



---

---

**POLICY STATEMENT AND CLARIFICATION**

---

---

**SUBJECT:** REVIEW, APPROVAL, AND USE OF ALTERNATE CONSTRUCTION BMP'S  
**DATE:** APRIL 24, 2017

**OVERVIEW:**

The Drainage Criteria Manual (DCM) Volume 2 defines a process for allowing construction BMPs that are not shown in the manual. The process defined in the manual requires that an alternate BMP be submitted with the Erosion and Stormwater Quality Control Plan. This requirement prevents the ability of the Erosion Control Contractor and City Inspector from solving unique issues in the field. This clarification will redefine the process for using alternate BMPs in order to overcome delays in solving these field issues.

**DETAILS:**

**DCM Volume 2**

**7.4.5 Use of Alternative, Proprietary or Innovative Sediment and Erosion Control (Temporary) BMPs**

The toolbox of sediment and erosion control BMPs continues to expand with alternative and innovative BMPs that become available. Many of these temporary BMPs may prove to be effective and potentially even exceed the performance of the City approved BMPs. In recognition of this, the MS4 permittee may allow the implementation of temporary erosion and sediment BMPs beyond those available in the DCM, V2. Alternative or innovative temporary BMPs will be used on a limited scale and be evaluated as a pilot program.

Requests to use alternative or innovative temporary BMPs must be submitted with the Erosion and Stormwater Quality Control Plan. To facilitate discussions and expedite the process, it would be helpful for the project proponent and MS4 permittee to have initial discussions on the proposed temporary BMP prior to submitting the Erosion and Stormwater Quality Control Plan. The proposed BMP(s) must be clearly identified as a proposed pilot BMP on the plan and adequate evidence must be given that demonstrates that the BMP will effectively control sediment and/or erosion. The plan must include complete design details, comprehensive installation and maintenance details, and cost estimates for financial assurance calculations. The MS4 permittee may request additional information to evaluate the use of this BMP. The information submitted will be used to determine if a pilot program will be allowed.

The City of Colorado Springs reserves the right to deny the use of any proposed BMP. Pilot programs will not exceed 12 months in duration. Financial assurances are required for the pilot BMPs and maintenance of the BMPs.

Removal of alternative or innovative temporary BMPs may be required if the BMPs fail to perform adequately in the field. In this situation, installation of other recommended BMPs found in the Drainage Criteria Manual, Volume 2 will be required to control erosion and sediment on the site and the Erosion and Stormwater Quality Control Plan must be updated to reflect the BMP changes. Modifications to correct deficiencies shall be made immediately with the inspector verifying the changes at the follow-up inspection.

Successfully implemented alternative or innovative BMPs will be considered after thorough evaluation for possible inclusion in the list of recommended BMPs with future revisions to the Drainage Criteria Manual, Volume 2. The City of Colorado Springs also reserves the right to remove recommended BMPs if in the future it is determined that they are not providing adequate protection.

**POLICY:**

In addition to the procedure defined in DCM Volume 2 Chapter 7.4.5, the Erosion Control Contractor may coordinate with the City Erosion Control Inspector to implement an alternate BMP. The secondary process for adding an alternate BMP into the Pilot Program is as follows:

- Step 1: Erosion Control Contractor submits a legible detail of the proposed alternate to their Erosion Control Inspector.
- Step 2: The area inspector will review the proposed alternate with the Erosion Control Inspection Manager.
- Step 3: The Inspection Manager will either approve or deny the use of the submitted alternative. If the proposed alternate is not approved by the Inspection Manager then no further action is required.
- Step 4: If the proposed alternate is approved, the detail will be scanned and emailed to the appropriate area Plan Review Engineer for review.
- Step 5: The area Plan Review Engineer will review the detail within 2 business days and return any comments to Erosion Control Inspection Manager via email.
- Step 6: The comments will pass from the Erosion Control Inspection Manager to the Area Inspector and to the Erosion Control Contractor.
- Step 7: Once the comments are addressed and the alternate is resubmitted the detail will begin the “trial period.”
- Step 8: Upon completion of the trial period the detail will be approved for use as an alternate and made available on the WRED website.