

CHAPTER 7

ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) is an inventory of the sensitive environmental features that are located on or adjacent to a project site. These features indicate the presence of Resource Protection Areas (RPAs), Resource Management Areas (RMAs), Stream Protection Areas (SPAs), and wetlands that may impact the development project. A completed ESA is a required component of an Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP) and the required ESA form is found on the Henrico County “Erosion and Sediment Control – Standard Notes” plan sheet.

7.2 APPLICABILITY

In accordance with Sec. 10-32 of the Henrico County Code, an ESA is required for all regulated land-disturbing activities. For help determining the land disturbance activity type, please refer to Chapter 3 of this Manual.

7.3 IDENTIFICATION OF ESA COMPONENTS

The information requested on the ESA form is divided into four sections: RPA, RMA, SPA, and Other Environmental Site Information.

7.3.1 RESOURCE PROTECTION AREA

RPAs are the component of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area comprised of sensitive lands adjacent to water bodies with perennial flow that have an intrinsic water quality value due to the ecological and biological processes they perform or are sensitive to impacts which may result in significant degradation to the quality of state waters. RPAs are described in Chapter 6 of this Manual.

The presence of the following features or areas must be identified on the ESA:

- Streams determined to have perennial flow in accordance with Chapter 6 of this Manual;
- Tidal shores (includes lands contiguous to a tidal body of water between the mean low water level and the mean high water level);

- Tidal wetlands (includes vegetated and non-vegetated wetlands as defined in Code of Virginia, 28.2-1300);
- Non-tidal wetlands connected by surface flow and contiguous to tidal wetlands or perennial streams. Non-tidal wetlands must be identified on a site using the Corps' 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual; the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers' Wetland Delineation Manual: Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Region; and the presence of positive indicators of wetland hydrology, hydric soils, and hydric vegetation; and
- Areas within 100 feet of any of the items listed above.

7.3.2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA COMPONENTS

RMAs are the component of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area that is not classified as the Resource Protection Area. It shall include land types that, if improperly used or developed, have a potential for causing significant water quality degradation or for diminishing the functional value of the RPA. RMAs are described in Chapter 6 of this Manual.

The presence of the following features or areas must be identified on the ESA:

- Special flood hazard areas (includes those lands as described in Sec. 10-3 of the Henrico County Code that would be inundated by flood water as a result of a 100-year storm and are contiguous to any of the RPA features listed above);
- Highly erodible soils as defined in Chapter 2 that are contiguous to any of the RPA features listed above;
- Highly permeable soils as defined in Chapter 2 that are contiguous to any of the RPA features listed above;
- Non-tidal wetlands (other than those described above as RPA features); and
- Areas within 100 feet of any of the RPA features listed above.

7.3.3 STREAM PROTECTION AREA COMPONENTS

SPAs are vegetated buffers along intermittent streams that have a drainage area of 100 acres or more. The SPA is 50 feet in width and is applied to each side of the stream channel. SPAs are described in Chapter 6 of this Manual.

The presence of the following features or areas must be identified on the ESA:

- Streams that are determined to have intermittent flow (non-perennial) and drainage areas of 100 acres or more; and
- Areas within 50 feet of an intermittent stream identified above.

7.3.4 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL SITE INFORMATION

- The presence of any water bodies, channels, or wetlands located on the subject site that fall under the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or under the jurisdiction of the Virginia Water Protection Act must be identified on the ESA.
- Impacts to any of these water bodies, channels, or wetlands associated with development or proposed land disturbance must be acknowledged on the ESA.

7.4 LOCATION OF ESA COMPONENTS

In accordance with Sec. 10-33(b) of the Henrico County Code, the locations of all the features noted above that are determined to be present on a site shall be accurately mapped on the ECP.