

ORDINANCE NO.: 2014-10

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SIGNAL MOUNTAIN TOWN CODE BY DELETING AND REPLACING TITLE 18, CHAPTER 7, ENTITLED STORMWATER RUNOFF REGULATION AND CONTROL.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TENNESSEE, that Title 18, Chapter 7 of the Signal Mountain Town Code is deleted in its entirety and the following substituted in lieu thereof:

**18-701. General provisions.**

(1) Purpose. It is the purpose of this chapter to:

- (a) Protect, maintain, and enhance the environment of the town and the public health, safety and the general welfare of the citizens of the town, by controlling discharges of pollutants to the town's stormwater system and to maintain and improve the quality of the receiving waters into which the stormwater outfalls flow, including, without limitation, lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and groundwater of the town;
- (b) Enable the town to comply with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit (NPDES) and applicable regulations, 40 CFR 122.26 for stormwater discharges;
- (c) Allow the town to exercise the powers granted in Tennessee Code Annotated § 68-221-1105, which provides that, among other powers cities have with respect to stormwater facilities, is the power by ordinance or resolution to:
  - (i) Exercise general regulation over the planning, location, construction, and operation and maintenance of stormwater facilities in the town, whether or not owned and operated by the town;
  - (ii) Adopt any rules and regulations deemed necessary to accomplish the purposes of this statute, including the adoption of a system of fees for services and permits;
  - (iii) Establish standards to regulate the quantity of stormwater discharge and to regulate stormwater contaminants as may be necessary to protect water quality;
  - (iv) Review and approve plans and plats for stormwater management in proposed subdivisions or commercial developments;
  - (v) Issue permits for stormwater discharges, or for the construction, alteration, extension, or repair of stormwater facilities;
  - (vi) Suspend or revoke permits when it is determined that the permittee has violated any applicable ordinance, resolution, or condition of the permit;
  - (vii) Regulate and prohibit discharges into stormwater facilities of sanitary, industrial, or commercial sewage or waters that have otherwise been contaminated; and



- (viii) Expend funds to remediate or mitigate the detrimental effects of contaminated land or other sources of stormwater contamination, whether public or private.
- (2) Administering entity. The Town of Signal Mountain shall administer the provisions of this chapter.
- (3) Stormwater management ordinance. The intended purpose of this ordinance is to safeguard property and public welfare by regulating stormwater drainage and requiring temporary and permanent provisions for its control. It should be used as a planning and engineering implement to facilitate the necessary control of stormwater.

**18-702. Definitions.** For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply: Words used in the singular shall include the plural, and the plural shall include the singular; words used in the present tense shall include the future tense. The word "shall" is mandatory and not discretionary. The word "may" is permissive. Words not defined in this section shall be construed to have the meaning given by common and ordinary use as defined in the latest edition of Webster's Dictionary.

- (1) "Administrative or Civil Penalties." Under the authority provided in Tennessee Code Annotated § 68-221-1106, the town declares that any person violating the provisions of this chapter may be assessed a civil penalty by the town of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) and not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per day for each day of violation. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate violation.
- (2) "As built plans" means drawings depicting conditions as they were actually constructed.
- (3) "Best Management Practices" ("BMP's") means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the state. BMP's also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.
- (4) "Borrow Pit" is an excavation from which erodible material (typically soil) is removed to be fill for another site. There is no processing or separation of erodible material conducted at the site. Given the nature of activity and pollutants present at such excavation, a borrow pit is considered a construction activity for the purpose of this permit.
- (5) "Buffer Zone" means a setback from the top of water body's bank of undisturbed vegetation, including trees, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation; enhanced or restored vegetation; or the re-establishment of native vegetation bordering streams, ponds, wetlands, springs, reservoirs or lakes, which exists or is established to protect those water bodies. The goal of the water quality buffer is to preserve undisturbed vegetation that is native to the streamside habitat in the area of the project. Vegetated, preferably native, water quality buffers protect water bodies by providing structural integrity and canopy cover, as well as stormwater infiltration, filtration and evapotranspiration. Buffer width depends on the size of a drainage area. Streams or other waters with drainage areas less than 1 square mile will require buffer widths of 30 feet minimum. Streams or other waters with drainage areas greater than 1 square mile will require buffer widths of 60 feet minimum. The 60-foot criterion for the width of the buffer zone can be established on an average width basis at a project, as long as the minimum width of the buffer zone is more



than 30 feet at any measured location. The MS4 must develop and apply criteria for determining the circumstances under which these averages will be available. A determination that standards cannot be met may not be based solely on the difficulty or cost associated with implementation. Every attempt should be made for development and redevelopment activities not to take place within the buffer zone. If water quality buffer widths as defined above cannot be fully accomplished on-site, the MS4 must develop and apply criteria for determining the circumstances under which alternative buffer widths will be available. A determination that water quality buffer widths cannot be met on site may not be based solely on the difficulty or cost of implementing measures, but must include multiple criteria, such as: type of project, existing land use and physical conditions that preclude use of these practices.

(6) "Buffer Zone Requirements"

(a) "Construction":

(i.) Applies to all streams adjacent to construction sites, with an exception for streams designated as impaired or Exceptional Tennessee waters, as designated by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. A 30-foot natural riparian buffer zone adjacent to all streams at the construction site shall be preserved, to the maximum extent practicable, during construction activities at the site. The water quality buffer zone is required to protect waters of the state located within or immediately adjacent to the boundaries of the project, as identified using methodology from Standard Operating Procedures for Hydrologic Determinations (see rules to implement a certification program for Qualified Hydrologic Professionals, TN Rules Chapter 0400-40-17). Buffer zones are not primary sediment control measures and should not be relied on as such. Rehabilitation and enhancement of a natural buffer zone is allowed, if necessary, for improvement of its effectiveness of protection of the waters of the state. The buffer zone requirement only applies to new construction sites. The riparian buffer zone should be preserved between the top of stream bank and the disturbed construction area. The 30-foot criterion for the width of the buffer zone can be established on an average width basis at a project, as long as the minimum width of the buffer zone is more than 15 feet at any measured location.

(ii.) Buffer zone requirements for discharges into impaired or high quality waters:

A 60-foot natural riparian buffer zone adjacent to the receiving stream designated as impaired or high quality waters shall be preserved, to the maximum extent practicable, during construction activities at the site. The water quality buffer zone is required to protect waters of the state (e.g., perennial and intermittent streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) located within or immediately adjacent to the boundaries of the project, as identified on a 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map, or as determined by the director. Buffer zones are not sediment control measures and should not be relied upon as primary sediment control measures. Rehabilitation and enhancement of a natural buffer zone is allowed, if necessary, for improvement of its effectiveness of protection of the waters of the state. The buffer zone requirement only applies to new construction sites. The riparian buffer zone should be established between the top of stream bank and the disturbed construction area. The



60-foot criterion for the width of the buffer zone can be established on an average width basis at a project, as long as the minimum width of the buffer zone is more than 30 feet at any measured location.

