

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS**

**STANDARDS FOR CHANNEL CLEANING AT BRIDGES AND CULVERTS**

1. A work schedule which includes a written description of each structure, a description of the proposed work and a map showing each project location shall be submitted concurrently to the Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Conservation District of the county in which the project is located not less than 30 days in advance of initiating work. The work schedules shall be submitted to the appropriate Department of Environmental Protection Regional Office listed on Exhibit B and to the appropriate Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Regional Headquarters listed on Exhibit A.

Addresses for County Conservation Districts may be obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection or may be found in local telephone directories.

2. The owner shall notify the appropriate Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's Regional Headquarters (Exhibit A) and the appropriate County Conservation District 10 days in advance of starting work each time at any location identified in the proposed work schedule. Notification by postcard is suggested.
3. The work schedule shall be in the possession of the person in charge on the site whenever work is being performed. The project description and limits must be clearly indicated on the work schedule.
4. No work may be done in stocked trout streams between March 1 and June 15 except for emergencies. Emergency work must be approved by the Department of Environmental Protection in consultation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.
5. Work in the stream channel shall be limited to 50 feet upstream and 50 feet downstream from the bridge or culvert. In addition, work should be accomplished by working from the stream banks. In those cases where this is not possible, the operation of equipment in the water is to be minimized.
6. Channels may be excavated to a width no greater than the width of the normal low flow channel immediately upstream and downstream of the bridge or culvert. The remainder of the channel width shall be maintained as an elevated flood plain and may be excavated only to six inches above water level at the time of work.
7. Material removed shall be disposed of at a location which precludes re-entry into the stream and in a manner which does not obstruct flood flows in the floodway. If material removed from the stream is needed for backfill or bank restoration, it should be faced to the ordinary high water level with riprap suitably sized according to the anticipated stream velocity. All disturbed areas above the level of the riprap must be stabilized or seeded. Excess excavated material shall not be deposited in any wetland, river, lake, water course, floodway, or other regulated waters of the Commonwealth without first applying for and receiving the written permit of the Department of Environmental Protection.
8. Tree and shrub growth on stream banks shall not be disturbed unless absolutely necessary.
9. If an access road is constructed, stormwater diversion shall be provided to assure that water will not flow along the access road directly into the stream or the work area.

## STANDARDS FOR CHANNEL CLEANING AT BRIDGES AND CULVERTS - continued

10. Erosion and sediment pollution control measures must be properly implemented and closely monitored to minimize erosion and prevent sediment from entering the stream channel.
11. Where it is necessary for construction equipment to cross the stream, a temporary stream crossing shall be provided by the permittee for this purpose unless the stream flow is shallow and the stream bed consists of solid or nonerodible material. The temporary crossing must be authorized by and comply with the conditions of General Permit BDWM-GP-8, Temporary Road Crossings. Any fill material provided for temporary crossings shall be clean granular material and entire fill shall be kept to an absolute minimum elevation to avoid obstructing flood flows and creating backwater flooding condition upstream. The owner is responsible for any damages resulting from the obstruction of flood flows by this temporary stream crossing. Upon completion of the project, the temporary crossing shall be removed in its entirety and the disturbed areas restored to their original condition. Copies of, and authorization to use, BDWM-GP-8 are available from the Department offices listed on Exhibit B.
12. The Department shall have the discretion to require a separate individual permit application to be submitted for any project or portion thereof, which the Department determines to have a potential significant effect on safety or protection of life, health, property, or the environment.
13. Any repairs or maintenance involving modification of the structure from its original specifications and any repairs or reconstruction or replacement involving a substantial portion of the structure shall require the prior written permit of the Department.