Control of Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollutants or Contaminants

Minimizing impacts to water, watersheds, and plan and animal habitat is a necessary part of ensuring a sustainable system. Additionally various federal and state laws and agencies provide special requirements for protection of environmental resources.

The Clean Water Program Unit of the Office of Maintenance performs several functions related to this subject including:

- Acting as liaison between ODOT, regulatory agencies, and other entities.
- Working with involved and affected units and parties to develop acceptable guidelines, practices, and procedures.
- Working with the Region Environmental Coordinators, District Managers, and others.
- Periodically reviewing or participating in reviews of ODOT practices regarding this subject.

ODOT has enhanced its Project Delivery program to include actions and activities that support and implement the involved laws, regulations, plans, and other requirements.

ODOT must also plan and perform the activities involved in the Maintenance program in a manner that also supports and implements the involved laws, regulations, plans, and other requirements. This may also include monitoring non-point source pollution, resulting from operation and existence of the state highway system, and developing and implementing feasible containment or reduction of non-point source pollution.

ODOT prepares an annual report, that is sent to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, that lists ODOT's actions and accomplishments that relate to the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. Portions of that report, that may involve the Maintenance program, address:

- Investigations of complaints, received from or by ODOT staff or others, on potential impacts to the environment related to maintenance activities. The report will include information on the basis of each complaint, results of investigation done by ODOT and others, and resolution of the issue or recommendations.
- Investigations of illicit discharges to ODOT rights of way or drainage pipes.
- Modifications of, or improvements to, any minimization/avoidance actions.

The Transportation Maintenance Manager must assure that lead workers and workers, before they start a work activity, are familiar with practices and concerns identified in those documents and other appropriate practices to control erosion, sedimentation, and pollutants or contaminants and will implement appropriate measures to accomplish that objective.

The District Manager must assure that all maintenance activities in the District utilize appropriate and acceptable measures to control erosion, sediment, and pollutants or contaminants, as well as to minimize impacts to the environment and habitat.

The Region Manager must assure that all activities in the Region meet those same criteria.

Terms, such as “where feasible”, “where appropriate”, and “where practicable” are used in the *ODOT Routine Road Maintenance Water Quality and Habitat Guide Best Management Practices* and *ODOT Emergency/Urgency Maintenance Best Management Practices User's Guide*. These phrases do not allow ODOT to minimize its activities for convenience or ease of operation. The phrases, however, allow some exercise of professional judgment in prioritizing activities within constraints, including weather, equipment and processes, safety of ODOT employees and motorists, physical or topographical restrictions, and applicable laws, while still acceptably controlling erosion, sedimentation, and pollutants or contaminants and minimizing impacts to the environment and habitat.

Endangered Species

The District Manager has a *Resource Area Map* that identifies the areas where endangered species may be located as well as general restrictions on activities in those areas. The District Manager should work with the Region Environmental Coordinator to assure that the *Resource Area Map* reflects current situations.

The Transportation Maintenance Manager and the District Manager must be aware of endangered species within the area or District. The Transportation Maintenance Manager and the District Manager must plan and accomplish activities in the area and District in a manner that accommodates the restrictions and requirements for the endangered species. They should seek advice and guidance from the Region Environmental Coordinator.

Control of Pollutants or Contaminants at Crash/Incident Scenes

Refer to discussion and guidance on this subject in the Emergency Operations/Incident Response section of this Guide.

Control of Other Pollutants or Contaminants

The District Manager and the Transportation Maintenance Manager must also develop and implement appropriate practices to prevent or contain spills or leakage of potential pollutants or contaminants. The spills or leakage could occur during transport, storage, use, etc. of the material.

Potential pollutants or contaminants include, but are not limited to:

- Fuels or other petroleum products, including leakage from containers or equipment;
- Insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, including leakage from containers or application device;
- Asphalt and other bituminous products;
- Paints, thinners, etc;
- Antifreeze; or
- Other materials that may damage water quality, the environment, etc.

The ODOT *Hydraulics Manual*, *Volume 2-Erosion and Sediment Control*, also discussed below, describes some practices and devices to help contain a potential spill or leakage.

Supplies in Vehicles for Controlling Spills

Refer to the discussion in the Equipment section of this Guide on this subject.

ODOT employees are generally not trained to control and clean up cargo spills of hazardous material that are encountered on the job. Some employees have plug and patch certification limited to containing operating fluids of vehicles.

Because of limited space in vehicles to carry items, few ODOT vehicles will carry supplies needed to control spills. If the operator of an ODOT encounters a spill situation, the operator should contact the Transportation Operations Center (TOC) to report the incident and request assistance. If employees are certified to plug and patch and if appropriate supplies are available, employees may contain leaking operating fluids.

Control of Erosion and Sedimentation

ODOT also has published its *Hydraulics Manual, Volume 2-Erosion and Sediment Control* and an accompanying *Field Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control*. Although these documents were prepared for the Project Delivery program, much of the information, especially Chapters 2 and 3 of each manual, are also of interest and use to the Maintenance program.

If a maintenance activity involves or requires the installation of devices to control erosion or sedimentation, the Transportation Maintenance Manager and the lead worker of the activity should have access to, or a copy of, the *Field Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control* for information on how to install and maintain the needed devices.

The District Manager and Transportation Maintenance Manager should refer to those manuals before starting operations that may cause erosion or sedimentation. Although many of those practices may also be used to control pollutants or contaminants, different practices may be required. Contact the Region Environmental Coordinator for advice and assistance. Be sure to:

- Define and develop appropriate control measures and practices before starting any operation.
- Assure that appropriate control measures and practices are implemented.
- Periodically review the operations, including the control measures and practices, to assure that potential erosion, sedimentation, and other pollutants or contaminants are or will be adequately controlled.
- As needed, modify the control measures and practices for local conditions and situations.
- As appropriate, continue to monitor the measures and practices, even after the operation is complete, to assure appropriate control until permanent controls are implemented and established or until controls are no longer necessary.

Work in Water, Waterways, or Ditches

Before allowing any maintenance work to begin in any water, waterway, or ditch, the District Manager must determine whether a permit is required from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) or the Oregon Division of State Lands (DSL).

See discussion and direction in the *ODOT Routine Road Maintenance Water Quality and Habitat Guide Best Management Practices*. Request assistance from the Region Environmental Coordinator as necessary.

Permits for Emergency Highway Repairs

This is addressed in the *ODOT Routine Road Maintenance Water Quality and Habitat Guide Best Management Practices* and *ODOT Emergency/Urgency Maintenance Best Management Practices User's Guide*.

The District Manager must obtain proper approvals and make proper notifications as required. Seek assistance from the Region Environmental Coordinator as necessary.

Also notify the Region Manager and Region Maintenance and Operations Manager as appropriate.