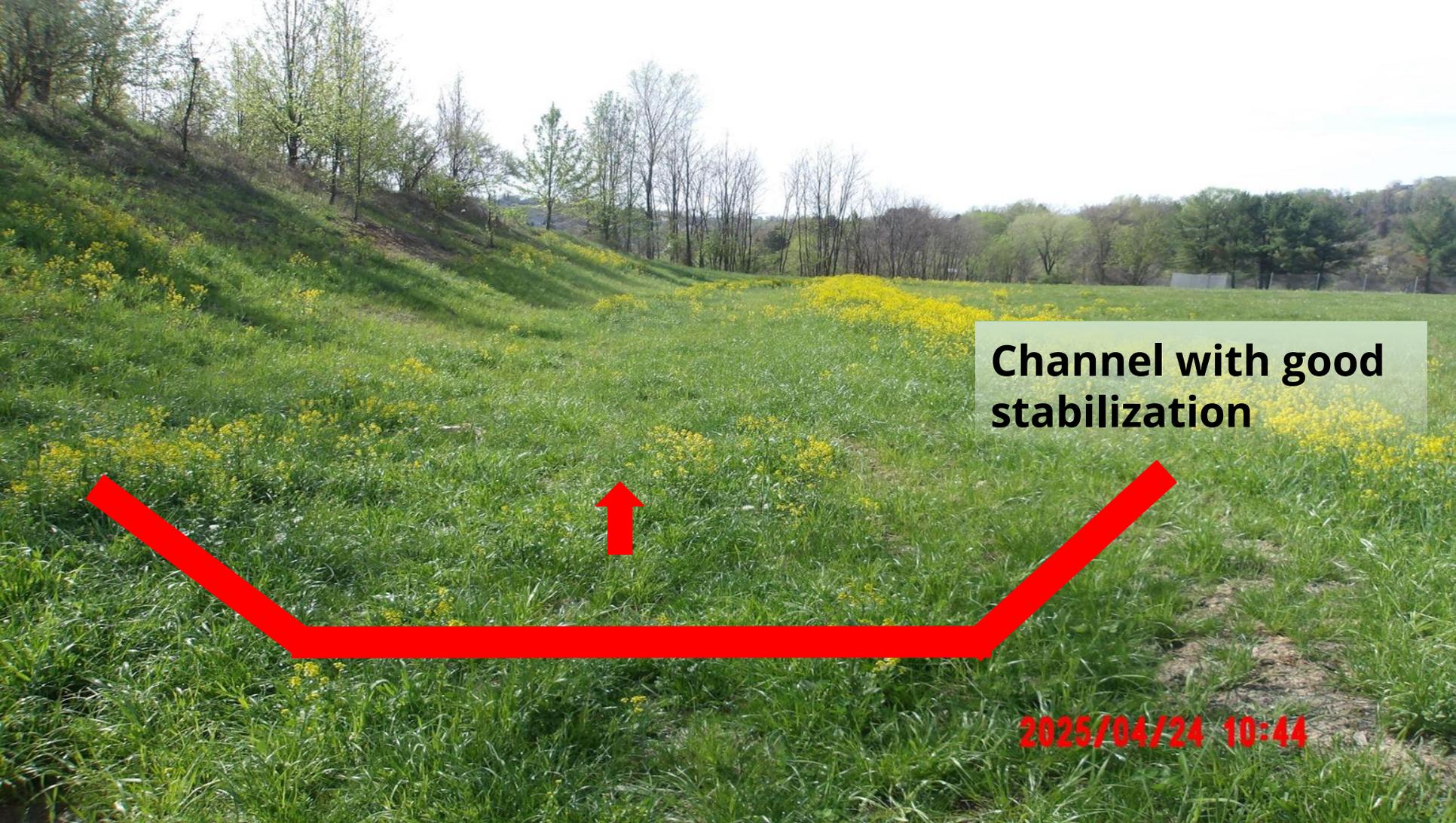
- Should be **stabilized immediately after reaching final grade**
- If the channel is *requiring protective liner*, **recommended to have it be trapezoidal shape**. V shaped channels can create gaps between the liner.
- Sharp turns, high angles, and very low gradients should be avoided.



**Channel is
not stabilized**



2025/04/24 10:29

A photograph of a grassy field with yellow wildflowers. A red arrow points upwards from a red line that forms a channel shape in the grass. The background shows a line of trees under a clear sky.

