



Erosion and Sediment Control

2026 WCD Municipal Roundtable
Presented by: Ryan Peckheiser & Jared Meharey

Erosion & Sediment (E&S) Control Basics

In Pennsylvania, any earth disturbance activity is expected to use erosion and sedimentation control best management practices (BMP's).





2024/08/27 08:26





Erosion & Sediment (E&S) Control Basics

When it comes to earth disturbance:

1. If **less than 5,000 sqft**: E&S best management practices (BMP's) should be installed or applied.
2. If **between 5,000 sqft & 0.99 acres**:
 - a. E&S plan must be developed & implemented.
 - b. E&S BMPs installed or applied.
 - c. Inform township about the project to see if they require Westmore Conservation District (WCD) to approve E&S plan.
3. If **over 1 acre**: NPDES permit approval is required through WCD/DEP Regional Office

E&S Plan Coverage

- Does not always contain stormwater management aspects
- **Site Restoration:** a plan to restore an area of earth disturbance to approximate original condition
- E&S plan review through Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD) depends on the municipality through ordinances and/or a **Conservation Partnership Agreement (CPA)**



Conservation Partnership Agreement (CPA)

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Between the
Westmoreland Conservation District
And
Municipality
Municipality
Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Statement of Purpose

District and Municipal representatives will work together, to the best of their abilities, to protect all water resources and conserve the natural resources of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania within this Municipality.

This Conservation Partnership Agreement provides for cooperation and mutual benefit between the Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD) and *Municipality*. Both the WCD and *Municipality* agree to jointly promote the protection of water resources, and the conservation of natural resources on lands both public and private; the reduction of soil erosion and sediment pollution; environmentally sensitive maintenance of roads; proper management of stormwater; forest stewardship; the remediation of mine drainage; and the protection and preservation of farmland and open space. These and other programs overseen by the WCD protect the environment and improve the quality of life to the residents of *Municipality*.

Municipalities with a CPA are waived of District review fees

- **E&S, Stormwater, and 105 reviews**

WCD will review E&S plans in order to verify compliance with Chapter 102 regulations

WCD will review Stormwater

Management plans for non NPDES sites

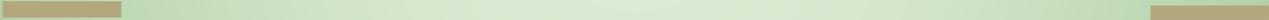
Provide assistance for sites that may be in violation

NPDES Permit Coverage

- NPDES review includes both E&S and Stormwater
- If a site requires a NPDES permit, earth disturbance **cannot occur until the permit is approved**
 - Even if a grading permit is approved the applicant still needs the NPDES permit
 - If work is conducted **without** a NPDES permit then coverage needs to be made as soon as possible or else **violations may develop**



