NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Chapter 251, PL 1975 as amended,
Engineering Policies- Technical Bulletin

Technical Bulletin: 2018-3.0	**Effective Date: March 30, 2018** **September 14, 2026**
Subject: **Inspection Procedures to Verify Soil Restoration Measures**	**From:** **Frank Minch, Executive Secretary, SSCC**

1.01 PURPOSE

To clarify the process for performing inspections for soil restoration measures on applicable construction sites.

1.02 SUMMARY

The following procedures should be used on those sites which are governed by N.J.S.A. 4:24-39, et seq., The Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act of New Jersey where soil restoration measures pursuant to P.L. 2010, Chpt. 113 and the Topsoil and Land Grading Standards are applicable and noted on the certified erosion control plan.

1.03 IMPLEMENTATION

1. **Stand-Alone Inspection of Subsoil for Restoration/Decompaction**. This is a separate and distinct inspection from the normal inspection for a Certificate of Compliance on an individual parcel or lot and is conducted prior to topsoiling and final seeding or sodding.
    a. This is a voluntary request by the applicant. Additional inspection fees may be charged if the initial application inspection fees have been exhausted. Fee(s) will be charged at the District Approved Fee Schedule rate.
    b. The applicant will demonstrate to the District either of the following:
        i. Testing of subsoil compaction with one of the four (4) methods described on the certified plan and/or enumerated in the Standard for Land Grading. The applicant may elect to have District staff present during the testing or provide photographic evidence and a signed report/letter from the party performing the testing.
        ii. Actual restoration of subsoil through deep tillage, scarification etc. to a minimum of 6.0". The District must either witness the tillage or scarification or be provided with photographic evidence showing the tillage operation taking place on the property in question along with the date of operation.
    c. The NJDA Soil Restoration Verification Form will be filled out by the applicant and given to the District noting either testing or restoration measures were successfully performed by the applicant.
    d. The applicant will schedule a follow-up inspection of normal permanent stabilization measures (topsoil, seed, mulch, sod, etc.) at a later date agreeable to both the applicant and the District. *It is recommended that the follow up inspection for the Conditional Report of Compliance be conducted as soon after the subsoil inspection as possible*.

2. **Comprehensive ("all in one") Conditional Report of Compliance Inspection**. The District will inspect and verify both the subsoil de-compaction as well as the normal permanent stabilization measures (topsoil, seed, mulch, sod etc.) during one inspection.
    a. The applicant or authorized party will perform the test by carefully removing enough topsoil to allow topsoil depth to be observed (4-6") and to gain access to the subsoil for testing.
    b. The party will utilize either a wire flag probe or penetrometer (their choice) in accordance with the requirements shown on the certified plan. Else, certified test results may be provided (in accordance with the Land Grading Standard) which demonstrate compliance with bulk density requirements contained in Table 19-1 in that Standard. In any case, the in-situ testing or certified test results must demonstrate compliance with soil restoration measures for de-compaction. If the test fails, the applicant shall be required to perform subsoil de-compaction measures again.
    c. Upon successful demonstration of test results and verification that permanent vegetative stabilization measures have been applied, the District may issue its Report of Compliance.
    d. If vegetative cover does not meet the Standard for Permanent Vegetative Cover, a Conditional Report of Compliance may be issued by the District with either or both of the following conditions specified:
        i. **Condition No. 1**: The property being inspected will continue to be observed until one non-growing season has passed and at least 80% permanent vegetative cover is observed (see Standards for Topsoil, Section 4-C and Permanent Vegetative Cover Section 7)
        ii. **Condition No. 2**: A monetary performance bond may be taken by the District to ensure that, in the event of failure to achieve 80% coverage of permanent vegetation, bond funds may be utilized to perform additional work to establish vegetation which will be permanent.

For any of the above scenarios, soil compaction testing will not be required if scarification and/or compaction mitigation is required as part of the sequence of construction on the certified SESC Plan, as per the Standard for Land Grading.