- (b) "Permanent" New development and significant redevelopment sites are required to preserve water quality buffers along waters within the MS4. Buffers shall be clearly marked on site development plans, Grading Permit applications, and/or concept plans. Buffer width depends on the size of a drainage area. Streams or other waters with drainage areas greater than 1 square mile will require buffer widths of 60 feet minimum. The 60-foot criterion for the width of the buffer zone can be established on an average width basis at a project, as long as the minimum width of the buffer zone is more than 30 feet at any measured location. Streams or other waters with drainage areas less than 1 square mile will require buffer widths of 30 feet minimum. The thirty (30) foot criterion for the width of the buffer zone can be established on an average width basis, as long as the minimum width of the buffer zone is more than fifteen (15) feet at any measured location.
- (7) "Channel" means a natural or artificial watercourse with a definite bed and banks that conducts flowing water continuously or periodically.
- (8) "Common plan of development or sale" is broadly defined as any announcement or documentation (including a sign, public notice or hearing, sales pitch, advertisement, drawing, permit application, zoning request, computer design, etc.) or physical demarcation (including boundary signs, lot stakes, surveyor markings, etc.) indicating construction activities may occur on a specific plot. A common plan of development or sale identifies a situation in which multiple areas of disturbance are occurring on contiguous areas. This applies because the activities may take place at different times, on different schedules, by different operators.
- (9) "Design storm event" means a hypothetical storm event, of a given frequency interval and duration, used in the analysis and design of a stormwater facility. The estimated design rainfall amounts, for any return period interval (i.e., 2-yr, 5-yr, 25-yr, etc.,) in terms of either 24-hour depths or intensities for any duration, can be found by accessing the following NOAA National Weather Service Atlas 14 data for Tennessee: [http://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/pfds\\_map\\_cont.html?bkmrk=tn](http://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/pfds_map_cont.html?bkmrk=tn). Other data sources may be acceptable with prior written approval by TDEC Water Pollution Control.
- (10) "Contaminant" means any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.
- (11) "Discharge" means dispose, deposit, spill, pour, inject, seep, dump, leak or place by any means, or that which is disposed, deposited, spilled, poured, injected, seeped, dumped, leaked, or placed by any means including any direct or indirect entry of any solid or liquid matter into the municipal separate storm sewer system.
- (12) "Easement" means an acquired privilege or right of use or enjoyment that a person, party, firm, corporation, town or other legal entity has in the land of another.
- (13) "Erosion" means the removal of soil particles by the action of water, wind, ice or other geological agents, whether naturally occurring or acting in conjunction with or promoted by human activities or effects.



- (14) "Erosion prevention and sediment control plan (EPSCP)" means a written plan (including drawings or other graphic representations) that is designed to minimize the erosion and sediment runoff at a site during construction activities.
- (15) "Hotspot" means an area where land use or activities generate highly contaminated runoff, with concentrations of pollutants in excess of those typically found in stormwater. The following land uses and activities are deemed stormwater hot spots, but that term is not limited to only these land uses:
- (a) vehicle salvage yards and recycling facilities
  - (b) vehicle service and maintenance facilities
  - (c) vehicle and equipment cleaning facilities
  - (d) fleet storage areas (bus, truck, etc.)
  - (e) industrial sites (included on Standard Industrial Classification code list)
  - (f) marinas (service and maintenance)
  - (g) public works storage areas
  - (h) facilities that generate or store hazardous waste materials
  - (i) commercial container nursery
  - (j) restaurants and food service facilities
  - (k) other land uses and activities as designated by an appropriate review authority
- (16) "Illicit connections" means illegal and/or unauthorized connections to the municipal separate stormwater system whether or not such connections result in discharges into that system.
- (17) "Illicit discharge" means any discharge to the municipal separate storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater and not specifically exempted under §18-707(2).
- (18) "Improved sinkhole" is a natural surface depression that has been altered in order to direct fluids into the hole opening. Improved sinkhole is a type of injection well regulated under TDEC's Underground Injection Control (UIC) program. Underground injection constitutes an intentional disposal of waste waters in natural depressions, open fractures, and crevices (such as those commonly associated with weathering of limestone).
- (19) "Inspector" An inspector is a person that has successfully completed (has a valid certification from) the "Fundamentals of Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Level I" course or equivalent course. An inspector performs and documents the required inspections, paying particular attention to time-sensitive permit requirements such as stabilization and maintenance activities. An inspector may also have the following responsibilities:
- (a) oversee the requirements of other construction-related permits, such as Aquatic Resources Alteration Permit (ARAP) or Corps of Engineers permit for construction activities in or around waters of the state;
  - (b) update field SWPPP's;
  - (c) conduct pre-construction inspection to verify that undisturbed areas have been properly marked and initial measures have been installed; and
  - (d) inform the permit holder of activities that may be necessary to gain or remain in compliance with the Construction General Permit (CGP) and other environmental permits.



- (20) "Land disturbing activity" means any activity on property that results in a change in the existing soil cover (both vegetative and non-vegetative) and/or the existing soil topography. Land-disturbing activities include, but are not limited to, development, re-development, demolition, construction, reconstruction, clearing, grading, filling, and excavation.
- (21) "Maintenance" means any activity that is necessary to keep a stormwater facility in good working order so as to function as designed. Maintenance shall include complete reconstruction of a stormwater facility if reconstruction is needed in order to restore the facility to its original operational design parameters. Maintenance shall also include the correction of any problem on the site property that may directly impair the functions of the stormwater facility.
- (22) "Maintenance agreement" means a document recorded in the land records that acts as a property deed restriction, and which provides for long-term maintenance of stormwater management practices.
- (23) "Municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4)" means the conveyances owned or operated by the town for the collection and transportation of stormwater, including the roads and streets and their drainage systems, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm drains, and where the context indicates, it means the municipality that owns the separate storm sewer system.
- (24) "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit" or a "NPDES permit" means a permit issued pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1342.
- (25) "Off-site facility" means a structural BMP located outside the subject property boundary described in the permit application for land development activity.
- (26) "On-site facility" means a structural BMP located within the subject property boundary described in the permit application for land development activity.
- (27) "Peak flow" means the maximum instantaneous rate of flow of water at a particular point resulting from a storm event.
- (28) "Person" means any and all persons, natural or artificial, including any individual, firm or association and any municipal or private corporation organized or existing under the laws of this or any other state or country.
- (29) "Runoff" means that portion of the precipitation on a drainage area that is discharged from the area into the municipal separate storm sewer system.
- (30) "Sediment" means solid material, both inorganic and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, gravity, or ice and has come to rest on the earth's surface either above or below sea level.
- (31) "Sedimentation" means soil particles suspended in stormwater that can settle in stream beds.
- (32) "Soils Report" means a study of soils on a subject property with the primary purpose of characterizing and describing the soils. The soils report shall be prepared by a qualified soils engineer, who shall be directly involved in the soil characterization either by performing the investigation or by directly supervising employees conducting the investigation.
- (33) "Stabilization" means providing adequate measures, vegetative and/or structural, that will prevent erosion from occurring.



