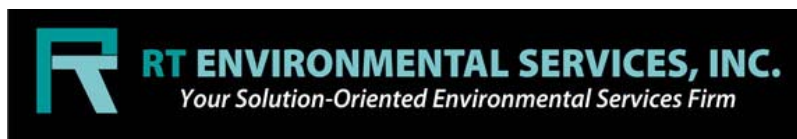


From: Gary R. Brown, P.E. <mtammaro@rtenv.com>

Subject: STORMWATER PERMIT - BUILDERS REQUEST DELAY

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STORMWATER PERMIT - BUILDERS REQUEST DELAY

Press Release

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) officials have requested an EPA delay for finalization of its Construction General Permit (CGP) for stormwater discharges which was to become effective on February 15, 2012.

Separately, EPA announced on Jan. 11 that the agency is seeking updated turbidity data from industry.

The construction industry is urging EPA to take away the turbidity water quality based effluent limit (WQBEL) provision and revise compliance approaches to be more flexible than those proposed in the draft permit, saying the monitoring requirements would be too burdensome. The industry is also asking EPA to provide a more flexible approach to the draft requirement mandating 50-foot buffer zones around waterbodies. For example, NAHB is suggesting that in situations where a full vegetative buffer would be infeasible, EPA could allow Best Management Practices as a substitute.

Industry is further urging EPA to scale back strict stabilization criteria that would establish deadlines for industry to stabilize soil disturbances in sensitive areas, arguing that a seven-day compliance time frame is too restrictive, particularly for very large projects. NAHB suggests that the agency use deadlines as guidance but allow exemptions where difficult weather or other site conditions make timely stabilization difficult.



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