

## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Environmental Clearances Information Summary

**PURPOSE** - This summary is intended to inform entities external to CDOT that may be entering the state highway right-of-way to perform work related to their own facilities (such as Utility, Special Use or Access Permittees), about some of the more commonly encountered environmental permits/clearances that may apply to their activities. This listing is not all-inclusive—additional environmental or cultural resource permits/clearances may be required in certain instances. Appropriate local, state and federal agencies should be contacted for additional information if there is any uncertainty about what permits/clearances are required for a specific activity. **IMPORTANT: Please Review The Following Information Carefully – Failure to Comply With Regulatory Requirements May Result In Suspension or Revocation of Your CDOT Permit, Or Enforcement Actions By Other Agencies.**

**CLEARANCE CONTACTS** - As indicated in the permit/clearance descriptions listed below, the following agencies may be contacted for additional information:

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE): General Information – (303) 692-2000  
Water Quality Control Division (WQCD): (303) 692-3500  
Environmental Permitting Website <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/all-permits>
- CDOT Water Quality Program Manager: (303) 512-4053 <https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality>
- CDOT Asbestos Project Manager: (303) 512-5519
- Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation: (303) 866-5216
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Regulatory Offices:  
Omaha District (Northeastern CO), Denver Office (303) 979-4120  
<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram/Colorado.aspx>  
Sacramento District (Western CO), Grand Junction Office (970) 243-1199  
<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>  
Albuquerque District (Southeastern CO), Pueblo Office (719) 543-9459  
<http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgramandPermits.aspx>
- CDOT Utilities, Special Use and Access Permitting: (303) 757-9654 <https://www.codot.gov/business/permits>

**Wildlife Resources** - Disturbance of wildlife shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Entry into areas of known or suspected threatened or endangered species habitat requires special authorization from the CDOT permitting office. If any threatened or endangered species are encountered during the progress of the permitted work, work in the subject area shall be halted and the CDOT Regional Permitting Office and Region Planning and Environmental Manager shall be contacted immediately. Authorization must be provided by CDOT prior to the continuation of work. Information about threatened or endangered species may be obtained from the CDOT website, <http://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/wildlife/guidelines>, or the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) website, <http://www.cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/SOC-ThreatenedEndangeredList.aspx>. Additional guidance may be provided by the appropriate Region Planning and Environmental Manager (RPEM).

**Cultural Resources** - The applicant must request a file search of the permit area through the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP), Denver, to ascertain if historic or archaeological resources have previously been identified (<https://www.historycolorado.org/file-access>; 303-866-5216). Inventory of the permit area by a qualified cultural resources specialist may be necessary, per the recommendation of CDOT. If archaeological sites/artifacts or historic resources are encountered as the project progresses, all work in the subject area shall be halted and the CDOT Regional Permitting Office and Region Planning and Environmental Manager shall be contacted immediately. Authorization must be provided by CDOT prior to the continuation of work. Additional guidance may be provided by the Regional Permitting Office and RPEM.

**Paleontological Resources** - The level of effort required for paleontological resources is dependent on the amount of ground disturbance, including rock scaling, digging, trenching, boring, ground leveling, and similar activities.

- If the permit will involve extensive ground disturbance (generally involving more than one mile of CDOT ROW), a full review will be required by a qualified paleontologist, including map, file, and locality searches, with final recommendations provided by the CDOT paleontologist upon receipt of the report. Based on results of the review, a survey or inventory of the permit area may be necessary.
- If the permit will involve a small amount of ground disturbance (less than one mile of ROW), the applicant must request a fossil locality search through the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History (<https://www.colorado.edu/cumuseum/research-collections/paleontology/policies-procedure>) and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (<https://www.dmns.org/science/earth-sciences/earth-sciences-collections/>). The museum collections manager will provide information about localities in the project area. If there are no known localities, the permit requirement for paleontology is complete upon submitting that information to CDOT. If there are known localities, the CDOT paleontologist will be contacted by the museum with details, and additional recommendations will be made if necessary. Note that museum staff are not required to disclose the details of fossil localities to the permit applicant, nor is detailed locality information required for the permit application to proceed.
- If the permit does not involve ground disturbance, no action is required for paleontological resources. If fossils are encountered during the permitted action, all work in the immediate area of the find should stop and the CDOT Staff Paleontologist and the Region Environmental Manager should be contacted immediately. Authorization must be provided by CDOT prior to the continuation of work. Additional guidance may be provided by the Regional Permitting Office in the Permit Special Provisions. Contact Information: See the museum websites listed above. The CDOT Paleontologist is not able to conduct locality searches independently. For further information contact CDOT Paleontologist Nicole Peavey at [nicole.peavey@state.co.us](mailto:nicole.peavey@state.co.us) or (303) 757-9632.

**Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste** - The Solid Wastes Disposal Sites and Facilities Act C.R.S. 30-20-100, et al, and Regulations Pertaining to Solid Waste Disposal Sites and Facilities (6 CCR 1007-2), prohibit solid waste disposal without an approved Certificate of Designation (a landfill permit). The Colorado Hazardous Waste Act C.R.S. 25-15-301 et al, and the Colorado Hazardous Waste Regulations (6 CCR 1007-3) prohibit the transfer, storage or disposal (TSD) of hazardous waste except at permitted TSD sites. There are no permitted landfills or TSD sites within the State Highway Right of Way. Therefore, all solid or hazardous wastes that might be generated by the activities of entities entering the State Highway Right of Way must be removed from the ROW and disposed of at a permitted facility or designated collection point (e.g., for solid waste, a utility or construction company's own dumpster). If pre-existing solid waste or hazardous materials contamination (including oil or petroleum contaminated soil, asbestos, chemicals, mine tailings, etc.) is encountered during the performance of work, the permittee shall halt work in the affected area and immediately contact the CDOT Regional Permitting Office for direction as to how to proceed.  
**Contact Information:** Theresa Santangelo-Dreiling, CDOT Hazardous Materials Management Supervisor: (303) 512-5524.

**Asbestos Containing Materials, Asbestos Contaminated Soil** - All work on asbestos containing materials (ACM) must comply with the applicable requirements of the CDPHE Air Pollution Control Division's (APCD) Regulation 8. Disposal of ACM, and work done in asbestos-contaminated soil, must comply with the CDPHE Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division's (HMWMD) Solid Waste Regulations. The application for any CDOT permit must specifically identify any ACM involved in the work for which authorization is being requested. Additional guidance or requirements may be specified in the permit special provisions.  
**Contact Info:** CDPHE APCD and HMWMD Regulations can be accessed via the CDPHE Environmental Permitting Website listed above. Additional information **concerning clearance on CDOT projects** is available from the CDOT Asbestos Project Manager (303) 949-2729, or Theresa Santangelo-Dreiling, Hazardous Materials Management Supervisor: (303) 512-5524.

**Transportation of Hazardous Materials** - No person may offer or accept a hazardous material for transportation in commerce unless that person is registered in conformance with the United States Department of Transportation regulations at 49 CFR, Part 171. The hazardous material must be properly classed, described, packaged, marked, labeled, and in condition for shipment as required or authorized by applicable requirements, or an exemption, approval or registration has been issued. Vehicles requiring a placard, must obtain authorization and a State HAZMAT Permit from the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. **Contact Information:** For authorization and more info call the Federal Motor Safety Carrier Administration, US DOT for inter- and intra-state HAZMAT Registration (303) 969-6748. Colorado Public Utilities Commission: (303) 894-2868.

**Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material – 404 Permits Administered By the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Section 401 Water Quality Certifications Issued by the CDPHE WQCD** - Clean Water Act section 404 permits are often required for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Several types of section 404 permits exist, including nationwide, regional general, and individual permits. Nationwide permits are the most commonly authorized type for activities with relatively minor impacts. If an individual 404 permit is required, section 401 water quality certification from the CDPHE WQCD is also required. Contact the appropriate Corps District Regulatory Office for information about what type of 404 permit may be required (contact information above). Contact the CDPHE Water Quality Control Division at (303) 692-3500.

**Working on or in any stream or its bank** - In order to protect and preserve the state's fish and wildlife resources from actions that may obstruct, diminish, destroy, change, modify, or vary a natural existing stream or its banks or tributaries, it may be necessary to obtain a Senate Bill 40 certification from the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. A stream is defined as 1) represented by a solid blue line on USGS 7.5' quadrangle maps; and/or 2) intermittent streams providing live water beneficial to fish and wildlife; and/or 3) segments of streams supporting 25% or more cover within 100 yards upstream or downstream of the project; and/or 4) segments of streams having wetlands present within 200 yards upstream or downstream of the project measured by valley length. The CPW application, as per guidelines agreed upon by CDOT and CPW, can be accessed at <https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/wildlife/guidelines>.

**Erosion and Sediment Control Practices** - Any activities that disturb one or more acres of land require a Stormwater Construction Permit (SCP) from the CDPHE-WQCD. Erosion & sediment control requirements will be specified in that permit. In situations where a stormwater permit is *not* required, all reasonable erosion and sediment control measures should be taken to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Control practices should be in accordance with CDOT Standard Specifications 107.25, 208, 213 and 216 (<https://www.codot.gov/business/designsupport/cdot-construction-specifications>). The CDOT Erosion Control and Stormwater Quality Guide (website: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/landscape-architecture/erosion-storm-quality>) can also be used to design erosion/sediment controls. **Contact Information:** Contact the CDPHE-WQCD at (303) 692-3500. Website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-construction-general-permits>

**Site Stabilization** - All disturbances require a stabilization plan, native seeding or landscape design plan according to applicable CDOT Standard Specifications 212-217 and 623. The CDOT Erosion Control and Stormwater Quality Guide should also be used to plan restoration of disturbed vegetation. Website: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/landscape-architecture/erosion-storm-quality>