- (34) "Stormwater" means stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, surface runoff, street wash waters related to street cleaning or maintenance, infiltration and drainage.
- (35) "Stormwater entity" means the entity designated by the town to administer the stormwater management ordinance, and other stormwater rules and regulations adopted by the town.
- (36) "Stormwater management" means the programs to maintain quality and quantity of stormwater runoff to pre-development levels.
- (37) "Stormwater management facilities" means the drainage structures, conduits, ponds, ditches, combined sewers, sewers, and all device appurtenances by means of which stormwater is collected, transported, pumped, treated or disposed of.
- (38) "Stormwater management plan" means the set of drawings and other documents that comprise all the information and specifications for the programs, drainage systems, structures, BMP's, concepts and techniques intended to maintain or restore quality and quantity of stormwater runoff to pre-development levels.
- (39) "Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)" means a written plan that includes site map(s), an identification of construction/contractor activities that could cause pollutants in the stormwater, and a description of measures or practices to control these pollutants. It must be prepared and approved before construction begins. In order to effectively reduce erosion and sedimentation impacts, Best Management Practices (BMP's) must be designed, installed, and maintained during land disturbing activities. The SWPPP should be prepared in accordance with the current Tennessee Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook. The handbook is intended for use during the design and construction of projects that require erosion and sediment controls to protect waters of the state. It also aids in the development of SWPPPs and other reports, plans, or specifications required when participating in Tennessee's water quality regulations. All SWPPP's shall be prepared and updated in accordance with Section 3 of the General NPDES Permit for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities.
- (40) "Stormwater runoff" means flow on the surface of the ground, resulting from precipitation.
- (41) "Structural BMP's" means facilities that are constructed to provide control of stormwater runoff.
- (42) "Surface water" includes waters upon the surface of the earth in bounds created naturally or artificially including, but not limited to, streams, other water courses, lakes and reservoirs.
- (43) "Waste site" means an area where waste material from a construction site is deposited. When the material is erodible, such as soil, the site must be treated as a construction site.
- (44) "Water Quality Buffer" see "Buffer".
- (45) "Watercourse" means a permanent or intermittent stream or other body of water, either natural or man-made, which gathers or carries surface water.
- (46) "Watershed" means all the land area that contributes runoff to a particular point along a waterway.
- (47) "Waters" or "waters of the state" means any and all water, public or private, on or beneath the surface of the ground, which are contained within, flow through, or border upon Tennessee or any portion thereof except those bodies of water confined to and retained within the limits of private property in single ownership which do not combine or effect a junction with natural surface or underground waters.



- (48) "Wetland(s)" means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands include, but are not limited to, swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.
- (49) "Wet weather conveyances" are man-made or natural watercourses, including natural watercourses that have been modified by channelization, that flow only in direct response to precipitation runoff in their immediate locality and whose channels are above the groundwater table and are not suitable for drinking water supplies; and in which hydrological and biological analyses indicate that, under normal weather conditions, due to naturally occurring ephemeral or low flow, there is not sufficient water to support fish or multiple populations of obligate lotic aquatic organisms whose life cycle includes an aquatic phase of at least two months. (Rules and Regulations of the State of Tennessee, Chapter 1200-4-3-.04(3)).

**18-703. Waivers.**

- (1) General. No waivers will be granted any construction or site work project. All construction and site work shall provide for stormwater management as required by this ordinance. However, alternatives to the 2010 NPDES General Permit for Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems primary requirement for on-site permanent stormwater management may be considered, if:
- (a) Management measures cannot be designed, built and maintained to infiltrate, evapotranspire, harvest and/or use, at a minimum, the first inch of every rainfall event preceded by 72 hours of no measurable precipitation. This first inch of rainfall must be 100% managed with no discharge to surface waters.
  - (b) It can be demonstrated that the proposed development is not likely to impair attainment of the objectives of this chapter. Alternative minimum requirements for on-site management of stormwater discharges have been established in a stormwater management plan that has been approved by the town.
- (2) Downstream damage, etc. prohibited. In order to receive consideration, the applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the the Town of Signal Mountain that the proposed alternative will not lead to any of the following conditions downstream:
- (a) Deterioration of existing culverts, bridges, dams, and other structures;
  - (b) Degradation of biological functions or habitat;
  - (c) Accelerated streambank or streambed erosion or siltation;
  - (d) Increased threat of flood damage to public health, life or property.
- (3) Land Disturbance permit not to be issued where alternatives requested. No land disturbance permit shall be issued where an alternative has been requested until the alternative is approved. If no alternative is approved, the plans must be resubmitted with a stormwater management plan that meets the primary requirement for on-site stormwater management.

**18-704. Stormwater system design: Construction and Permanent stormwater management.**



(1) MS4 Stormwater design or BMP manuals.

- (a) Adoption. The town adopts as its MS4 stormwater design and best management practices (BMP) manuals for stormwater management, construction and permanent, the following publications, which are incorporated by reference in this ordinance as if fully set out herein:
  - (i) TDEC Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Handbook; most current edition.
  - (ii) The City of Chattanooga, Hamilton County & Town of Signal Mountain Stormwater Management Manual (BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) MANUAL – most current edition). (Note: this selection is provided as a suggestion only. TDEC plans on issuing a similar manual in cooperation with the University of Tennessee's Water Resources Center in 2013.)
  - (iii) A collection of MS4 approved BMP's developed or collected by the MS4 that comply with the goals of the MS4 permit and/or the CGP.
- (b) The town's BMP manual(s) include a list of acceptable BMP's including the specific design performance criteria and operation and maintenance requirements for each stormwater practice. These include town approved BMP's for permanent stormwater management including green infrastructure BMP's.
- (c) The town manual(s) may be updated and expanded from time to time, at the discretion of the Town Council, upon the recommendation of the Town of Signal Mountain, based on improvements in engineering, science, monitoring and local maintenance experience, or changes in federal or state law or regulation. Stormwater facilities that are designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with these BMP criteria will be presumed to meet the minimum water quality performance standards.

(2) Land development. This section shall be applicable to all land development, including, but not limited to, site plan applications, subdivision applications, land disturbance applications and grading applications. These standards apply to any new development or redevelopment site that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- (a) One (1) acre or more;
  - (1) New development that involves land development activities of one (1) acre or more;
  - (2) Redevelopment that involves other land development activity of one (1) acre or more;
- (b) Projects or developments of less than one acre of total land disturbance may also be required to obtain authorization under this ordinance if:
  - (1) the Town of Signal Mountain has determined that the stormwater discharge from a site is causing, contributing to, or is likely to contribute to a violation of a state water quality standard;
  - (2) the Town of Signal Mountain has determined that the stormwater discharge is, or is likely to be a significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the state;
  - (3) changes in state or federal rules require sites of less than one acre that are not part of a larger common plan of development or sale to obtain a stormwater permit;
  - (4) Any new development or redevelopment, regardless of size, that is defined by the Town of Signal Mountain to be a hotspot land use; or



- (5) Minimum applicability criteria set forth in item (a) above if such activities are part of a larger common plan of development, even multiple, that is part of a separate and distinct land development activity that may take place at different times on different schedules.

Note: Any discharge of stormwater or other fluid to an improved sinkhole or other injection well, as defined, must be authorized by permit or rule as a Class V underground injection well under the provisions of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Rules, Chapter 1200-4-6.

