

DOT&PF Instructions

SWPPP Visual Monitoring Data (Form 25D-129)

The CGP Part 3.2 requires water quality monitoring if a project

- Disturbs greater than 20 acres at one time and
- Discharges to a water body that DEC has listed as impaired for sediment or turbidity but it does not have a water body recovery plan

The monitoring must be done according to a site-specific monitoring plan that meets the requirements outlined in the 2011 CGP Part 7 by either consultant to DOT&PF or by regional staff that are “knowledgeable in the principles and practices of water quality monitoring” (CPG Qualified Person definition).

While the CGP Part 7.3 requires sampling and/or laboratory analysis to obtain numeric data for turbidity, Form 25D-129 is *not* for recording data under this requirement. Use Form 25D-129 only when conducting visual monitoring as described under CGP Part 7.4.

Visual monitoring must be conducted at least once every 7 calendar days (under CGP Part 7.4.1), and can correspond with regular weekly inspections if inspecting on a 7-day period. Records of the visual monitoring do not need to be submitted to DEC, unless specifically requested, but must be maintained with the SWPPP.

DEC may also require monitoring water quality under 2011 CGP Part 2.1.5, which applies to projects that may affect a water body in a state or federal park or refuge, which is intended to protect water bodies from any further degradation. If DEC requires visual monitoring under this requirement, DEC will specify the conditions required as part of the antidegradation analysis. Any requirements specified by DEC in the consultation must be followed.

The purpose of visual monitoring is to observe the visual quality and characteristics of the discharge, including color, odor, solids, foam, or other indicators of storm water pollutants.

For each observation, indicate whether a discharge (water leaving the site) is present, if any pollutant indicators are present, and if the conditions require corrective action. Even if “no discharge at this time” is selected under *Discharges*, you must still note whether or not pollutant indicators are present and whether corrective action is needed. Just because water is not currently leaving the site does not mean there are no visually noticeable pollutant indicators. For example, there may be oil sheen on soil or vegetation near the discharge point that may require attention.

The visual monitoring data can either be organized by date, so that each sheet contains data from multiple locations monitored on the same day; or it can be organized by location, so that each sheet contains data from the same location collected on different dates. However, be consistent with the organization throughout the life of the project.