**Channel with good
stabilization**

2025/04/24 10:44



**Make sure to
have good
contact with
soil by stapling**

**Channel stabilized
with erosion
control blanket**

2025/11/25 11:54

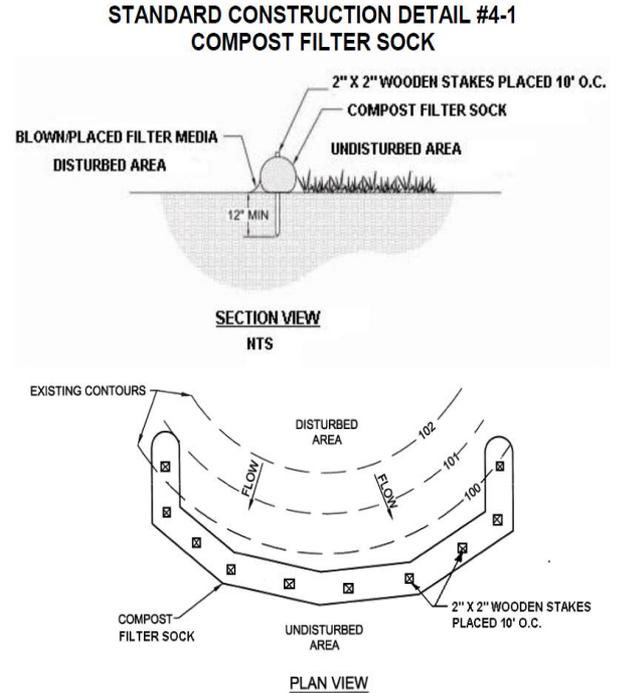
Sediment Barriers

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Sediment Barriers

- Includes compost filter sock (CFS), silt fence, rock filters, and others alike
- BMPs like CFS and silt fence should be replaced within 24 hours after being damaged
- CFS should have a mulch/wood chip wedge to prevent sediment laden runoff from undermining





**Mulch/wood chip
wedge and CFS
staked in**

2026/01/08 10:40



**Underminage
beneath CFS**

2025/11/25 11:44



**Super silt fence
installed correctly**

2026/03/10 13:54

Inlet Filter Protection

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Inlet Filter Protection

- Storm sewers should be protected from sediment pollution if the system **does not discharge** into a functioning sediment basin or trap
- Can be removed once the drainage area to the inlet is stabilized with vegetative cover
- Two most commonly used are filter bags and filter mats





**Inlet Filter Bag
ripped open**

2026/02/26 09:46

**Full Inlet Filter
Bag**



2023/07/25 22:25



Filter Mat??

2026/02/17 10:48



**Unmaintained
Filter Mat**

2026/02/17 11:02

Unmaintained Filter Mat



2026/02/17 11:02

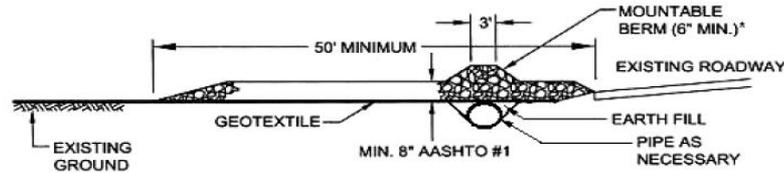
Rock Construction Entrance (RCE)

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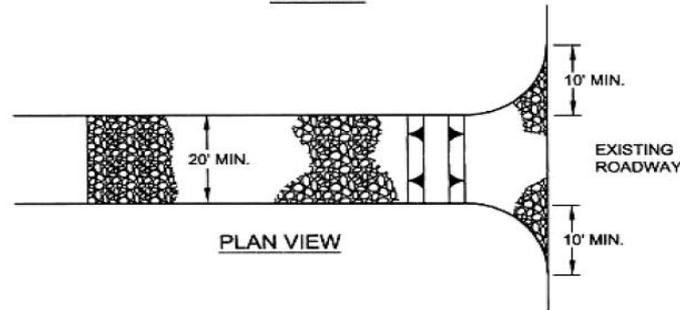
Rock Construction Entrance (RCE)

- Should be maintained and refreshed with **clean stone**
- Helps to keep main roads clean
- Geotextile fabric **needs** to be installed before rocks are in place

STANDARD CONSTRUCTION DETAIL # 3-1
Rock Construction Entrance



PROFILE



PLAN VIEW



**Sediment on Road
from Unmaintained
RCE**

2026/01/06 17:41



**Well
Maintained RCE**

2026/03/10 13:09

Soil Stockpiles





2025/11/19 12:26



2023/07/21 02:28





























2023/07/25 21:50



2023/07/25 21:51



2023/07/25 21:51



2023/07/25 21:52



2023/07/25 21:54



2025/04/29 09:49



2025/06/26 10:01



2025/08/26 09:58



2025/06/26 09:58



2026/03/05 09:29



2026/03/05 09:26



2026/03/05 09:28



2025/08/14 15:02





2025/10/02 09:57



2025/10/03 11:42



2025/10/03 11:43



2025/10/03 12:18



2025/10/03 12:20



2025/10/03 12:20



2025/10/03 12:21



2025/10/03 12:24



2025/10/03 12:26



2025/01/31 11:24





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