- (3) Submittal of a copy of the NOC, SWPPP and NOT to the local MS4

Permittees who discharge stormwater through an NPDES-permitted municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) who are not exempted in section 1.4.5 (Permit Coverage through Qualifying Local Program) of the Construction General Permit (CGP) must provide proof of coverage under the Construction General Permit (CGP); submit a copy of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP); and at project completion, a copy of the signed notice of termination (NOT) to the Town of Signal Mountain. Permitting status of all permittees covered (or previously covered) under this general permit as well as the most current list of all MS4 permits is available at the TDEC's DataViewer web site.

Copies of additional applicable local, state or federal permits (i.e.: ARAP, etc.) must also be provided upon request.

If requested, these permits must be provided before the issuance of any land disturbance permit or the equivalent.

- (4) Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for Construction Stormwater Management:

The applicant must prepare a stormwater pollution prevention plan for all construction activities that complies with subsection (5) below. The purpose of this plan is to identify construction/contractor activities that could cause pollutants in the stormwater, and to describe measures or practices to control these pollutants during project construction.

- (5) Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan requirements. The erosion prevention and sediment control plan component of the SWPPP shall accurately describe the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation problems resulting from land disturbing activity and shall explain and illustrate the measures that are to be taken to control these problems. The length and complexity of the plan is to be commensurate with the size of the project, severity of the site condition, and potential for off-site damage. If necessary, the plan shall be phased so that changes to the site during construction that alter drainage patterns or characteristics will be addressed by an appropriate phase of the plan. The plan shall be sealed by a registered professional engineer or landscape architect licensed in the state of Tennessee. The plan shall also conform to the requirements found in the MS4 BMP manual, and shall include at least the following:

- (a) Project description - Briefly describe the intended project and proposed land disturbing activity including number of units and structures to be constructed and infrastructure required.
- (b) A topographic map with contour intervals of five (5) feet or less showing present conditions and proposed contours resulting from land disturbing activity.
- (c) All existing drainage ways, including intermittent and wet-weather. Include any designated floodways or flood plains.



- (d) A general description of existing land cover. Individual trees and shrubs do not need to be identified.
- (e) Stands of existing trees as they are to be preserved upon project completion, specifying their general location on the property. Differentiation shall be made between existing trees to be preserved, trees to be removed and proposed planted trees. Tree protection measures must be identified, and the diameter of the area involved must also be identified on the plan and shown to scale. Information shall be supplied concerning the proposed destruction of exceptional and historic trees in setbacks and buffer strips, where they exist. Complete landscape plans may be submitted separately. The plan must include the sequence of implementation for tree protection measures.
- (f) Approximate limits of proposed clearing, grading and filling.
- (g) Approximate flows of existing stormwater leaving any portion of the site.
- (h) A general description of existing soil types and characteristics and any anticipated soil erosion and sedimentation problems resulting from existing characteristics.
- (i) Location, size and layout of proposed stormwater and sedimentation control improvements.
- (j) Existing and proposed drainage network.
- (k) Proposed drain tile or waterway sizes.
- (l) Approximate flows leaving site after construction and incorporating water run-off mitigation measures. The evaluation must include projected effects on property adjoining the site and on existing drainage facilities and systems. The plan must address the adequacy of outfalls from the development: when water is concentrated, what is the capacity of waterways, if any, accepting stormwater off-site; and what measures, including infiltration, sheeting into buffers, etc., are going to be used to prevent the scouring of waterways and drainage areas off-site, etc.
- (m) The projected sequence of work represented by the grading, drainage and sedimentation and erosion control plans as related to other major items of construction, beginning with the initiation of excavation and including the construction of any sediment basins or retention/detention facilities or any other structural BMP's.
- (n) Specific remediation measures to prevent erosion and sedimentation run-off. Plans shall include detailed drawings of all control measures used; stabilization measures including vegetation and non-vegetation measures, both temporary and permanent, will be detailed. Detailed construction notes and a maintenance schedule shall be included for all control measures in the plan.
- (o) Specific details for: the construction of stabilized construction entrance/exits, concrete washouts, and sediment basins for controlling erosion; road access points; eliminating or keeping soil, sediment, and debris on streets and public ways at a level acceptable to the town. Soil, sediment, and debris brought onto streets and public ways must be removed by the end of the work day to the satisfaction of the town. Failure to remove the sediment, soil or debris shall be deemed a violation of this ordinance.
- (p) Proposed structures: location and identification of any proposed additional buildings, structures or development on the site.
- (q) A description of on-site measures to be taken to recharge surface water into the ground water system through runoff reduction practices.



- (r) Specific details for construction waste management. Construction site operators shall control waste such as discarded building materials, concrete truck washout, petroleum products and petroleum related products, chemicals, litter, and sanitary waste at the construction site that may cause adverse impacts to water quality. When the material is erodible, such as soil, the site must be treated as a construction site.
- (6) General design performance criteria for permanent stormwater management: the following performance criteria shall be addressed for permanent stormwater management at all development sites:
  - (a) Site design standards for all new and redevelopment require, in combination or alone, management measures that are designed, built and maintained to infiltrate, evapotranspire, harvest and/or use, at a minimum, the first inch of every rainfall event preceded by 72 hours of no measurable precipitation. This first inch of rainfall must be 100% managed with no discharge to surface waters.
  - (b) Limitations to the application of runoff reduction requirements include, but are not limited to:
    - (i) Where a potential for introducing pollutants into the groundwater exists, unless pretreatment is provided;
    - (ii) Where pre-existing soil contamination is present in areas subject to contact with infiltrated runoff;
    - (iii) Presence of sinkholes or other karst features.
  - (c) Pre-development infiltrative capacity of soils at the site must be taken into account in selection of runoff reduction management measures.
  - (d) Incentive Standards for re-developed sites: a 10% reduction in the volume of rainfall to be managed for any of the following types of development. Such credits are additive such that a maximum reduction of 50% of the standard in the paragraph above is possible for a project that meets all 5 criteria:
    - (i) Redevelopment;
    - (ii) Brownfield redevelopment;
    - (iii) High density (>7 units per acre);
    - (iv) Vertical Density, (Floor to Area Ratio (FAR) of 2 or >18 units per acre); and
    - (v) Mixed use and Transit Oriented Development (within ½ mile of transit).
  - (e) For projects that cannot meet 100% of the runoff reduction requirement unless subject to the incentive standards, the remainder of the stipulated amount of rainfall must be treated prior to discharge with a technology documented to remove 80% total suspended solids (TSS) unless an alternative provided under this ordinance is approved. The treatment technology must be designed, installed and maintained to continue to meet this performance standard.
  - (f) For projects that cannot meet 100% of the runoff reduction requirements, the Town of Signal Mountain may allow runoff reduction measures to be implemented at another location within the same USGS 12-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) as the original project. Off-site mitigation must be a minimum of 1.5 times the amount of water not managed on site. The off-site mitigation location (or alternative location outside the 12-digit HUC) and runoff reduction measures must be approved by the Town of Signal Mountain. The Town of Signal Mountain shall identify priority areas within the



watershed in which mitigation projects can be completed. The Town of Signal Mountain must create an inventory of appropriate mitigation projects, and develop appropriate institutional standards and management systems to value, evaluate and track transactions. Mitigation can be used for retrofit or redevelopment projects, but should be avoided in areas of new development.