Good/Bad Examples of E&S







Stabilized Basin
Slopes

2025/10/23 11:33



2025/08/14 15:02



2025/10/02 09:57



2023/12/04 10:54



Wood Chip/Mulch
Wedge

2026/01/08 10:40



Compost Filter Sock
Underminage

2025/11/25 11:44

Erosion along basin
slope



2025/06/27 09:20

More Erosion Along
Basin Slope

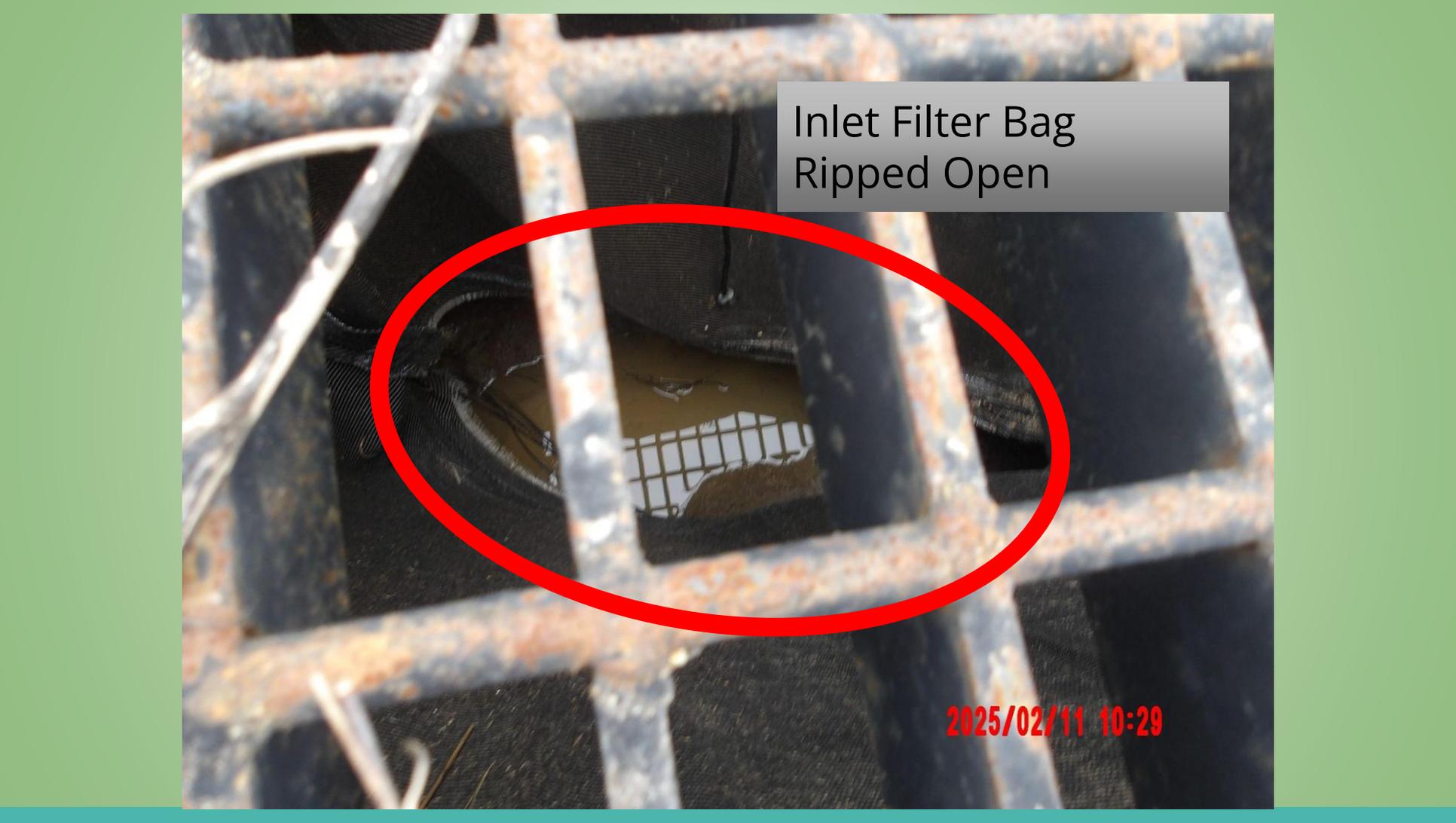
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Sediment on Road
from Non-
Maintained Rock
Construction
Entrance

