This fact sheet provides the basic operation and maintenance (O&M) requirements of the North Dakota Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) Construction Stormwater General Permit. Contractors need to be aware of the O&M requirements throughout the construction process. Cities or counties may require additional controls or impose shorter timeframes for addressing erosion, installing erosion and sediment control (ESC) devices, and implementing best management practices (BMPs).

• Install ESC devices and implement BMPs so they do not damage property. For example, an earth berm installed to move water around a site might inadvertently divert water into someone’s basement.

• Remove sediment from ESC devices such as a silt fence before sediment has reached one-half the height of the device.

• Remove sediment from a sediment basin before the volume of the basin has been reduced by one-half.

• Repair or replace ESC devices once they become ineffective. If a device continues to fail, consider other methods.

• Pipe outlets must be provided with energy dissipation devices to prevent scouring (e.g., erosion blanket, riprap). Dissipation devices must be installed within 24 hours of connecting a pipe outlet to a drainage system.

• Drawdown devices, such as perforated pipe risers or rock filters, must be provided for sediment basins and ponds. Drawing water from the surface should be practiced unless infeasible.

• When a site is dewatered, the water should contain as little sediment as possible. This may require a BMP at the sump or end of the discharge hose. Place the end of the discharge hose in a heavily vegetated area or utilize an energy dissipation device to prevent downstream erosion.

• Provide a stabilized vehicle exit if there is constant traffic out of the construction site. Park vehicles in parking lots or on roads or undisturbed vegetated areas if possible. Avoid entering a site when it is muddy. If this is not possible, clean vehicle tires before leaving the site.
Dirt that is tracked or deposited onto a roadway must be removed. Dirt that can be picked up with a shovel or loader must be removed at the end of the work day. The amount of remaining dirt (once dried) must be small enough to be picked up during routine sweeping.

Provide protection to downstream inlets. Inlet protection devices must be installed so they will not cause property damage or threaten public safety during heavy rainfall events. An opening must be provided in the device to allow water to overflow during heavy rainfall.

Be sure all containers holding paint, oil, solvent, etc., are properly covered at the end of the day or when not being used. Pick up litter and debris at the end of the day to prevent it from being carried off by wind or water.

Inspect all ESC devices and BMPs (including vegetative buffers) once every 14 days and within 24 hours of a 1/4-inch rainfall event. Inspection results must be recorded and include the inspection date and time, name of the inspector, findings and corrective actions, and date and amount of rainfall. Certain site conditions may qualify for alternate inspection frequencies.

Concrete wash water cannot be dumped in storm drains and ditches. It also cannot drain to surface and groundwater. Place wash water in a leak-proof container or pit.

Soil stockpiles cannot be placed in the street or ditch. Stockpiles must have effective ESC devices to prevent soil from washing away.