- (g) To protect stream channels from degradation, specific channel protection criteria shall be provided as prescribed in the MS4 BMP manual.
  - (h) Stormwater discharges to critical areas with sensitive resources (i.e., cold water fisheries, shellfish beds, swimming beaches, recharge areas, water supply reservoirs) may be subject to additional performance criteria, or may need to utilize or restrict certain stormwater management practices.
  - (i) Stormwater discharges from hot spots may require the application of specific structural BMP's and pollution prevention practices. In addition, stormwater from a hot spot land use may not be infiltrated.
  - (j) Prior to or during the site design process, applicants for land disturbance permits shall consult with the Town of Signal Mountain to determine if they are subject to additional stormwater design requirements.
  - (k) The calculations for determining peak flows as found in the MS4 BMP manual shall be used for sizing all stormwater facilities.
- (7) Minimum volume control requirements. (Note: the volume control requirements are by the MS4 and not the TDEC MS4 Permit) in accordance with 18-701(1)(c)(iii) the MS4 may establish standards to regulate the quantity of stormwater discharged, therefore:
- (a) Stormwater designs shall meet the multi-stage storm frequency storage requirements as identified in the MS4 BMP manual.
  - (b) If hydrologic or topographic conditions warrant greater control than that provided by the minimum control requirements, the Town of Signal Mountain may impose any and all additional requirements deemed necessary to control the volume, timing, and rate of runoff.
- (8) Permanent Stormwater management plan requirements. The stormwater management plan shall include sufficient information to allow the Town of Signal Mountain to evaluate the environmental characteristics of the project site, the potential impacts of all proposed development of the site, both present and future, on the water resources, and the effectiveness and acceptability of the measures proposed for managing stormwater generated at the project site. To accomplish this goal the stormwater management plan shall include the following:
- (a) Topographic base map: Topographic base map of the site which extends a minimum of 100 feet beyond the limits of the proposed development and indicates:
    - (i) Existing surface water drainage including streams, ponds, culverts, ditches, sink holes, wetlands; and the type, size, elevation, etc., of nearest upstream and downstream drainage structures;
    - (ii) Current land use including all existing structures, locations of utilities, roads, and easements;
    - (iii) All other existing significant natural and artificial features;



- (iv) Proposed land use with tabulation of the percentage of surface area to be adapted to various uses; drainage patterns; locations of utilities, roads and easements; the limits of clearing and grading.
- (b) Proposed structural and non-structural BMP's;
- (c) A written description of the site plan and justification of proposed changes in natural conditions may also be required;
- (d) Calculations: Hydrologic and hydraulic design calculations for the pre-development and post-development conditions for the design storms specified in the MS4 BMP manual. These calculations must show that the proposed stormwater management measures are capable of controlling runoff from the site in compliance with this chapter and the guidelines of the MS4 BMP manual. Such calculations shall include:
  - (i) A description of the design storm frequency, duration, and intensity where applicable;
  - (ii) Time of concentration;
  - (iii) Soil curve numbers or runoff coefficients including assumed soil moisture conditions;
  - (iv) Peak runoff rates and total runoff volumes for each watershed area;
  - (v) Infiltration rates, where applicable;
  - (vi) Culvert, stormwater sewer, ditch and/or other stormwater conveyance capacities;
  - (vii) Flow velocities;
  - (viii) Data on the increase in rate and volume of runoff for the design storms referenced in the MS4 BMP manual; and
  - (ix) Documentation of sources for all computation methods and field test results.
- (e) Soils information: If a stormwater management control measure depends on the hydrologic properties of soils (e.g., infiltration basins), then a soils report shall be submitted. The soils report shall be based on on-site boring logs or soil pit profiles and soil survey reports. The number and location of required soil borings or soil pits shall be determined based on what is needed to determine the suitability and distribution of soil types present at the location of the control measure.
- (9) Maintenance and repair plan: The design and planning of all permanent stormwater management facilities shall include detailed maintenance and repair procedures to ensure their continued performance. These plans will identify the parts or components of a stormwater management facility that need to be maintained and the equipment and skills or training necessary. Provisions for the periodic review and evaluation of the effectiveness of the maintenance program and the need for revisions or additional maintenance procedures shall be included in the plan.
- (10) Buffers and buffer zones: Buffer and buffer zones shall be those buffers and buffer zones as those terms are defined in 18-702 (5) and (6), above, and shall meet the requirements contained in those provisions.
  - (a) Construction
    - (1) Construction requires buffer zone widths of a minimum of thirty (30) feet. The thirty (30) foot criterion for the width of the buffer zone can be established on an average width basis. As long as the minimum width of the buffer zone is fifteen (15) feet. The buffer zone shall meet all the other applicable requirements of 18-702 (5) and (6).



(2) Construction on impaired or exceptional waters. The width of the buffer zone shall be a minimum of sixty (60) feet. The sixty (60) feet criterion for the width of the buffer zone can be established on an average basis at a project as long as the minimum width of the buffer is more than thirty (30) feet at any measured location. The buffer zone shall meet all the other applicable requirements of 18-702(5) and (60).

(b) Permanent

(1) More than one (1) square mile drainage area will require buffer zones of a minimum of sixty (60) feet. The sixty (60) foot criterion for the width of the buffer zone can be established on an average width basis, as long as the minimum width of the buffer zone is more than thirty (30) feet at any measured location.

(2) Less than one (1) square mile drainage area. Less than one (1) square mile drainage area will require buffer zones of a minimum of thirty (30) feet. The thirty (30) foot criterion for the width of the buffer zone can be established on an average width basis, as long as the minimum width of the buffer zone is more than fifteen (15) feet at any measured location. The buffer zone shall meet all the other applicable requirements of 18-702(5) and (6).

**18-705. Permanent stormwater management: operation, maintenance, and inspection.**

(1) As built plans. All applicants are required to submit actual as built plans for any structures located on-site after final construction is completed. The plan must show the final design specifications for all stormwater management facilities and must be sealed by a registered professional engineer licensed to practice in Tennessee. A final inspection by the town is required before any performance security or performance bond will be released. The town shall have the discretion to adopt provisions for a partial pro-rata release of the performance security or performance bond on the completion of various stages of development. In addition, occupation permits shall not be granted until corrections to all BMP's have been made and accepted by the town.

(2) Landscaping and stabilization requirements.

(a) Any area of land from which the natural vegetative cover has been either partially or wholly cleared by development activities shall stabilize. Stabilization measures shall be initiated as soon as possible in portions of the site where construction activities have temporarily or permanently ceased. Temporary or permanent soil stabilization at the construction site (or a phase of the project) must be completed not later than 15 days after the construction activity in that portion of the site has temporarily or permanently ceased. In the following situations, temporary stabilization measures are not required:

(i) where the initiation of stabilization measures is precluded by snow cover or frozen ground conditions or adverse soggy ground conditions, stabilization measures shall be initiated as soon as practicable; or

(ii) where construction activity on a portion of the site is temporarily ceased, and earth disturbing activities will be resumed within 15 days.

