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CIVIL SOLUTIONS

Engineering news that affects your business now

4th Quarter-2009



Dear Tony,

We hope you'll enjoy and value this edition of *Civil Solutions*, a quarterly e-newsletter designed to help keep you in touch with engineering issues that affect your business. If you have suggestions on subjects you'd like to know more about, contact us, and we'd be glad to cover it here.

-John Davel, President

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The Davel Team

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Staying on Top of Runoff Management Regs

What You Need to Know

The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources board considered revisions to NR 151, the code that governs runoff management at their October Board meeting. Timing of the implementation of the proposed changes has not yet been determined. These rules affect land owners, contractors or developers who are responsible for construction sites.

The most significant change affecting my clients, in my opinion, involves the redevelopment of parking lots and internal roadways. Previously, if the project was to reconstruct the pavement of an existing lot or drives and involved no additional impervious area, the project was considered exempt from the storm water runoff performance standards. Under the new rule, the exemption is eliminated and the project would need to

achieve a 50% reduction in total suspended solid (TSS) in runoff leaving the site. This will require many existing sites to develop runoff treatment practices such as wet detention ponds, biofilters, grassed swales, and other treatment devices, when they need to repave.

Other changes include:

- The 80% removal standard for TSS is being revised to 5 tons per acre per year.
- Peak Flow controls will now need to consider the 1 year storm as well as the 2 year storm.
- Infiltration requirements are being revised to correspond to 3 levels of connected impervious conditions.
- Protective areas for certain high quality wetlands are being increased from 50 to 75 feet.

Reporting and record keeping requirements are staying the same.

Coincidentally, but not directly related to the NR151 rule changes, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will, **as of January 1, 2010**, be responsible for issuing Storm Water Discharge Permits for commercial building sites. Previously, the DNR was responsible for projects that involved site work only. If a building was involved, the Department of Commerce (DOC) was the authority for Storm Water.

Staying on top of rules changes ensures that our plans conform to the new rules when implemented, and protects our clients from unnecessary surprises.

Economic Update

Report Shows Local Recovery Underway

Signs of a slow economic recovery are appearing in the Fox Cities, though the jobless rate remains high.

MSNBC and Moody's Economy.com's Adversity Index for August were released two weeks ago. Economic indicators for Appleton and Oshkosh-Neenah show the area emerging from recession. The index tracks increases and decreases in employment, single family home starts, average home sale prices and industrial production. It measures the economic health of more than 300 metropolitan areas

Moody's data says Appleton's economic strengths include an above-average quality of life, room to expand, low business costs and access to transportation hubs. The benefits of the Oshkosh-Neenah area include the higher learning opportunities through UW-Oshkosh, above average population growth and low cost of living. The Fox Cities' declining manufacturing base is seen by Moody's as the region's primary weakness.

The addition of 500 workers at Oshkosh Corporation and Mercury Marine's decision to consolidate manufacturing operations in the Fox Valley are positive signs for the area. Statistics show, however the trickle down effects of recovery may be slow to reach some.

- Regionally, Sales of existing homes down from 13-17%
- Jobless rate Appleton: 8% Oshkosh-Neenah: 7.6 %

Experts say falling interest rates will have little effect on housing construction industry because it will take time for the oversaturation of homes currently on the market to be sold.

Status of Davel Engineering

Open and Ready for Business

With this tough economy, especially affecting land development, it's no surprise to hear of companies downsizing or going out of business. Recently, I have heard rumors in the business community that Davel Engineering plans to close. Perhaps this rumor was sparked by the For Sale sign on the building, which was related to plans to expand our operation to a new building, I want to set the record straight: Davel Engineering has no plans to close its doors.

While business is not currently what it used to be, we have seen encouraging improvements in the last few months.

In September, Davel Engineering was awarded our first federal contract, an ALTA Survey of General Mitchell Air Reserve Station in Milwaukee. Interestingly, we were not the lowest bidder. We were awarded the contract based on what was perceived to be the "Best Value to the Government," which included an assessment of our proposed schedule, staff expertise and experience as well as price.

Meanwhile, our Estates of Lawsonia subdivision project in Green Lake is under construction and expected to be open by Thanksgiving. We have completed several other small subdivisions this summer. We are currently working on a variety of new projects, including commercial building sites, apartments and small subdivisions.

Despite the economic downturn, we have held on to our staff and are very much open for business. Davel Engineering remains in excellent position to take care of our existing clients and assist new clients interested in moving forward. Thanks for continuing to place your trust and confidence in us.

I hope you enjoyed this latest edition of *Civil Solutions*. If you'd like more information about our firm or our services, please call us at (920) 991-1866 or visit:

www.davelengineering.com

With best wishes for your continued business success,

John Davel
Davel Engineering



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