

Virginia DEQ Storm Water Management (SWM) Inspector Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What is the primary responsibility of the State Water Control Board under the Stormwater Management Act?**
 - A. Monitor groundwater levels**
 - B. Permit, regulate, and control stormwater runoff**
 - C. Inspect all BMPs**
 - D. Design public stormwater systems**
- 2. During construction, when do co-located practices function for erosion and sediment control?**
 - A. Before site grading**
 - B. After site stabilization**
 - C. During construction**
 - D. After BMP installation**
- 3. Why is maintenance important for stormwater management practices?**
 - A. It reduces the cost of construction**
 - B. Regular maintenance ensures that BMPs function effectively and prevent water quality issues**
 - C. It allows for the replacement of outdated materials**
 - D. It minimizes the need for regulatory inspections**
- 4. Which activities are generally exempt from SWM regulations?**
 - A. Construction activities**
 - B. Mining and agriculture**
 - C. Residential development**
 - D. New roadway construction**
- 5. What does "Nutrient Management" aim to achieve in stormwater management?**
 - A. To promote agricultural expansion**
 - B. To reduce nutrient runoff from agricultural and urban areas to protect water quality**
 - C. To increase urban development**
 - D. To enhance the aesthetic properties of landscapes**

- 6. What information is typically required in a Stormwater Management (SWM) report?**
- A. Site conditions, proposed practices, and methodologies for managing stormwater**
 - B. Historical weather data and hydrological studies**
 - C. Community outreach programs and educational materials**
 - D. Financial projections for stormwater projects**
- 7. What role does vegetation play in stormwater management?**
- A. It is only for landscaping purposes**
 - B. It helps in lowering construction costs**
 - C. It aids in absorbing water and enhancing soil stability**
 - D. It has no significant impact on runoff**
- 8. How many days must pass before a Notice of Termination form is sent to terminate construction permits after conditions are met?**
- A. 20 days**
 - B. 30 days**
 - C. 45 days**
 - D. 60 days**
- 9. Which regulation administers the Virginia Stormwater Management Program?**
- A. The Virginia Administrative Code**
 - B. The Virginia Stormwater Management Program Regulation**
 - C. The Environmental Protection Regulation**
 - D. The Local Government Regulation**
- 10. Which legislation authorizes the Virginia Stormwater Management Program?**
- A. The Clean Water Act**
 - B. The Virginia Stormwater Management Act**
 - C. The Water Quality Improvement Act**
 - D. The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act**

Answers

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- 1. B**
- 2. C**
- 3. B**
- 4. B**
- 5. B**
- 6. A**
- 7. C**
- 8. B**
- 9. B**
- 10. B**

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary responsibility of the State Water Control Board under the Stormwater Management Act?

- A. Monitor groundwater levels**
- B. Permit, regulate, and control stormwater runoff**
- C. Inspect all BMPs**
- D. Design public stormwater systems**

The primary responsibility of the State Water Control Board under the Stormwater Management Act is to permit, regulate, and control stormwater runoff. This role is essential because stormwater management is crucial for protecting water quality and reducing pollution in Virginia's waterways. By overseeing the permitting process, the Board ensures that projects adhere to regulations designed to mitigate adverse environmental impacts from stormwater. This includes evaluating applications for new development, ensuring that they incorporate best management practices (BMPs) that are effective in addressing stormwater issues. Effective control and regulation of stormwater runoff contribute to preventing flooding, erosion, and degradation of aquatic ecosystems. This proactive approach helps maintain the integrity of Virginia's water resources and supports broader environmental goals. While monitoring groundwater levels, inspecting BMPs, and designing public stormwater systems are important components of water management, they fall under more specific roles and responsibilities and do not represent the overarching function defined for the State Water Control Board in the context of the Stormwater Management Act.

2. During construction, when do co-located practices function for erosion and sediment control?

- A. Before site grading**
- B. After site stabilization**
- C. During construction**
- D. After BMP installation**

Co-located practices function for erosion and sediment control during construction because this is the phase when the site is actively disturbed, and various construction activities can create a risk for soil erosion and sediment runoff. Utilizing co-located practices, such as filter socks, silt fences, or sediment traps, during this period helps manage and minimize these risks. The need for active erosion and sediment control measures is critical while construction activities are ongoing, as soil is often exposed, leading to heightened vulnerability to erosive forces from wind and water. By employing these practices during construction, it ensures that sediment does not enter water bodies or impact surrounding environments, maintaining compliance with regulatory requirements. Once construction is complete and site stabilization occurs, the focus shifts to maintenance of established practices rather than active erosion control. Thus, considering co-located practices as active tools for erosion and sediment control during the construction phase highlights their importance in ensuring effective management of sediment runoff and protecting water quality at this critical time.