(b) Permanent stabilization with perennial vegetation (using native herbaceous and woody plants where practicable) or other permanently stable, non-eroding surface shall replace any temporary measures as soon as practicable. Unpacked gravel containing fines (silt and clay sized particles) or crusher runs will not be considered a non-eroding surface.



- (c) The following criteria shall apply to revegetation efforts:
- (i) Reseeding must be done with an annual or perennial cover crop accompanied by placement of straw mulch or its equivalent of sufficient coverage to control erosion until such time as the cover crop is established over ninety percent (90%) of the seeded area.
  - (ii) Replanting with native woody and herbaceous vegetation must be accompanied by placement of straw mulch or its equivalent of sufficient coverage to control erosion until the plantings are established and are capable of controlling erosion.
  - (iii) Any area of revegetation must exhibit survival of a minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of the cover crop throughout the year immediately following revegetation. Revegetation must be repeated in successive years until the minimum seventy-five percent (75%) survival for one (1) year is achieved.
  - (iv) In addition to the above requirements, a landscaping plan must be submitted with the final design describing the vegetative stabilization and management techniques to be used at a site after construction is completed. This plan will explain not only how the site will be stabilized after construction, but who will be responsible for the maintenance of vegetation at the site and what practices will be employed to ensure that adequate vegetative cover is preserved.
- (3) Inspection of stormwater management facilities. Periodic inspections of facilities shall be performed, documented, and reported in accordance with this chapter, as detailed in §18-706.
- (4) Records of installation and maintenance activities. Parties responsible for the operation and maintenance of a stormwater management facility shall make records of the installation of the stormwater facility, and of all maintenance and repairs to the facility, and shall retain the records for at least three (3) years. These records shall be made available to the town during inspection of the facility and at other reasonable times upon request.
- (5) Failure to meet or maintain design or maintenance standards. If a responsible party fails or refuses to meet the design or maintenance standards required for stormwater facilities under this chapter, the town, after reasonable notice, may correct a violation of the design standards or maintenance needs by performing all necessary work to place the facility in proper working condition. In the event that the stormwater management facility becomes a danger to public safety or public health, the town shall notify in writing the party responsible for maintenance of the stormwater management facility. Upon receipt of that notice, the responsible person shall have thirty (30) days to effect maintenance and repair of the facility in an approved manner. In the event that corrective action is not undertaken within that time, the town may take necessary corrective action. The cost of any action by the town under this section shall be charged to the responsible party.

**18-706. Existing locations and ongoing developments.**

- (1) On-site stormwater management facilities maintenance agreement:
- (a) Where the stormwater facility is located on property that is subject to a development agreement, and the development agreement provides for a permanent stormwater maintenance agreement that runs with the land, the owners of property must execute an inspection and maintenance agreement that shall operate as a deed restriction binding on



the current property owners and all subsequent property owners and their lessees and assigns, including but not limited to, homeowner associations or other groups or entities.

(b) The maintenance agreement shall:

- (1) Assign responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the stormwater facility to the owners of the property upon which the facility is located and be recorded as such on the plat for the property by appropriate notation.
- (2) Provide for a periodic inspection by the property owners in accordance with the requirements of subsection (5) below for the purpose of documenting maintenance and repair needs and to ensure compliance with the requirements of this ordinance. The property owners will arrange for this inspection to be conducted by a registered professional engineer licensed to practice in the State of Tennessee, who will submit a signed written report of the inspection to the Town of Signal Mountain. It shall also grant permission to the town to enter the property at reasonable times and to inspect the stormwater facility to ensure that it is being properly maintained.
- (3) Provide that the minimum maintenance and repair needs include, but are not limited to: the removal of silt, litter and other debris, the cutting of grass, cutting and vegetation removal, and the replacement of landscape vegetation, in detention and retention basins, and inlets and drainage pipes and any other stormwater facilities. It shall also provide that the property owners shall be responsible for additional maintenance and repair needs consistent with the needs and standards outlined in the MS4 BMP manual.
- (4) Provide that maintenance needs must be addressed in a timely manner, on a schedule to be determined by the Town of Signal Mountain.
- (5) Provide that if the property is not maintained or repaired within the prescribed schedule, the Town of Signal Mountain shall perform the maintenance and repair at its expense, and bill the same to the property owner. The maintenance agreement shall also provide that the Town of Signal Mountain's cost of performing the maintenance shall be a lien against the property.

(2) Existing problem locations – no maintenance agreement.

- (a) The Town of Signal Mountain shall in writing notify the owners of existing locations and developments of specific drainage, erosion or sediment problems affecting or caused by such locations and developments, and the specific actions required to correct those problems. The notice shall also specify a reasonable time for compliance. Discharges from existing BMP's that have not been maintained and/or inspected in accordance with this ordinance shall be regarded as illicit.
- (b) Inspection of existing facilities. The town may, to the extent authorized by state and federal law, enter and inspect private property for the purpose of determining if there are illicit non-stormwater discharges, and to establish inspection programs to verify that all stormwater management facilities are functioning within design limits. These inspection programs may be established on any reasonable basis, including but not limited to: routine inspections; random inspections; inspections based upon complaints or other notice of possible violations; inspection of drainage basins or areas identified as higher than typical sources of sediment or other contaminants or pollutants; inspections of businesses or industries of a type associated with higher than usual discharges of contaminants or pollutants or with discharges of a type which are more likely than the typical discharge to



cause violations of the town's NPDES stormwater permit; and joint inspections with other agencies inspecting under environmental or safety laws. Inspections may include, but are not limited to: reviewing maintenance and repair records; sampling discharges, surface water, groundwater, and material or water in drainage control facilities; and evaluating the condition of drainage control facilities and other BMP's.

(3) Owner/Operator Inspections - generally. The owners and/or the operators of stormwater management practices shall:

- (a) Perform routine inspections to ensure that the BMP's are properly functioning. These inspections shall be conducted on an annual basis, at a minimum. These inspections shall be conducted by a person familiar with control measures implemented at a site. Owners or operators shall maintain documentation of these inspections. The Town of Signal Mountain may require submittal of this documentation.
- (b) Perform comprehensive inspection of all stormwater management facilities and practices. These inspections shall be conducted once every five years, at a minimum. Such inspections must be conducted by either a professional engineer or landscape architect, licensed in the State of Tennessee. Complete inspection reports for these five year inspections shall include:
  - (i) Facility type,
  - (ii) Inspection date,
  - (iii) Latitude and longitude and nearest street address,
  - (iv) BMP owner information (e.g. name, address, phone number, fax, and email),
  - (v) A description of BMP condition including: vegetation and soils; inlet and outlet channels and structures; embankments, slopes, and safety benches; spillways, weirs, and other control structures; and any sediment and debris accumulation,
  - (vi) Photographic documentation of BMP's, and
  - (vii) Specific maintenance items or violations that need to be corrected by the BMP owner along with deadlines and reinspection dates.
- (c) Owners or operators shall maintain documentation of these inspections. The Town of Signal Mountain may require submittal of this documentation.

