

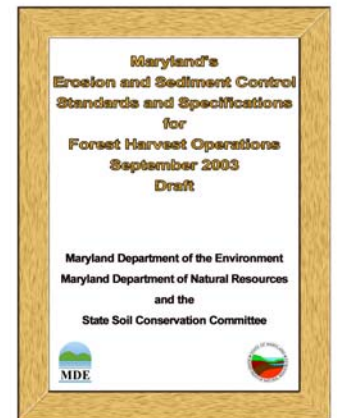


# **EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR FOREST HARVEST OPERATIONS**

***SUMMARY: FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS THE COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE TIMBER CUTTING CONDUCTED IN MARYLAND'S FORESTS HAS BEEN REGULATED FOR EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL. THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR THIS REGULATORY ACTIVITY IS THE SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL GUIDELINES FOR FOREST HARVEST OPERATIONS IN MARYLAND***

The Water Management Administration's Sediment, Stormwater and Dam Safety Program has joined with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service and the State Soil Conservation Committee to revise and update these guidelines. The effort has resulted in a working draft entitled the "***Maryland's Erosion and Sediment Control Standards And Specifications For Forest Harvest Operations.***" The most obvious change is the conversion to standards and specifications from guidelines. This brings the forest harvest document into line with the "**1994 Maryland Standards And Specifications For Soil Erosion And Sediment Control**" (the standards and specification used for commercial construction).

The goal is to incorporate by reference these revised standards and specifications into COMAR. Before attempting to do this, MDE and DNR put out the working draft for comment. By the end of the Fall of 2000, the Departments received comments from the timber harvest industry, regulators and interested citizens. These comments were carefully reviewed, evaluated and if warranted included in the second draft.



The Forest Harvest Review Workgroup has completed the second draft. In addition to the comments from the affected community, the workgroup has drafted advisory sections for wetlands and waterways permits to replace the more in depth treatment attempted originally, restructured the document in accordance to what was dictated by the comments, expanded the Critical Area appendices, established and incorporated consistent terminology, drafted and included a section dealing with the Responsible Personnel Certification (the "Green Card"), drafted and included a section dealing with the 7/14 day stabilization requirement, reformatted graphics to be compatible with the current version and, distributed the document in house for review and comment by a small number of MDE staff (mostly to spot typos and format problems, but some technical suggested were received, evaluated and incorporated). The workgroup also identified the need to tighten up the treatment of the same concepts as presented in the document and the standard plan. A similar issue was resolved with the treatment of vegetative stabilization requirements throughout all of the sections, especially relating to the requirement for the use of seed and mulch.

All members of the workgroup and a limited number of representatives from the timber harvest industry are currently reviewing the final draft. Once we have comments from them, we will release the document to the community at large through MDE's web page, anticipated by the Fall 2003. Following that comment period, the document will be taken through the formal procedures that will make it part of the State's erosion and sediment control regulations (projected by the Winter of 2004).

For additional information please contact MDE's Sediment, Stormwater, and Dam Safety Program at 410-537-3543.

