

GSWCC Guidance Document for Alternative BMPs

Permit Erosion and Sedimentation Controls:

Use of alternative BMPs whose performance has been documented to be equivalent or superior to conventional BMPs as certified by a Design Professional may be allowed (unless disapproved by EPD or the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission).

Required Documentation for Alternative BMPs:

1. One page summary detailing why the alternative BMP is equivalent or superior to the conventional BMPs found in the “Manual for Erosion and Sedimentation Control in Georgia” (Manual).
2. Documented side by side testing (alternative BMP vs. conventional BMP) using the appropriate design requirements and specifications contained in the Manual.
3. Proof that the alternative BMP was previously installed and worked under conditions comparable to the environmental conditions of the proposed site. This can be documented with photographs.
4. All specifications including the design requirements and the procedures for proper installation and maintenance.

All forms of documentation must be signed and certified by the Design Professional who is preparing the ES&PC Plan and must include the Design Professional’s seal and GSWCC Design Professional certification.

ES&PC Plan

When an ES&PC Plan has been reviewed by the GSWCC, EPD or a Local Issuing Authority (LIA) with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to review ES&PC Plans, the following statement must be on the plan review sheet:

The use of the alternative BMP for _____ (type of BMP, e.g., silt fence Sd1) has been reviewed and has been determined to be allowable only for this ES&PC Plan. This review was site-specific based on the documentation submitted and certified by the Design Professional and required by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If replacing a conventional BMP with an alternative BMP on a previously approved set of ES&PC Plans, does the Design Professional have to resubmit the ES&PC Plans?

A: Yes, the Design Professional must resubmit the ES&PC Plans with the required alternative BMP documentation.

Q: What is meant by equivalent or superior to the conventional BMP found in the Manual?

A: Based on documentation that side by side testing has been conducted under comparable site conditions using the appropriate design requirements and specifications contained in the Manual: The alternative BMP is just as effective in its purpose and meets the same criteria as the conventional BMP in the Manual, OR its effectiveness exceeds those in the Manual for its purpose and meets or exceeds the criteria for the conventional BMP in the Manual for which it is designed to replace.

Q: What if a LIA with MOA wants to deny an alternative BMP?

A: The LIA with the MOA must forward the ES&PC Plan with the required alternative BMP documentation to the GSWCC (Urban Program).

NOTE: In jurisdictions where there is no LIA, the alternative BMP documentation must be submitted to EPD. In jurisdictions where there is a LIA, the alternative BMP documentation must be submitted to the GSWCC. Upon receiving the alternative BMP documentation, the GSWCC and EPD will work together to make the call of disapproval. This will improve communication and ensure coordination throughout the review process.