A-38: Well, Utility, Directional and Geotechnical Drilling

Stormwater runoff (rainwater and snow melt) is the largest source of pollution to our lakes, streams and Puget Sound. King County requires businesses to implement measures to protect our shared waters. If the requirements below do not prevent pollution, additional measures are necessary.

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to drilling water wells and utilities, environmental protection and monitoring wells, and geotechnical borings that use machinery in the drilling. It does not apply to the use of devices such as hand augers, or for large structural drilling such as drilled shafts.

Required BMPs

- Obtain permits for drilling activities, and for clearing and grading the access routes and the work site. For more information, contact the King County Local Services Permitting Division at 206-296-6600.
- When drilling in known or suspected soil contamination, test and characterize soil cuttings and accumulated sediment to determine proper management and disposal methods. If applicable, generator knowledge may be used to characterize the soil cuttings and accumulated sediment.
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas (streams, wetlands, erosion hazards, and landslide hazards) within the area of influence of the work site. For horizontal directional drilling, take measures to capture and contain drilling fluids and slurry.
- Mitigate potential impacts to surrounding areas and/or the storm drainage system. The driller must be equipped to quickly respond to spills and unusual conditions that may arise.
- Locate and prepare access roadways to minimize the amount of excavation and the potential for erosion. See the *King County Surface Water Design Manual* for information on vehicle access preparation and maintenance and erosion control measures.
- Contain accumulated uncontaminated water and sediment on-site and pump into a storage tank or direct through a geotextile filtration system (or equivalent system) before discharging to the surrounding ground surface.
- Keep all sediment-laden water out of storm drains and surface waters. If sediment-laden water does escape from the immediate drilling location, block flow to any nearby waterways or catch basins using fabric, inlet protections, sandbags, erosion fences, or other similar methods. Immediately notify King County Stormwater Services at 206-477-4811 and the Washington State Department of Ecology at 206-594-0000, if sediment-laden water impacts the storm drainage system or surface waters.
- Divert any concentrated flows of water into the job site using sandbags or check dams up-slope from the site.

- Dispose of soil cuttings and accumulated sediment appropriately. If cuttings or other soils disturbed in the drilling process are to be temporarily stockpiled on-site, they must be covered and surrounded by a berm or filter device.
- Stabilize exposed soils at the end of the job, using mulch or other erosion control measures.
- Contain spent drilling slurry on-site and allow it to dewater, or haul to an appropriate, approved, disposal site.
- Restore disturbed areas with mulch and seeding or hydroseeding.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: hydrocarbons—such as gasoline and diesel, metals, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, sediment, and other pollutants.
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
    - A-3: Storage of Liquid Materials in Portable Containers
    - A-4: Storage of Soil, Sand, Salt, and Other Erodible Materials
    - A-6: Storage of Contaminated Soils
    - A-10: Treatment, Storage and Disposal of Dangerous Waste
    - A-11: Cleaning or Washing of Tools and Equipment
    - A-18: Vehicle and Equipment Repair and Maintenance
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
    - Containment
    - Disposal
- *King County Surface Water Design Manual*

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206–477–4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.