



What is a Water Protection Ordinance application?

A Water Protection Ordinance (WPO) application, also known as a Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) or Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program (VESCP) application, is required for any land-disturbing activity that is greater than 10,000 square feet (approximately 0.23 acres) or if the disturbance is part of a common plan of development or sale whose total land disturbance will exceed 10,000 square feet.

- WPO applications are required when an applicant wishes to clear, grade, install utilities, develop within the stream buffer, flood plain, steep slopes, or public right of way, and build roads. These applications are coordinated with outside agencies, reviewed, and approved by the Engineering Division and County Engineer.

Below you will see three different WPO application options. Once you are ready to apply you will be presented with these options through our Camino software. If you have additional questions or not sure which application to use, please contact our Engineering Staff at (434) 296-5832.

The owner shall comply with all applicable requirements of County Code [Chapter 17](#) / State Code [9VAC25-840](#) & [9VAC25-870](#)

Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) application ([Chapter 17-302.B](#)) – In a Common Plan of Development

A land disturbing permit **is required** if:

- Any land disturbance in a Common Plan of Development

The following land-disturbing activities **are exempt** from the VSMP:

- Mining, oil and gas operations and projects
- Agricultural, horticultural, and forestal activities.
- Land disturbance of less than 10,000 square feet.
- Discharges
- Reclamation of abandoned property.
- Project maintenance.
- Emergencies.
- Single-family residences. (Refer to [Building Permit Page](#))

Required documents to be submitted at the time of application:

- Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
- VSMP General Permit Registration Statement
- Stormwater Management Plan
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)
- Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP)
- Calculations
- [Owner Signatures](#)
- Mitigation Plan (if disturbing stream buffers)

Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) application ([Chapter 17-302.A](#)) - Not in a Common Plan of Development

A land disturbing permit **is required** if:

- Land disturbance of 10,000 square feet or more **and not in a common plan of development.**

The following land-disturbing activities **are exempt** from the VSMP but may be subject to a VESCP:

- Mining, oil and gas operations, and projects
- Agricultural, horticultural, and forestal activities
- Land disturbance of less than 10,000 square feet, unless in a common plan of development
- Discharges
- Reclamation of abandoned property
- Project maintenance
- Emergencies
- Single-family residences (Refer to [Building Permit Page](#))

Required documents to be submitted at the time of application:

- Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
- VSMP General Permit Registration Statement
- Stormwater Management Plan
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)
- Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP)
- Calculations
- [Owner Signatures](#)
- Mitigation Plan (if disturbing stream buffers)

Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Plan/VESCP application – **ONLY** for project maintenance, emergencies, and reclamation of abandoned property ([Chapter 17-300](#) and [Chapter 17-303.F, G, & H](#))

A land disturbing permit **is required** if:

- Land disturbance of 10,000 square feet or more, **not in a common plan of development, and only for project maintenance, an emergency, or reclamation of abandoned property.**

The following land-disturbing activities **are exempt** from the VESCP ([Chapter 17-301](#)):

- Minor residential-related activities
- Connections. Individual service connections
- Public utility lines
- Conventional onsite sewage systems
- Mining, oil and gas operations, and projects
- Agricultural, horticultural, and forestal activities
- Agricultural engineering operations
- Railroad improvements
- Posts and poles
- Emergency work in accordance with [Chapter 17-301.J](#)

Required documents to be submitted at the time of application:

- Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
- [Owner Signatures](#)