**Stormwater Discharge From Industrial Facilities** - Discharges of stormwater runoff from certain types of industrial facilities, such as concrete batch plants - require a CDPS Stormwater Permit. **Contact Information:** Contact the CDPHE-WQCD at (303) 692-3500. Website: <https://colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-commerce-and-industry-permits>

**Concrete Washout** - Waste generated from concrete activities shall NOT be allowed to flow into the drainage ways, inlets, receiving waters, or in the CDOT ROW. Concrete waste shall be placed in a temporary concrete washout facility and must be located a minimum of 50 feet from state waters, drainageways, and inlets. Concrete washout shall be in accordance to CDOT specifications and guidelines at <https://www.codot.gov/business/designsupport/cdot-construction-specifications> and refer to the specifications and their revisions for sections 101, 107 and 208.

**Construction Dewatering (Discharge or Infiltration) and Remediation Activities** - Discharges of water encountered during excavation or work in wet areas may require a Construction Dewatering or Remediation Activities Discharge Permit. **Contact**

**Information:** Contact the CDPHE-WQCD at (303) 692-3500. For Applications and Instructions: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-construction-general-permits>.

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Requirements** - When working in a MS4 area, discharges to the storm sewer system are subject to CDOT's or other municipalities' MS4 Permit. For activities within the boundaries of a municipality that has a MS4 permit, the owner of such activity should contact the municipality regarding stormwater related requirements. All discharges to the CDOT highway drainage system or within the Right of Way (ROW) must comply with the applicable provisions of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act, the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) Regulations (<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wqcc-regulations-and-policies-and-water-quality-statutes>) and the CDOT MS4 Permit #COS-000005 (<https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/documents>). Discharges are subject to inspection by CDOT and CDPHE. For CDOT-related MS4 programs and requirements, go to: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs>.

**Post-Construction Permanent Water Quality** - When working in a CDOT MS4 area and the activity disturbs one or more acres, permanent water quality control measures may be required. Information on the requirements can be found under the CDOT Permanent Water Quality MS4 Program at: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs/pwq-permanent-water-quality>

### **Discharges to Storm Sewer Systems**

**Prohibited Discharges** - All discharges are subject to the provisions of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act and the Colorado Discharge Permit Regulations. Prohibited discharges include, but are not limited to, substances such as wash water, paint, automotive fluids, solvents, oils or soaps and sediment.

**Allowable Discharges** - The following discharges to stormwater systems are allowed without a permit from the CDPHE-WQCD: landscape irrigation, diverted stream flows, uncontaminated ground water infiltration to separate storm sewers, discharges from potable water sources, foundation drains, air conditioning condensation, irrigation water, uncontaminated springs, footing drains, water line flushing, flows from riparian habitats and wetlands, and flow from firefighting activities. **Contact Information:** Contact the CDPHE-WQCD at (303) 692-3500. Information can also be found in the CDOT Illicit Discharge MS4 Program PDD at: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs/idde.html>.

**Spill Reporting** - Spills shall be contained and cleaned up as soon as possible. Spills shall NOT be washed down into the storm drain or buried. All spills shall be reported to the CDOT Illicit Discharge Hotline at (303) 512-4426 (4H20), as well as the Regional Permitting Office and Regional Maintenance Supervisor. Spills on highways, into waterways, any spill in the highway right-of-way exceeding 25 gallons, or that may otherwise present an immediate danger to the public shall be reported by calling 911, and shall also be reported to the CDPHE at 1-877-518-5608. More information can be found at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/emergency-reporting-line>.

**Disposal of Drilling Fluids** - Drilling fluids used in operations such as Horizontal Directional Drilling may be classified as "discharges" or "solid wastes," and in general, should be pumped or vacuumed from the construction area, removed from the State Highway Right of Way, and disposed of at permitted facilities that specifically accept such wastes. Disposal of drilling fluids into storm drains, storm sewers, roadside ditches or any other type of man-made or natural waterway is prohibited by Water Quality Control and/or Solid Waste regulations. Small quantities of drilling fluid solids (less than 1 cubic yard of solids) may be left on-site after either being separated from fluids or after infiltration of the water, provided: 1) the drilling fluid consists of only water and bentonite clay, or, if required for proper drilling properties, small quantities of polymer additives that are approved for use in drinking water well drilling; 2) the solids are fully contained in a pit, and are not likely to pose a nuisance to future work in the area, 3) the solids are covered and the area restored as required by CDOT permit requirements (Utility, Special Use, or Access Permits, etc.). **Contact Information:** Contact CDPHE (telephone #'s listed above).

**Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species Management Plan** - Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species guidance can be found by contacting the Colorado Department of Agriculture (<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/noxiousweeds>) and the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (<http://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/RS-NoxiousWeeds.aspx>). In either case, management plans involving the control of noxious weeds associated with the permitted activity and cleaning of equipment will be required.