

Mining and Quarrying of Sand, Gravel, and Other Materials

This activity applies to surface excavation and on-site storage of sand, gravel, minerals, peat, clay, rock, and other materials that are mined in unincorporated King County. Mining operations have the potential to introduce a variety of pollutants into runoff, including nutrients, suspended solids, abnormal pH, and metals. Precipitation can easily erode cut slope faces and stockpiled materials, causing stormwater contamination problems.

The Washington State Department of Ecology regulates all mining activities in the state for the protection of water quality, and is the authority for enforcement of stormwater requirements related to water quality protection. Ecology has developed the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Sand and Gravel General Permit for Sand and Gravel Operations, Rock Quarries, and Similar Mining Facilities, Including Stockpiles of Mined Materials, Concrete Batch Operations, and Hot Mix Asphalt Operations.

The King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) also has the authority to regulate mining activities under the Stormwater Ordinance (KC Code 9.04 and 9.12) and the Clearing and Grading Ordinance (KC Code 16.82). However, if the DDES permit conditions do not adequately protect surface and groundwater, additional BMPs will be required under KCC 9.12.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system, you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.