2026/01/06 17:41



Inlet Filter Bag
Ripped Open

2025/02/11 10:29



2023/07/25 22:19



2023/07/25 22:25



2020/02/17 10:41



2026/02/17 10:48



2026/02/17 11:02



2026/01/07 15:27



2026/01/07 15:37



2026/01/07 15:32



2023/10/23 14:17



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2023/10/23 14:03



2023/10/30 14:18



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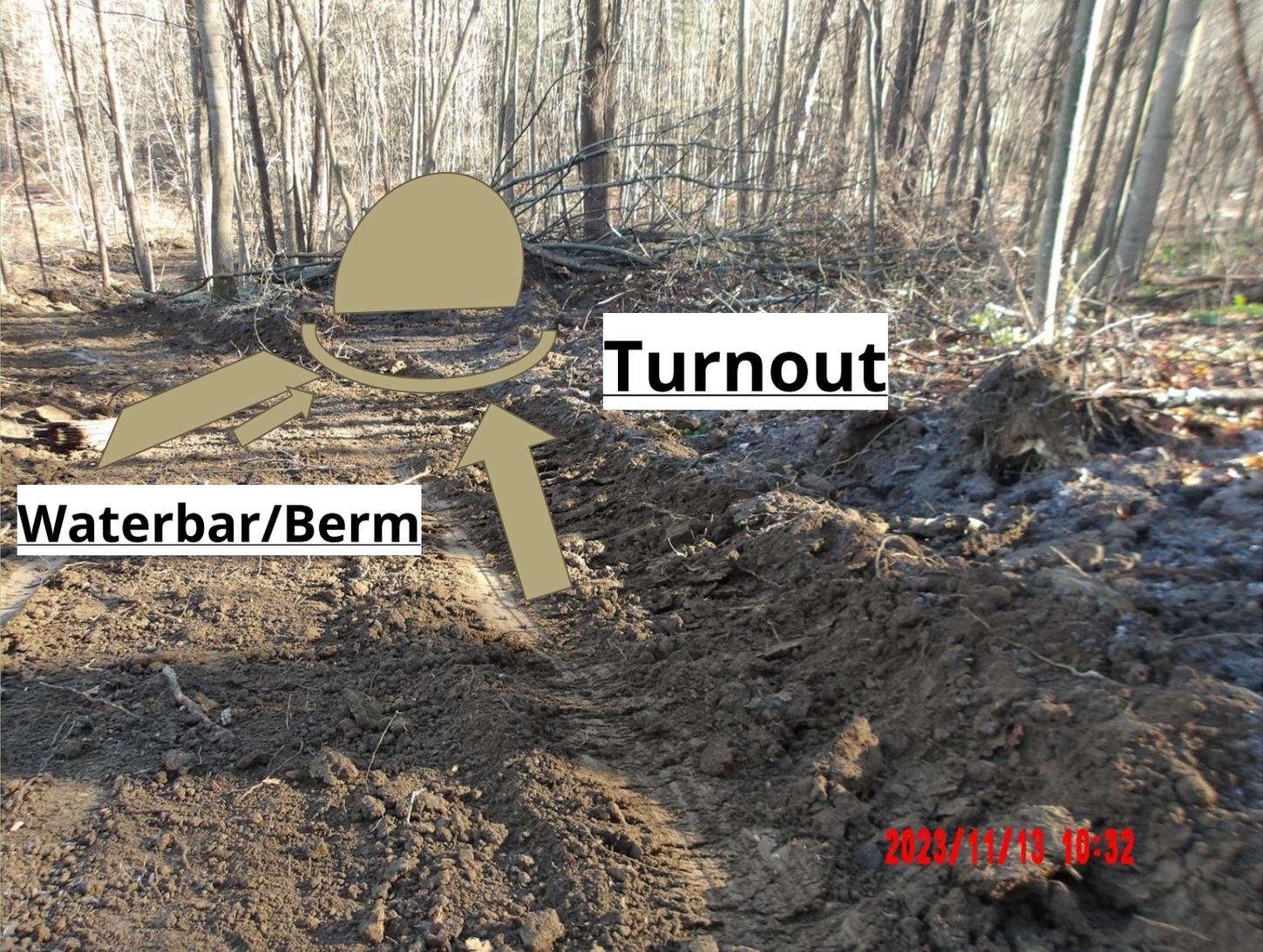
2023/10/30 14:18



2023/10/30 14:21



2023/11/13 10:19



Waterbar/Berm

Turnout

2023/11/13 10:32



2023/11/13 10:58

Qualified Visual Site Inspectors (QVSI)

Who Are They?



- Anyone responsible for **conducting visual site inspections** of earth disturbance activities under Chapter 102
- Individual has to be **qualified** in order to conduct the inspection reports
- If a person is **not qualified** then they cannot fill out the report

Qualified Visual Site Inspector Training (QVSI)

- Complete training on **Clean Water Academy (CWA)**.
 - Training is approximately 10 hours long
 - Training programs includes 5 courses
 - Certified inspector can be from engineering firm, construction company, or third party contractor
- Certification lasts 2 years**



**PENNSYLVANIA
CLEAN WATER
ACADEMY**





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 Ways To Be Qualified

- Having an active certification as a **Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC)** or as a **Certified Erosion, Sediment, and Stormwater Inspector (CESSWI)**
- Submitting experience within the E&S and PCSM field to a County Conservation District that **has jurisdiction over a project site** or 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

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).

Other Qualifications Document

Visual Site Inspection Reports (VSIRs)

- Reports that the QVSI's have to fill out after **each week or a major rainfall event (0.25in)**
- Revised 4/2025
- Report includes:
 - Stabilized areas
 - Waste, equipment, and maintenance areas
 - Discharge points
 - Possible pollutants
 - Dewatering activities
 - Corrective actions and more

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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 Other

