

The following questions were asked at the meeting. Below you will find the question along with GSWCC's official response.

1. Does the Universal Soil Loss Equation have a standard deviation within the test? Kelli Davis (DDD Erosion)

No, there is no standard deviation within the GSWCC's sediment barrier test.

2. How many companies were asked to bid on the testing and how many bids were received?

Larry Booth (Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics)

Five facilities were contacted and two responded with bids. GSWCC followed the State of Georgia's protocol for soliciting a proposal. The request for proposal was put on the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) website.

3. How many labs currently have the capability to do this test? Larry Booth (Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics)

GSWCC is aware of two facilities that can perform the GSWCC's sediment barrier test.

4. Did TRI already have the facility set up to perform the testing? Larry Booth (Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics)

No

5. Was there any round-robin testing done outside of TRI to see if everyone is being consistent?

Eric Booth (Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics)

GSWCC did not conduct any testing outside of TRI.

6. Regarding ASTM testing and procedures, can the test give repeatable results when performed at other testing facilities? ASTM says if you set up your testing along certain guidelines, then repeatable results should be achieved. Did the new test developed by TRI seem to be a good test? In our lab, we tested products and we don't know what the standard deviation would be in repeatability in these tests. If I use your testing method then I have to test 6 units, which costs \$2500 per unit. This is required by NPDES rules to be certified by NTPEP. We have to comply with many requirements from both GA and other states. We are concerned about getting a testing method that is cost prohibitive and that we won't get a new test that has been through a round-robin testing to see if there is deviation between testing facilities. When a new test like this is designed we need to go through that type of deviation to ensure that it applies to all facilities. Larry Booth (Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics)

Repeatability among facilities is an issue that is currently being discussed within ASTM. The GSWCC's sediment barrier test was not developed by TRI.

7. Where did the numbers come from that specify the 90% and 65% runoff from highways? What sets the standard at 90%? How was this calculated? Is the water that comes over the top considered in the testing?

Don Davis (DDD Erosion)

The 90% and 65% refers to the inlet sediment trap (Sd2). The Manual requires that practices used in an unpaved application must meet 90% soil retention and a 65% seepage rate. In paved applications, practices must meet 75% retention and an 85% seepage rate.

The performance criteria is based on the inlet sediment report furnished by TRI

Yes, water that comes over the top is considered in the testing. Please refer to the inlet sediment trap report furnished by TRI.

8. GDOT currently has a testing process that is more prolonged, they can test something consistently. Why can't we do a long period test that is more true to life? Sometimes the results are more accurate this way.

Kelli Davis (DDD Erosion)

GSWCC wanted a test that could be done in a relatively short period of time and that all products would be tested the same way. With field testing, depending on when a test is conducted, first 6 months or last 6 months of the year, products may experience different conditions. GSWCC wanted to have an apples to apples comparison.

9. The height requirement for silt fence is 3 ft. Are all products required to have same height requirement? If you have a 12 inch product that works, can you use it? Keith Harris (Hanes Geo Components)

Height is not the requirement, meeting of the p-factor is. There are several alternatives to the traditional silt fence.

10. Where did p-factor of .030 come from? Who made that scientific determination?

Keith Harris (Hanes Geo Components)

The p-factor is the benchmark standard for sediment barriers. This standard is based on the GSWCC's sediment barrier testing conducted by TRI.

11. Regarding sediment barrier specifications for sensitive and non-sensitive areas, will there be any specifications on post type and size, how it's attached, strength of wire, etc.? Will there be written specifications for this?

Brad McCoy (Gro Green Solutions)

The Manual already specifies certain requirements such as post size and how it is attached. GSWCC would appreciate the manufacturer's input on any additional specifications.

12. Does GDOT want the same types of things as the Commission? Don Davis (DDD Erosion)

GDOT had representation at all the TAC meetings and GSWCC staff just recently met with GDOT staff to further discuss the testing, however GSWCC cannot speak on behalf of GDOT.

13. Regarding apples-to-apples and NTPEP comparison, for geotextiles to be approved through NTPEP, we have to meet certain requirements. I have noticed with previous testing, that all the criteria for textiles were consistent. In the picture with silt fence, there were boards directing sediment to center of fencing. What was the reason for this? Kelli Davis (DDD Erosion)

The picture in question was from the inlet sediment trap testing. The boards were added to make sure there is as little bypass as possible.

14. Does the Commission feel like the current specs are not up to par? I ask this because the new p-factor excludes most all of the products that are currently available. Are you going to set a number for all practices?

Keith Harris (Hanes Geo Components)

GSWCC is moving towards performance standards for product approval and to ultimately improve water quality. The new numbers do not exclude most of the products currently available. GSWCC will not set a p-factor standard for all practices in the Manual.

15. Who will monitor the p-factor on job sites? How often will the testing be required to take place?

Kelli Davis (DDD Erosion)

P-factors are not monitored on job sites. They are used as a benchmark to determine application in the field and as part of an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan which is prepared by a design professional. The inspector on site needs to know what products are approved for these applications, the same way the QPL-36 list is used now.

