Policy statement

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| subject: | Directional drilling control measures |
| date: | March 8, 2022 |

**OVERVIEW:**

This policy statement is intended to clarify the Stormwater Enterprise’s position on Horizontal Directional Drilling/Boring operations and the proper handling and disposal of slurry, including spill response.

**DEFINITIONS:**

Refer to the City of Colorado Springs Stormwater Construction Manual to reference definitions.

**CURRENT REQUIREMENTS:**

**City Code:**

Refer to City Code Sections;

3.8.201: Prohibition of Illegal Discharges

3.8.203: Waste Disposal Prohibitions

3.8.301.B: Requirement to Prevent, Control, and Reduce Stormwater Pollutants, Responsibility to Implement BMPs.

3.3.208: Care of Excavated Materials; Cleanup

3.3.209.B: Protection of Watercourses and Vital Structures

Care of Excavated Materials; Cleanup

**City Engineering Excavation Permit General Requirements:**

14. Temporary control measures for erosion and sediment control must be installed to prevent pollutants from entering the storm sewer system. Protect inlets, catch basins, swales, and culverts.

15. Drilling fluids from directional drilling operations and slurry must be removed from the City ROW and/or unauthorized private property and disposed of or managed in a manner consistent Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Solid Waste Regulations Pertaining to Solid Waste Sites and Facilities, 6 CCR 1007-2, Part 1. Drilling fluids and slurry that enter the storm sewer system are illicit discharges and are in violation of City Code 3.8.201.

**POLICY:**

Directional drilling fluids, and slurry are classified as an illicit discharge and are prohibited from entering the City of Colorado Springs stormwater infrastructure and State waters. The use of potable and non-potable water to flush out equipment is not allowed without proper controls and cleanup procedures. The City’s stormwater infrastructure is made up of conveyance systems including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm drains. Drilling fluids should be pumped or vacuumed from the construction area, removed from the City’s Right of Way (ROW), and managed in a manner consistent with Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Solid Waste Regulations, 6 CCR 1007-2, Part 1. Disposal of drilling fluids into storm drains, storm sewers, roadside ditches or any other type of man-made or natural waterway is prohibited by City Code, the Excavation Permit, and the City’s COS000004 Stormwater permit with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. All directional drilling contractors operating in City limits will be required to have a spill response plan in place in the event there is a failure of equipment or a discharge of slurry to the City’s ROW and/or stormwater infrastructure. After directional drilling operations are completed, the contractor must remove all temporary control measures from the site.