



Private Pond Inspection Program

Detention/Retention Ponds

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Department of Public Works
Stormwater Management Division

IMPORTANT

The attached stormwater management guidelines are provided as a courtesy and are based on general knowledge of maintenance required for these types of stormwater facilities. Richland County specifically disclaims any warranty, either expressed or implied, arising out of the use of these guidelines. The guidelines are not meant to replace or supersede any specific recommendations offered by a qualified professional.

Who is Stormwater Management and what is the Private Pond Inspection Program?

In 1990, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to reduce the quantity of pollutants that may be transported through the Storm Sewer Systems to “Waters-of-the-State”. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC, now DES), Bureau of Water issued a NPDES Permit to Richland County in April 2000. In compliance with that Permit, Richland County has developed a Private Pond Inspection Program (PPIP) implemented by Richland County Stormwater Management Division. This program is used to inventory and inspect the maintenance of all Stormwater Treatment Facilities (STF)—such as stormwater ponds—in Richland County. These treatment facilities provide water quality protection and stormwater management for their surrounding communities. It is vital that an annual inspection and maintenance is performed on these structures in order for them to function as intended.

What is the function of detention and retention pond?

Stormwater facilities such as Detention/Retention ponds (also named Dry/Wet ponds) have two functions. First, they absorb or slow stormwater runoff from urban surfaces such as roads, parking lots, and rooftops. Second, they remove contaminants from the runoff before it enters a nearby waterway. Stormwater facilities can become clogged by trash, debris, sediment and mud, or other stormwater pollutants that cause the facility not to function as designed. The facilities themselves can develop structural cracks and leaks over time and need regular maintenance to prevent problems. Poor operation and maintenance is the leading cause of pond failure. Poor maintenance can also create unpleasant odors, nuisance insects, algae blooms and a generally unsightly, unkempt area.

Detention (Dry) ponds do not have standing water at all times, and may fail due to poor vegetation maintenance (infrequent mowing and weed control), clogged inlets from trash and debris, sediment accumulation, failed side slopes, and inadequate access for routine maintenance

activities. Retention (Wet) ponds are basins or depressions that retain, or hold, water in a permanent pool. Maintenance of both of these types of structures is imperative to their ability to properly control and treat stormwater runoff.

What actions should I take if currently non-compliant?

Detention/Dry Pond



Compliant



Non-Compliant

Retention/Wet Pond



Non-compliant current owners of the stormwater treatment facility will have thirty (30) days from the time they receive a Notice of Violation to make any corrections requested within the Notice of Violation. Failure to do so may result in an assessment of daily penalties at the rate of \$1,092.50 until corrective action is completed.

Knowing why a pond was built at your commercial site or in your subdivision community and the importance of all the components working together should reduce the chance of pond failure.

Pond maintenance is an operational best management practice (BMP) developed to control Pollutant discharges downstream, risk of flooding downstream, the instability of downstream channels, and decrease aesthetic and nuisance problems. To keep your stormwater treatment facilities operating properly we suggest developing a good plan that specifies what type of pond you have, what maintenance actions are needed, when they will be performed and how often they will be performed. Keeping records of personal inspection checklists and follow-up sheets can be very helpful during this process.

Stormwater Management plays a very important role in helping to keep our waters clean. If you have any questions please contact Engineering Technician- Paola Romero at (803) 576-3577 or Engineering Associate, Albert Little at (803) 518-1653.

Remember join our team Stormwater.....Let's keep it clean!