Manufacturers would have to test once and certify every three years that their product did not change. If changes were made to the product, the manufacturer would have to have product tested again and those test results would need to be submitted to GSWCC.

16. Was UGA aware that they would have all the income from testing coming in once they built a facility? Did they know they would receive all the money from vendors to test their projects? Why not give the money to build a facility at UGA? Robert Page (C-Pop)

In 2000, GSWCC approached UGA about building and operating a testing facility. UGA was interested and GSWCC lobbied in Washington for the money to proceed. The funds were not forthcoming so the project was not able to proceed. UGA was scared of the price tag to get the program started and maintaining it.

17. You approached UGA in 2000. Have they been asked more recently? Wayne Seabolt (Natural Growth Inc.)

GSWCC has not been in contact with UGA since then.

18. Who developed the p-factor test, why was it developed, and how were the minimums created? Will the test give the same results every time? Should testing time be longer than 60 min? Mr. Page is concerned that any testing data collected using previous testing may be ignored and his company will then have to pay for more testing. Mr. Page would like to see consideration of whether a product is appropriate to even be tested before any testing is done. Regarding the alternative backing, previous specifications gave no specifics on different types of backing that can be used. Regarding height minimums, engineers are not comfortable specifying a specific product for jobs. By adopting this standard there will need to be some guidelines. What does the TAC expansion entail? Can the Committee members' background and affiliations be made public? What other states are going to adopt this test? Mr. Page would like to ask that the process be very thorough. He also stated that he was not duly informed of the process. Robert Page (C-Pop)

The p-factor test was modified due to the need for testing sediment barriers consistently. The benchmarks were based on the test results. Limited funding from the grant did not allow for repetitive testing.

TAC member bios are currently on the GSWCC website. As part of GSWCC's re-opening of the Manual (6th edition) and testing procedures for public comment, and in an effort to increase membership on the Technical

Advisory Committee (TAC), GSWCC will be soliciting applications from individuals interested in serving on the TAC to represent various stakeholder groups that have an interest in urban erosion control.

GSWCC staff has been communicating with other states and has received favorable comments.

19. Do not understand p-factor. What is considered a failure with this testing? In the video there were several images of water overtopping the product being tested. Repeatability of performance of fabrics, there is a need for some historical testing data showing how the products work over time since this is the situation while on a job site. Larry Booth (Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics)

P-factor is the practice factor in the RUSLE equation. Not meeting the p-factor for the appropriate application would be considered a failure.

20. Regarding \$6500 for testing, how was a product selected for testing? Where did the Commission get the list of products to choose from to be tested? Wayne Seabolt (Natural Growth Inc.)

The bid instructed the vendor (TRI) to use the GSWCC approved products list from the Manual (5th edition) and randomly select products from the GA DOT QPL-36 list.

21. Were there any connections between any of the board members and products that were tested? Kelli Davis (DDD Erosion)

No, there were no connections to the GSWCC Board members.

22. Were any TAC members connected to any product manufacturers? If so, who? Jeff New (NewGrowth)

There was one member on the TAC, Dr. Britt Faucett, who is employed by Filtrexx Systems.

23. Is there any way to find out how many pounds of dirt were used, how many gallons of water used, etc.? Don Davis (DDD Erosion)

Yes, please refer to the testing procedures.

24. How can you get a green book? Frank Cooley (Natural Growth Inc.)

The Manual can be downloaded from the GSWCC's website (gaswcc.georgia.gov), in Documents, under M.

25. Is p-factor the only thing that is going to be taken in to consideration in Georgia? What about tensile strength requirements? Stated that he thinks p-factor needs to be changed because a lot of people are not familiar with products that have been tested. Several products that were tested were made by the same manufacturer and received several different results. Eric Booth (Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics)

In regards to sediment barriers in the Manual, the p-factor is the only requirement for product approval by GSWCC.

26. Many Departments of Transportation have different installation guidelines, should we use the GDOT or the manufacturer's guidelines for installation? Bob Moran (Belton Industries)

When specified, product installation guidelines in the Manual are to be followed. GDOT's specifications may be more stringent and are to be followed when applicable. Otherwise follow the manufacturer's installation guidelines.

27. From looking at the photos on the PowerPoint presentation, it doesn't look like testing was done as per manufacturers specs. Was it? Don Davis (DDD Erosion)

The bid instructed TRI to follow the Manual's installation specifications.

28. Did you run multiple tests on one product? Keith Harris (Hanes Geo Components)

Sediment barrier products were tested under the 2, 4 and 6 inch rainfall events.

29. Question regarding p-factor, why is there no standard deviation with testing methods and results? Ms. Davis stated that she feels strongly about the fact that there needs to be one. Kelli Davis (DDD Erosion)

The purpose of the grant was to create benchmark standards to approve products.

30. Who did all of the testing on the products before TRI? Was every product tested multiple times on multiple days before the 2/4, rain event done by TRI? Which specific ones were tested? Some type A was tested with no backing and that was approved as a sensitive product, why? Robert Page (C-Pop) Is there documentation regarding this previous testing? Kelli Davis (DDD Erosion)

The GSWCC's sediment barrier test was not conducted prior to grant funding.