

Proposed Revisions to the Chatham County Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Ordinance

Public Hearing, October 20, 2008

Below are highlights of the proposed revisions to the Chatham County Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance will continue to be to minimize the impacts of erosion and sedimentation resulting from land-disturbing activities. The revisions are intended to address the concerns specific to Chatham County and to coordinate with other county regulations. The list below does not represent every change made to the ordinance but it includes the major changes.

- The limit on the area of disturbance that will require the submittal of an erosion and sedimentation control plan and application for a land disturbing permit has dropped from 1 acre to 20,000 square feet.
- Additional regulations have been included in the ordinance for land-disturbing activity undertaken on moderate and steep slopes.
- A new section has been added to the ordinance that will require a residential lot disturbance permit for the construction of all residential dwellings.
- The regulations for the expirations of plans approvals and land-disturbing permits have been revised for better explanation.
- The design storm for applicable erosion & sedimentation control devices has been increased.
- The time limits for stabilization of exposed soil have been reduced to 15 days (less on moderate and steep slopes).
- Provisions have been added to the ordinance for the requirements of certificates of compliance and completion.
- Requirements for documentation have been added to the ordinance for the issuance of exemptions for agriculture and silviculture.
- Mandatory standards have been revised to coordinate with the county watershed protection ordinance, the county storm water ordinance and to limit the maximum slope for graded areas to 2:1 (two horizontal to one vertical).
- Provisions have been added to give the county the ability to issue a stop work order and to revoke a land-disturbing permit if a site is out of compliance.