

This covers maintenance activities associated with the transmission and distribution of public and private utilities such as petroleum products, natural gas, water, sewage, and electrical power. This includes the maintenance of underground utility vaults, pump stations, and similar facilities.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by King County Code 9.12.

If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

Required BMPs:

- Minimize the amount of herbicides and other pesticides used to maintain access roads and facilities.
- Stabilize access roads or areas of bare ground with gravel, crushed rock, or another method to prevent erosion. Use and manage vegetation to minimize bare ground/soils that may be susceptible to erosion.
- Provide stormwater drainage for roads and maintenance areas. Grade roads with a crown or slope to minimize the potential for erosion from runoff. Provide ditches, swales, and culverts to convey stormwater runoff.
- Keep ditches and culverts clear to reduce the possibility of the drainage becoming plugged or blocked, causing overflows and erosion.
- Check utility vaults or other underground structures for oil prior to pumping out any collected water. Contaminated water must be collected for proper disposal. Small amounts of oil may be captured with absorbent material. Never discharge contaminated water, including high or low pH, to storm drainage facilities or surface waters.
- When removing water and/or sediment from electrical transformer vaults, determine from records or testing if the transformers contain PCBs.
- Clean up any debris or spilled material immediately after completing maintenance and repair activities.

Additional Information:

- Landscaping Activities and Vegetation Management – Activity Sheet A-26
- Erosion and Sediment Control Standards – King County Surface Water Design Manual, Appendix D
- Work in public road right of ways requires permission from King County Utility Inspection Program (206) 296-8122.