

## 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 individuals or agencies may be contacted for additional information:

- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE): General Information – (303) 692-2035  
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) 757-9343 <https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality>
- CDOT Asbestos Project Manager: Phil Kangas, (303) 512-5519
- Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation: (303) 866-5216
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, District Regulatory Offices:  
Omaha District (NE CO), Denver Office (303) 979-4120  
<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram/Colorado.aspx>  
Sacramento Dist. (Western CO), Grand Junction Office (970) 243-1199  
<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>  
Albuquerque District (SE 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 will require 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 (OAH), Denver, to ascertain if historic or archaeological resources have previously been identified (<http://www.historycolorado.org/oahp/file-search>). 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 known to exist prior to the initiation of the permitted work or 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. **Contact Information:** Contact the OAH for file searches at (303) 866-5216.

**Paleontological Resources** - The applicant must request a fossil locality file search through the University of Colorado Museum, Boulder (<https://cumuseum.colorado.edu/research/paleontology/vertebrates/policies>), and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (<http://www.dmns.org/science/collections/earth-science-collections/>) to ascertain if paleontological resources have been previously identified in or near the permit area. Inventory of the permit area by a qualified paleontologist may be necessary, per the recommendation of CDOT. If fossils are encountered during the permitted work, 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 in the Permit Special Provisions. **Contact Information:** See the museum websites listed above for Paleontological Collections Manager contact information. Contact the CDOT Paleontologist for further information at [nicole.peavey@state.co.us](mailto:nicole.peavey@state.co.us) or (303) 757-9632. The CDOT Paleontologist will not conduct a comprehensive file search independently of the museums.

**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) 512-5519, 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** - Corps of Engineers 404 permits are required for the discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States, including wetlands. There are various types of 404 permits, including nationwide permits, which are issued for activities with relatively minor impacts. For example, there is a nationwide permit for utility line activities (nwp #12). Depending upon the specific circumstances, it is possible that either a “general” or “individual” 404 permit would be required. 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>.

**Stormwater Construction Permit (SCP) and Stormwater Discharge From Industrial Facilities** - Discharges of stormwater runoff from construction sites disturbing one acre or more - or certain types of industrial facilities, such as concrete batch plants - require a CDPS Stormwater Permit. **Contact Information:** Contact the CDPHE Water Quality Control Division at (303) 692-3500. Website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-construction-general-permits> and <https://colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-commerce-and-industry-permits>.

**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:** For Construction Dewatering and Remediation Activities Discharge Permits, contact the CDPHE WQCD at (303) 692-3500. For Applications and Instructions (CDPHE website): <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-construction-general-permits>.

**Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharge Permit** - Discharges from the storm sewer systems of larger municipalities, and from the CDOT highway drainage system that lies within those municipalities, are subject to MS4 Permits issued by the CDPHE WQCD. For facilities that lie within the boundaries of a municipality that is subject to an MS4 permit, the owner of such facility should contact the municipality regarding stormwater related clearances that may have been established under that municipality’s MS4 permit. 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. Contact the CDPHE Water Quality Control Division at (303) 692-3500 for a listing of municipalities required to obtain MS4 Permits, or go to <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-municipal-ms4-permits>. For CDOT-related MS4 regulations, go to: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs.html>.

**General Prohibition – 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. **Contact Information:** Contact the CDPHE Water Quality Control Division at (303) 692-3500.

**General Authorization - Allowable Non-Stormwater Discharges** - Unless otherwise identified by CDOT or the WQCD as significant sources of pollutants to the waters of the State, the following discharges to stormwater systems are allowed without a Colorado Discharge Permit System permit: 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. Allowable non-stormwater discharges can be found under Illicit Discharge PDD at: <https://www.codot.gov/programs/environmental/water-quality/stormwater-programs.html>. **Contact Information:** The CDPHE Water Quality Control Division (telephone #'s listed above).

**Erosion and Sediment Control Practices** - For activities requiring a Stormwater Construction Permit, erosion control requirements will be specified in that permit. In situations where a stormwater permit is not required, all reasonable measures should be taken to minimize erosion and sedimentation according to CDOT Standard Specifications 107.25, 208, 213 and 216 (<https://www.codot.gov/business/designsupport/2011-construction-specifications/2011-Specs/2011-specs-book>). 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 (available from the Bid Plans Office at (303) 757-9313) should be used to design erosion controls and restore disturbed vegetation.

**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.

**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 only be performed as specified by the CDOT Environmental Program and shall be in accordance to CDOT specifications and guidelines. **Contact Information:** Contact CDPHE or find additional information on the CDOT website: <https://www.codot.gov/business/designsupport/2011-construction-specifications/2011-Specs> and refer to the specifications and their revisions for sections 101, 107 and 208.

**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) 512-4446 (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>.

**About This Form** - Questions or comments about this Information Summary may be directed to Alex Karami, Program Administrator, CDOT Access Management Unit, at (303) 757-9841, [alex.karami@state.co.us](mailto:alex.karami@state.co.us).