(4) Requirements for all existing locations and ongoing developments. The following requirements shall apply to all locations and development at which land disturbing activities have occurred previous to the enactment of this ordinance:

- (a) Denuded areas must be vegetated or covered under the standards and guidelines specified in 18-705 (2)(c)(i), (ii), (iii) and on a schedule acceptable to the Town of Signal Mountain.
- (b) Cuts and slopes must be properly covered with appropriate vegetation and/or retaining walls constructed.
- (c) Drainage ways shall be properly covered in vegetation or secured with rip-rap, channel lining, etc., to prevent erosion.
- (d) Trash, junk, rubbish, etc. shall be cleared from drainage ways.
- (e) Stormwater runoff shall, at the discretion of the Town of Signal Mountain be controlled to the maximum extent practicable to prevent its pollution. Such control measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - (i) Ponds
    - (1) Detention pond



- (2) Extended detention pond
    - (3) Wet pond
    - (4) Alternative storage measures
  - (ii) Constructed wetlands
  - (iii) Infiltration systems
    - (1) Infiltration/percolation trench
    - (2) Infiltration basin
    - (3) Drainage (recharge) well
    - (4) Porous pavement
  - (iv) Filtering systems
    - (1) Catch basin inserts/media filter
    - (2) Sand filter
    - (3) Filter/absorption bed
    - (4) Filter and buffer strips
  - (v) Open channel
    - (1) Swale
- (5) Corrections of problems subject to appeal. Corrective measures imposed by the Town of Signal Mountain under this section are subject to appeal under section 18-710 of this chapter.

**18-707. Illicit discharges.**

- (1) Scope. This section shall apply to all water generated on developed or undeveloped land entering the town's separate storm sewer system.
- (2) Prohibition of illicit discharges. No person shall introduce or cause to be introduced into the municipal separate storm sewer system any discharge that is not composed entirely of stormwater or any discharge that flows from stormwater facility that is not inspected in accordance with section 18-706 shall be an illicit discharge. Non-stormwater discharges shall include, but shall not be limited to, sanitary wastewater, car wash wastewater, radiator flushing disposal, spills from roadway accidents, carpet cleaning wastewater, effluent from septic tanks, improper oil disposal, laundry wastewater/gray water, improper disposal of auto and household toxics. The commencement, conduct or continuance of any non-stormwater discharge to the municipal separate storm sewer system is prohibited except as described as follows:
- (a) Uncontaminated discharges from the following sources:
- (i) Water line flushing or other potable water sources;
  - (ii) Landscape irrigation or lawn watering with potable water;
  - (iii) Diverted stream flows;
  - (iv) Rising ground water;
  - (v) Groundwater infiltration to storm drains;
  - (vi) Pumped groundwater;
  - (vii) Foundation or footing drains;
  - (viii) Crawl space pumps;
  - (ix) Air conditioning condensation;
  - (x) Springs;
  - (xi) Non-commercial washing of vehicles;



- (xii) Natural riparian habitat or wetland flows;
  - (xiii) Swimming pools (if dechlorinated - typically less than one PPM chlorine);
  - (xiv) Firefighting activities;
  - (xv) Any other uncontaminated water source.
- (b) Discharges specified in writing by the town as being necessary to protect public health and safety.
- (c) Dye testing is an allowable discharge if the town has so specified in writing.
- (d) Discharges authorized by the Construction General Permit (CGP), which comply with Section 3.5.9 of the same:
- (i) dewatering of work areas of collected stormwater and ground water (filtering or chemical treatment may be necessary prior to discharge);
  - (ii) waters used to wash vehicles (of dust and soil, not process materials such as oils, asphalt or concrete) where detergents are not used and detention and/or filtering is provided before the water leaves site;
  - (iii) water used to control dust in accordance with CGP section 3.5.5;
  - (iv) potable water sources including waterline flushings from which chlorine has been removed to the maximum extent practicable;
  - (v) routine external building washdown that does not use detergents or other chemicals;
  - (vi) uncontaminated groundwater or spring water; and
  - (vii) foundation or footing drains where flows are not contaminated with pollutants (process materials such as solvents, heavy metals, etc.).
- (3) Prohibition of illicit connections. The construction, use, maintenance or continued existence of illicit connections to the municipal separate storm sewer system is prohibited. This prohibition expressly includes, without limitation, illicit connections made in the past, regardless of whether the connection was permissible under law or practices applicable or prevailing at the time of connection.
- (4) Reduction of stormwater pollutants by the use of best management practices. Any person responsible for a property or premises, which is, or may be, the source of an illicit discharge, may be required to implement, at the person's expense, the BMP's necessary to prevent the further discharge of pollutants to the municipal separate storm sewer system. Compliance with all terms and conditions of a valid NPDES permit authorizing the discharge of stormwater associated with industrial activity, to the extent practicable, shall be deemed in compliance with the provisions of this section. Discharges from existing BMP's that have not been maintained and/or inspected in accordance with this ordinance shall be regarded as illicit.
- (5) Notification of spills. Notwithstanding other requirements of law, as soon as any person responsible for a facility or operation, or responsible for emergency response for a facility or operation has information of any known or suspected release of materials which are resulting in, or may result in, illicit discharges or pollutants discharging into, the municipal separate storm sewer system, the person shall take all necessary steps to ensure the discovery, containment, and cleanup of such release. In the event of such a release of hazardous materials the person shall immediately notify emergency response agencies of the occurrence via emergency dispatch services. In the event of a release of non-hazardous materials, the person shall notify the town in person or by telephone, fax, or email, no later than the next business day. Notifications in person or by telephone shall be confirmed by written notice addressed



and mailed to the town within three (3) business days of the telephone notice. If the discharge of prohibited materials emanates from a commercial or industrial establishment, the owner or operator of such establishment shall also retain an on-site written record of the discharge and the actions taken to prevent its recurrence. Such records shall be retained for at least three (3) years.

- (6) No illegal dumping allowed. No person shall dump or otherwise deposit outside an authorized landfill, convenience center or other authorized garbage or trash collection point, any trash or garbage of any kind or description on any private or public property, occupied or unoccupied, inside the town.

#### **18-708. Enforcement.**

- (1) Enforcement authority. The Town of Signal Mountain shall have the authority to issue notices of violation and citations, and to impose the civil penalties provided in this section. Measures authorized include:

- (a) Verbal Warnings – At a minimum, verbal warnings must specify the nature of the violation and required corrective action.
- (b) Written Notices – Written notices must stipulate the nature of the violation and the required corrective action, with deadlines for taking such action.
- (c) Citations with Administrative Penalties – The MS4 has the authority to assess monetary penalties, which may include civil and administrative penalties.
- (d) Stop Work Orders – Stop work orders that require construction activities to be halted, except for those activities directed at cleaning up, abating discharge, and installing appropriate control measures.
- (e) Withholding of Plan Approvals or Other Authorizations – Where a facility is in noncompliance, the MS4's own approval process affecting the facility's ability to discharge to the MS4 can be used to abate the violation.
- (f) Additional Measures – The MS4 may also use other escalated measures provided under local legal authorities. The MS4 may perform work necessary to improve erosion control measures and collect the funds from the responsible party in an appropriate manner, such as collecting against the project's bond or directly billing the responsible party to pay for work and materials.

