

# IMPORTANT

TO: DEVELOPER, APPLICANT AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

This letter is to inform you of the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District policy and procedures on various items that may concern you. We hope this information will be of help to you in avoiding any confusion or misunderstandings.

**REPORTS OF COMPLIANCE:** These are issued when a site or individual lot is permanently stabilized. Permanent stabilization means that the entire project area or lot is final graded, topsoiled, limed, fertilized, seeded and mulched. All other items specified in the certified Soil Erosion and Sediment Control plan (swales, rip-rap, special grading, etc.) must also be completed. Individual lots must also have driveways either paved or stabilized with stone.

**TOPSOILING:** Areas to be seeded should have a minimum of 5" of topsoil free of objectionable stones and debris.

**FINAL GRADING:** Grading is to be smooth of ruts and free of objectionable stones, depressions and rough edges.

**PERMANENT SEEDING:** All areas are to be limed and fertilized as per plan specifications. The seed mixture is to consist of perennial lawn type seed. Mixtures are specified in your plan. Seed mixtures that have a high percentage of **annual seed** (annual ryegrass, etc.), sometimes labeled "contractors mix:" **are not acceptable.** Certified seed is to be used. The **seed, fertilizer, lime, etc. labels/slips are to be saved**, so that the District can verify the mixture and the application rates. These labels/slips may need to be presented at the time of the compliance inspection.

**HYDROSEEDING/HYDROMULCHING:** These are not acceptable practices in Hunterdon County due to the high failure rate of seedings, steep topography, poor seed to soil contact and poor ground surface coverage. **All seed must be incorporated into the soil.** Hydroseeding equipment may be used in conjunction with straw/hay mulch for the purpose of anchoring the mulch with liquid mulch binders.

**MULCH:** All seedings (permanent or temporary) are to be mulched with **straw or hay.** This mulch is to be applied at a rate of **1 ½ to 2 tons per acre** (approximately 100-130 bales/ acre) in order to achieve a minimum of 90 percent ground surface coverage.

**MULCH ANCHORING:** All mulch must be anchored immediately after mulching to minimize loss by wind or water. This is to be done by one of the methods (crimping, liquid mulch binders, netting, etc.) in the "Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in New Jersey". If the mulch washes or blows off the seeding prior to District inspection, it will not pass. **You are responsible to see that the mulch is properly anchored.**

**WEEDY AND POORLY VEGETATED AREA:** (If applicable) any area with **less than 75 percent perennial grass cover** must receive permanent stabilization (as specified above), if they are within the property boundaries of the project or lot. These areas must be properly scarified prior to seeding to assure seed to soil contact.

**COMPLIANCE INSPECTION:** You are responsible for calling the District office to schedule a compliance inspection, a minimum of **2 working days in advance** (4 to 5 days would be appreciated). We cannot guarantee an inspection if less scheduling notice is given. You are also responsible for canceling inspections if work (stabilization) is not 100 per cent completed, or act of nature (rain, wind, etc.) has disrupted stabilization efforts. **A \$125 reinspection fee** will be assessed for each additional inspection required until the project or lot is stabilized satisfactorily. When an inspection is requested for an individual lot in a project, the remaining project area will be looked at for deficiencies in following the **Erosion and Sediment Control Practices**, such as tracking pads, inlet protection, keeping roads clean of sediment, silt fence, etc. will constitute a **compliance failure on the requested individual lot.**

**TEMPORARY REPORTS OF COMPLIANCE:** The District accepts seedings (permanent stabilization) at all times of the year as long as the lot/project area can be properly final graded. **When seeding out of the optimal seeding periods** (March 1 - May 15 or August 15 – Oct. 1), seeding rates are to be **increased by 50 percent.** If the lot can not be permanently stabilized to District specifications, a **temporary report of compliance** is issued when a **cash performance guarantee** is posted to assure and guarantee stabilization **when winter months, wet conditions, or other factors prevent permanent stabilization.** The cash bond amount plus an administration fee is determined by the District Board, and is based on the amount of acres disturbed (one acre being the minimum and rounded to the nearest acre thereafter). **Bonding is only for stabilization.** If topsoil cannot be spread over the disturbed area, the bond amount is to be increased to 2 times. Permanent improvements such as riprap, piping, paving, etc. cannot be bonded. If not permanently stabilized, the disturbed acreage must be mulched (as a minimum) and maintained throughout the winter months as a **temporary stabilization practice.** Other practices (silt fence, hay bales, etc.) may also be required if field conditions warrant.

**You are encouraged to get as much site/lot stabilization as possible completed during favorable weather.**

We hope this letter will help you in planning. Do not hesitate to call the District office if you have any questions.

Revised October 2010