

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has issued the following to MS4's

With the current events related to COVID-19, permittees and others associated with construction projects permitted under 327 IAC 15-5 have asked about the requirement to continue to conduct self-monitoring of their project sites. For sites that are under the direct regulatory responsibility of IDEM, the items listed below will apply. However, if the project is within the regulatory jurisdiction of an MS4, the MS4 may require continuation of compliance with their local ordinance or establish other guidelines.

- (1) If construction activities continue at the site, the self-monitoring should be completed in accordance with 327 IAC 15-5.
- (2) If the project site is going to shutdown and the contractor or other representatives will not be onsite, the following is applicable.

If the site is shutdown and one of the following scenarios [(a) through (c)] applies, it is required that notification of the shutdown is posted on site and this notice identifies the individual and/or company that under normal circumstances would be responsible for conducting self-monitoring or that would be responsible to take corrective action. The posted information should include the contact information for each representative that includes names, phone number and email. This requirement is being requested to provide information to a regulating entity that enters the project site to conduct an inspection. Significant deficiencies, especially those that result in an impact to a water of the state that are identified during a regulatory inspection will be addressed on a case by case basis and may require immediate action to implement corrective action.

- (a) Complete a final inspection to ensure all stormwater measures are in place and functioning. If issues are identified, take corrective action immediately. Upon closing the site, note in the final report the reason that the project is being shutdown. If at all possible, temporary seeding with mulching is one of the most beneficial methods to provide effective erosion and sediment control in addition to ensuring are measures are functioning.
 - (b) If the site is shutdown and a third party is responsible for self-monitoring and that company continues to work, they can still perform the self-monitoring in accordance with 327 IAC 15-5, but as an option may reduce the frequency to one time per week.. IDEM understands that construction staff may not be available to take corrective action, but the reports should reflect a list of items that require corrective action.
 - (c) If the site is shutdown and the party responsible for performing the self-monitoring inspections has also ceased operations, the inspections may be suspended until such time that work resumes.
- (3) The permittee is responsible for all violations that occur at the time of the shutdown and is responsible to initiate corrective action in a timely manner.

Upon the site re-opening the highest priority will be to address the deficiencies in the self-monitoring reports performed during the shutdown. The corrective action should be based on an itemized list with a timeline for corrective action of the most critical items that require attention. The self-monitoring program will commence immediately.

If self-monitoring inspection were not conducted during the shutdown, the first action will be to conduct an inspection to assess the site and document deficiencies with a plan of action and timeline for corrective action.