- (2) Notification of violation:

- (a) Verbal warning. Verbal warning may be given at the discretion of the inspector when it appears the condition can be corrected by the violator within a reasonable time, which time shall be approved by the inspector.
- (b) Written notice. Whenever the Town of Signal Mountain finds that any permittee or any other person discharging stormwater has violated or is violating this ordinance or a permit or order issued hereunder, the Town of Signal Mountain may serve upon such person written notice of the violation. Within ten (10) days max or as specified in the written notice, an explanation of the violation and a plan for the satisfactory correction and prevention thereof, to include specific required actions, shall be submitted to the Town of Signal Mountain. Submission of this plan in no way relieves the discharger of liability for any violations occurring before or after receipt of the notice of violation.



(c) Consent orders. The Town of Signal Mountain is empowered to enter into consent orders, assurances of voluntary compliance, or other similar documents establishing an agreement with the person responsible for the noncompliance. Such orders will include specific action to be taken by the person to correct the noncompliance within a time period also specified by the order. Consent orders shall have the same force and effect as administrative orders issued pursuant to paragraphs (d) and (e) below.

(d) Show cause hearing. The Town of Signal Mountain may order any person who violates this chapter or permit or order issued hereunder, to show cause why a proposed enforcement action should not be taken. Notice shall be served on the person specifying the time and place for the meeting, the proposed enforcement action and the reasons for such action, and a request that the violator show cause why this proposed enforcement action should not be taken. The notice of the meeting shall be served personally or by registered or certified mail (return receipt requested) at least ten (10) days prior to the hearing.

(e) Compliance order. When the Town of Signal Mountain finds that any person has violated or continues to violate this chapter or a permit or order issued thereunder, the Town may issue an order to the violator directing that, following a specific time period, adequate structures or devices be installed and/or procedures implemented and properly operated. Orders may also contain such other requirements as might be reasonably necessary and appropriate to address the noncompliance, including the construction of appropriate structures, installation of devices, self-monitoring, and management practices.

(f) Cease and desist and stop work orders. When the Town of Signal Mountain finds that any person has violated or continues to violate this chapter or any permit or order issued hereunder, the Town of Signal Mountain may issue a stop work order or an order to cease and desist all such violations and direct those persons in noncompliance to:

- (i) Comply forthwith; or
- (ii) Take such appropriate remedial or preventive action as may be needed to properly address a continuing or threatened violation; including halting operations except for terminating the discharge and installing appropriate control measures.

(g) Suspension, revocation or modification of permit. The Town of Signal Mountain may suspend, revoke or modify the permit authorizing the land development project or any other project of the applicant or other responsible person within the town. A suspended, revoked or modified permit may be reinstated after the applicant or other responsible person has taken the remedial measures set forth in the notice of violation or has otherwise cured the violations described therein, provided such permit may be reinstated upon such conditions as the Town of Signal Mountain may deem necessary to enable the applicant or other responsible person to take the necessary remedial measures to cure such violations.

(h) Conflicting standards. Whenever there is a conflict between any standard contained in this chapter and in the BMP manual adopted by the town under this ordinance, the strictest standard shall prevail.



**18-709. Penalties.**

- (1) Violations. Any person who shall commit any act declared unlawful under this chapter, who violates any provision of this chapter, who violates the provisions of any permit issued pursuant to this chapter, or who fails or refuses to comply with any lawful communication or notice to abate or take corrective action by the Town of Signal Mountain, shall be guilty of a civil offense.
- (2) Penalties. Under the authority provided in Tennessee Code Annotated § 68-221-1106, the town declares that any person violating the provisions of this chapter may be assessed a civil penalty by the Town of Signal Mountain of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) and not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) per day for each day of violation. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate violation.
- (3) Measuring civil penalties. In assessing a civil penalty, the Town of Signal Mountain may consider:
  - (a) The harm done to the public health or the environment;
  - (b) Whether the civil penalty imposed will be a substantial economic deterrent to the illegal activity;
  - (c) The economic benefit gained by the violator;
  - (d) The amount of effort put forth by the violator to remedy this violation;
  - (e) Any unusual or extraordinary enforcement costs incurred by the town;
  - (f) The amount of penalty established by ordinance or resolution for specific categories of violations; and
  - (g) Any equities of the situation which outweigh the benefit of imposing any penalty or damage assessment.
- (4) Recovery of damages and costs. In addition to the civil penalty in subsection (2) above, the town may recover:
  - (a) All damages proximately caused by the violator to the town, which may include any reasonable expenses incurred in investigating violations of, and enforcing compliance with, this chapter, or any other actual damages caused by the violation.
  - (b) The costs of the town's maintenance of stormwater facilities when the user of such facilities fails to maintain them as required by this chapter.
- (5) Referral to TDEC. Where the town has used progressive enforcement to achieve compliance with this ordinance, and in the judgment of the town has not been successful, the town may refer the violation to TDEC. For the purposes of this provision, "progressive enforcement" shall mean two (2) follow-up inspections and two (2) warning letters. In addition, enforcement referrals to TDEC must include, at a minimum, the following information:
  - (a) Construction project or industrial facility location;
  - (b) Name of owner or operator;
  - (c) Estimated construction project or size or type of industrial activity (including SIC code, if known);
  - (d) Records of communications with the owner or operator regarding the violation, including at least two follow-up inspections, two warning letters or notices of violation, and any response from the owner or operator.



- (6) Other remedies. The town may bring legal action to enjoin the continuing violation of this chapter, and the existence of any other remedy, at law or equity, shall be no defense to any such actions.
- (7) Remedies cumulative. The remedies set forth in this section shall be cumulative, not exclusive, and it shall not be a defense to any action, civil or criminal, that one (1) or more of the remedies set forth herein has been sought or granted.

**18-710. Appeals.** Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated § 68-221-1106(d), any person aggrieved by the imposition of a civil penalty or damage assessment as provided by this chapter may appeal said penalty or damage assessment to the Town Council.

- (1) Appeals to be in writing. The appeal shall be in writing and filed with the municipal recorder within fifteen (15) days after the civil penalty and/or damage assessment is served in any manner authorized by law.
- (2) Public hearing. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Town Council shall hold a public hearing within thirty (30) days. Ten (10) days prior notice of the time, date, and location of said hearing shall be published in a daily newspaper of general circulation. Ten (10) days' notice by registered mail shall also be provided to the aggrieved party, such notice to be sent to the address provided by the aggrieved party at the time of appeal. The decision of the Town Council shall be final.
- (3) Appealing decisions of the Town Council. Any alleged violator may appeal a decision of the Town Council pursuant to the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, title 27, chapter 8.

Passed First Reading November 21, 2014

Passed Second Reading December 8, 2014

  
Dick Gee, Mayor

  
Recorder