3. Why is maintenance important for stormwater management practices?

- A. It reduces the cost of construction**
- B. Regular maintenance ensures that BMPs function effectively and prevent water quality issues**
- C. It allows for the replacement of outdated materials**
- D. It minimizes the need for regulatory inspections**

Maintenance is vital for stormwater management practices because it directly affects the effectiveness of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in handling stormwater runoff. Regular maintenance ensures that these systems remain in good working order, allowing them to perform as designed. This is crucial for preventing water quality problems that can arise from accumulated debris, sediment, and blockages that hinder water flow and filtration processes. When BMPs are not maintained, they may fail to treat stormwater correctly, leading to increased pollutants in the runoff, which can negatively impact local water bodies and ecosystems. Additionally, effective maintenance helps to prolong the life of stormwater systems, reducing the need for costly repairs or replacements that may be required if maintenance is neglected. By focusing on the ongoing maintenance of stormwater systems, regulators and property owners can ensure compliance with environmental standards and effectively manage the quality of the water in the surrounding area.

4. Which activities are generally exempt from SWM regulations?

- A. Construction activities**
- B. Mining and agriculture**
- C. Residential development**
- D. New roadway construction**

The activities that are generally exempt from Storm Water Management (SWM) regulations include certain practices within mining and agriculture. This exemption is based on the understanding that these sectors have established best management practices and regulatory frameworks specific to their operations. For instance, agriculture often employs various conservation practices that effectively manage water runoff, and mining operations may utilize techniques designed to minimize environmental impacts inherently associated with their activities. In contrast, construction activities, residential development, and new roadway construction typically pose higher risks of stormwater pollution due to soil disturbance, increased impervious surfaces, and potential pollutant runoff. As a result, these activities are subject to stringent SWM regulations to ensure that stormwater runoff is effectively managed to protect water quality and prevent erosion and sedimentation. The exemptions for mining and agriculture are thus grounded in their established practices and the specific nature of their regulatory requirements compared to the other options.

5. What does "Nutrient Management" aim to achieve in stormwater management?
- A. To promote agricultural expansion
 - B. To reduce nutrient runoff from agricultural and urban areas to protect water quality**
 - C. To increase urban development
 - D. To enhance the aesthetic properties of landscapes

Nutrient management plays a vital role in stormwater management by specifically aiming to reduce nutrient runoff from both agricultural and urban areas. This is crucial because excessive nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, can lead to water quality issues such as algal blooms, which harm aquatic ecosystems and degrade the quality of drinking water. Effective nutrient management strategies include practices like soil testing, proper application rates of fertilizers, and efficient stormwater management practices that minimize runoff. By controlling the amount of nutrients that enter waterways, nutrient management helps maintain the ecological balance, supports aquatic life, and meets water quality standards set by environmental regulations. This focus on water quality protection differentiates nutrient management from other objectives related to agricultural expansion, urban development, or solely enhancing aesthetic properties, which do not directly address the critical issue of nutrient pollution and its impact on water resources.

6. What information is typically required in a Stormwater Management (SWM) report?
- A. Site conditions, proposed practices, and methodologies for managing stormwater**
 - B. Historical weather data and hydrological studies
 - C. Community outreach programs and educational materials
 - D. Financial projections for stormwater projects

The typical requirements for a Stormwater Management (SWM) report focus on the current site conditions, the proposed practices for managing stormwater, and the methodologies to be employed in those practices. This information is crucial because it provides a comprehensive overview of how stormwater will be managed on a specific site, ensuring that the strategies are tailored to address the unique conditions of the area. Site conditions encompass characteristics like soil type, topography, land use, and existing drainage patterns, all of which affect how stormwater is managed. Proposed practices might include best management practices (BMPs) such as retention basins, green roofs, or permeable pavements, which are designed to reduce runoff and improve water quality. Methodologies outline how these practices will be implemented, monitored, and maintained to achieve effective stormwater management. While other choices include valuable information, they are not typically required components of an SWM report. For instance, historical weather data and hydrological studies could support the analysis but do not constitute the core content of an SWM report. Community outreach programs, although important for engaging the public, are not standard requirements for the report itself. Lastly, financial projections may be relevant in some contexts, particularly in project funding or budgeting discussions, but they

