

Letter of Understanding

Alaska-Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead

Storm Water Training Program

3/20/2020

Purpose

The Alaska Storm Water Steering Committee (ASWSC) proposes clarification on the standards and expectations for the Alaska-Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (AK-CESCL) training courses and certification in light of the COVID-19 virus pandemic. This Letter of Understanding (LOU) identifies guidance and procedures for the AK-CESCL program that supports employers, the workforce, and our communities to move forward with projects as necessary during this public health emergency.

Background

Governor Dunleavy has declared a public health disaster emergency. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and poses a significant public health risk. The number of COVID-19 cases in Alaska is expected to rise into the unforeseeable future.

Following the worldwide COVID-19 virus outbreak, the ASWSC has developed a comprehensive response to support employers, the workforce, and our communities. The ASWSC has developed this LOU as guidance towards an orderly management of the AK-CESCL training and certification program during this pandemic. The ASWSC understands that this program and certification is necessary for the compliance with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Construction General Permit (CGP) for storm water discharges. This LOU summarizes and provides the framework for the instructors, sponsors, and individuals requiring this certification for permit compliance.

Policy and Procedures

All training courses are suspended and not available at this time. The ASWSC anticipate resuming the delivery of training courses after September 30, 2020; however, this date is subject to change. Check the AK-CESCL website for updates.

Current/Active Certified Individuals: For AK-CESCL Certified individuals whose expiration date is between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, the expiration date of your certification (shown on your card and the AK-CESCL website) is being extended one year (365 days) for a total certification period of four years. This means if your current expiration date is March 16, 2020 your new expiration date is March 15, 2021. No new cards will be sent out and certified individuals should retain a copy of this LOU and card as a record of certification in the SWPPP.

New Certification: For individuals new to the AK-CESCL certification program or have an AK-CESCL certification which expired prior to 2020 and who are unable to obtain the necessary certification because of the suspension of the training courses, ASWSC recommends the following:

- Individuals should conduct a comprehensive review of the current CGP (<http://dec.alaska.gov/water>) and AK-CESCL training course materials for the 2-day course and the Instructional videos (<http://ak-cescl.com>) prior to performing CGP site inspections.
- The Permittee must document the inability to comply with the CGP permit requirements (as described in the CGP Page C12 Table 4) via completing a Non-Compliance Form, see DEC's Permittee Self-Reporting Tool website (<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/compliance/permittee/>); documenting the circumstances and submitting the form to DEC Compliance and Enforcement Program within five days of starting the project and retaining a copy of the form in the SWPPP with a copy of this LOU.
- Once training courses have resumed, individuals should schedule and obtain certification at their earliest opportunity.