Current Weather Conditions: Rain/Sleet/Snow Overcast Sunny/Partly Sunny

Inspection Type: Routine (Weekly) Post-Storm (≥ 0.25 inch) Corrective Action

INSPECTION CHECKLIST

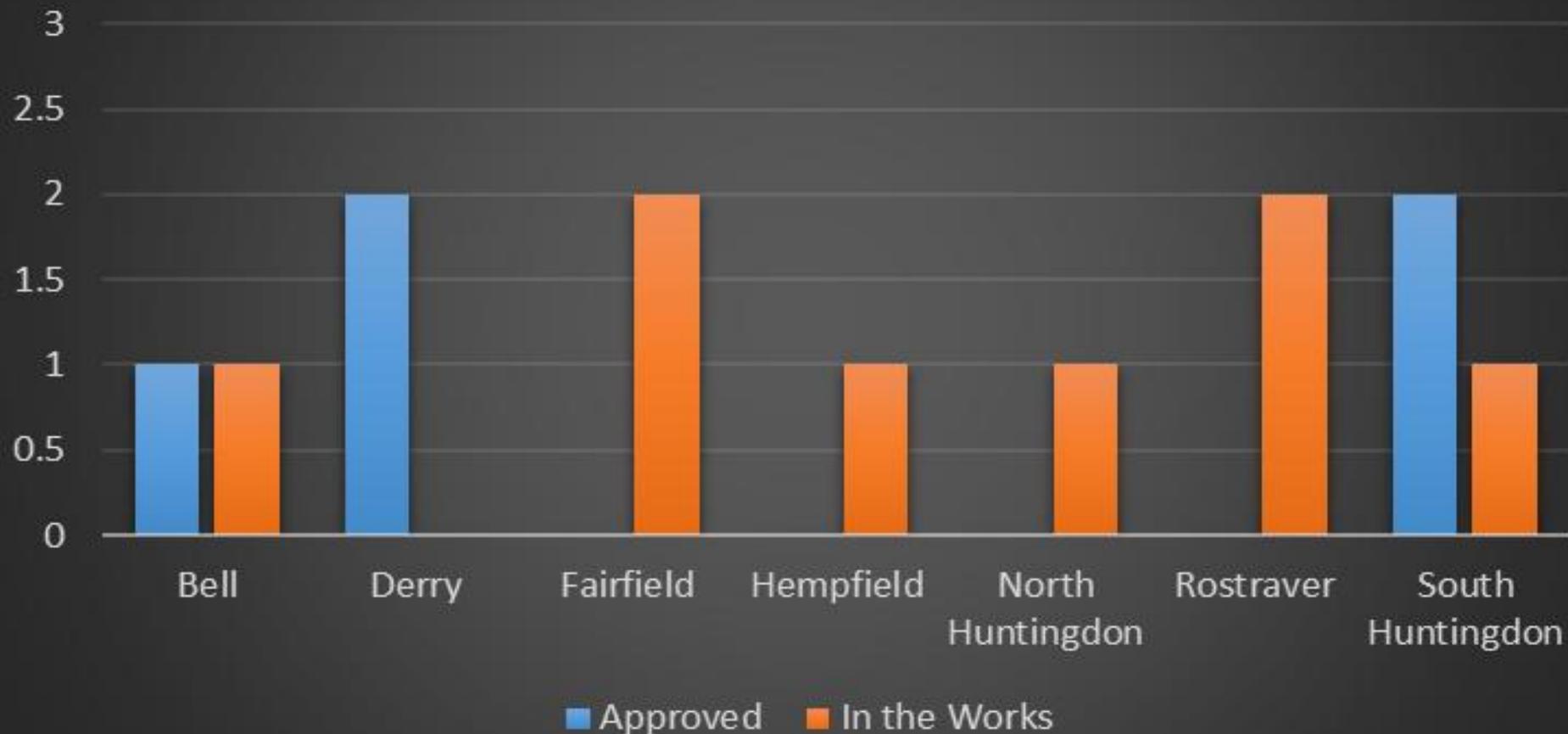
Inspect all of the following areas of the project site. Check the box to certify these areas have been inspected and describe problems or deficiencies identified, if any. Use a separate sheet as necessary.



Solar Farm Updates



Solar Farms in Westmoreland



Solar Farm FAQ Update



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
Bureau of Clean Water

Chapter 102 Permitting for Solar Panel Projects

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Revised, February 19, 2026 Version 1.3

Background

Responsible development of solar photovoltaic installations (solar panel projects) involves balancing the growth of this industry in Pennsylvania with the need to protect natural resources and manage stormwater runoff. This FAQ document was developed to clarify the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) interpretations concerning applicability and implementation of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities, including erosion and sediment control (E&S) and post-construction stormwater management (PCSM), for solar panel projects. This document provides recommended guidance for ground level solar projects with at least one (1) acre of earth disturbance. References to additional guidance are found in [Attachment A](#).

Nothing in this document affects regulatory requirements. The interpretations herein are not an adjudication or a regulation. There is no intent on the part of DEP to give the interpretations in this document that weight or deference. This document provides a framework within which DEP and delegated county conservation districts (CCDs) will exercise administrative discretion in the future. DEP reserves the discretion to deviate from the interpretations in this document if circumstances warrant.

Any Questions?