7. What role does vegetation play in stormwater management?

- A. It is only for landscaping purposes**
- B. It helps in lowering construction costs**
- C. It aids in absorbing water and enhancing soil stability**
- D. It has no significant impact on runoff**

Vegetation plays a crucial role in stormwater management primarily by aiding in the absorption of water and enhancing soil stability. Plants and their root systems are essential for maintaining the integrity of the soil and helping to reduce surface runoff. They facilitate the infiltration of rainwater into the ground, which can minimize the volume and velocity of runoff that can contribute to erosion and flooding. The foliage and root structures help to slow down the movement of water, allowing it to percolate into the soil where it can be stored and utilized by plants or filtered into the groundwater system. Additionally, vegetation can improve soil health, reducing compaction and increasing porosity, which also enhances its ability to absorb and retain water. This is particularly important in urban environments where impervious surfaces like concrete and asphalt can lead to significant increases in stormwater runoff. By effectively managing water through the natural processes of evaporation, transpiration, and infiltration, vegetation contributes to better overall stormwater management, mitigating potential flooding and improving water quality in surrounding areas.

8. How many days must pass before a Notice of Termination form is sent to terminate construction permits after conditions are met?

- A. 20 days**
- B. 30 days**
- C. 45 days**
- D. 60 days**

The requirement for submitting a Notice of Termination (NOT) form to terminate construction permits after all conditions are met is set to 30 days. This timeframe ensures that all necessary inspections and evaluations have been completed and that any final compliance measures are addressed before formally concluding the permit. This duration allows sufficient time for the reviewing authorities to assess the project's adherence to the environmental standards and to ensure that the site's stormwater management practices are effectively maintained. Thus, 30 days provides a balance between efficient permit closure and thorough verification of compliance with all regulations.

9. Which regulation administers the Virginia Stormwater Management Program?

- A. The Virginia Administrative Code**
- B. The Virginia Stormwater Management Program Regulation**
- C. The Environmental Protection Regulation**
- D. The Local Government Regulation**

The Virginia Stormwater Management Program Regulation specifically governs the administration of the Virginia Stormwater Management Program. This regulation outlines the policies, procedures, and standards required for managing stormwater in Virginia, including requirements for construction site management, post-construction practices, and local government participation. It is designed to protect water quality and manage the quantity of stormwater runoff, making it a key component in efforts to mitigate flooding and pollution in surface waters. The other options refer to broader categories or different related regulations. For example, the Virginia Administrative Code includes a wider range of regulations across various state programs, but it does not focus solely on stormwater management. Similarly, the Environmental Protection Regulation pertains to a variety of environmental protection measures, while the Local Government Regulation might address local governance issues but does not specifically address stormwater management as a comprehensive program. Therefore, the Virginia Stormwater Management Program Regulation is the authoritative source that directly administers the specific stormwater program in Virginia.

10. Which legislation authorizes the Virginia Stormwater Management Program?

- A. The Clean Water Act**
- B. The Virginia Stormwater Management Act**
- C. The Water Quality Improvement Act**
- D. The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act**

The Virginia Stormwater Management Act is the legislation that specifically authorizes the Virginia Stormwater Management Program. This act was enacted to improve and enhance water quality in Virginia by regulating stormwater runoff. It outlines the framework for local governments to develop and implement stormwater management programs tailored to their specific community needs and environmental conditions. The act establishes a statewide framework for managing stormwater, including the requirement for permanent control measures, design standards, and maintenance practices to minimize the impacts of stormwater on water quality and aquatic habitats. This legislation emphasizes the importance of protecting water resources by controlling the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff, ensuring compliance with both state and federal water quality standards. While the Clean Water Act and other mentioned acts address water quality and preservation in broader terms, it is the Virginia Stormwater Management Act that directly governs the management of stormwater within the state. Therefore, its specific focus on stormwater management makes it the correct choice as the authorizing legislation for the Virginia Stormwater Management Program.