THE NEW ALABAMA QCP PROGRAM

CLEAR WATER ALABAMA 2026: NORTHPORT, AL



AUBURN UNIVERSITY – STORMWATER RESEARCH FACILITY

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
Highway Research Center

ADEM
Alabama Department of Environmental Management

ALDOT
Alabama Department of Transportation

STORMWATER

one of the nation's largest pollution problems



AUBURN
STORMWATER

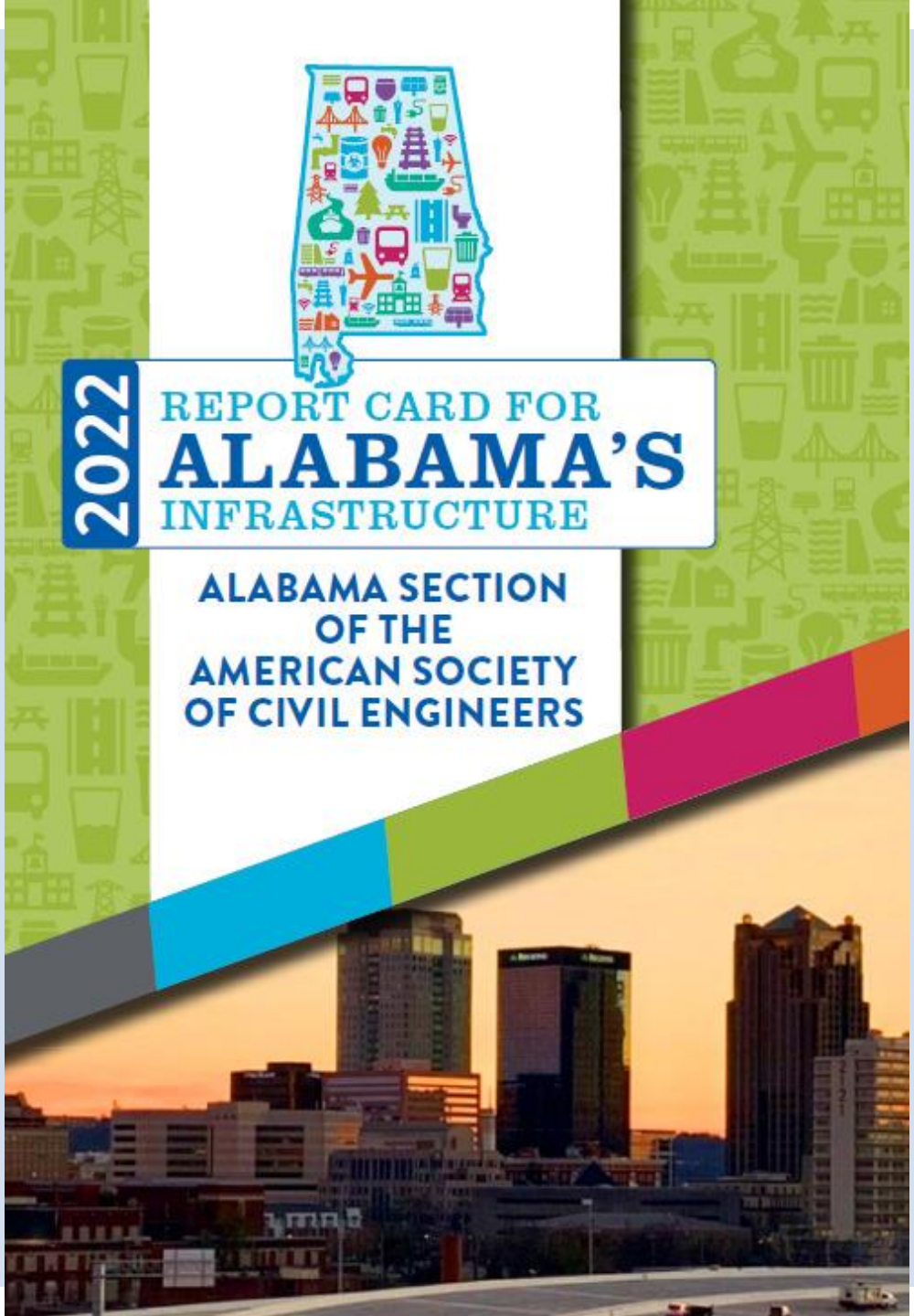
CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER NEEDS



Environmental compliance on construction projects requires quality construction stormwater management. Poor training yields poor management.

2025 ASCE REPORT CARD FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

STORMWATER





IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS



ALDOT lawsuit filed

Published: Dec. 11, 2007, 5:47 p.m.



TRANSPORTATION • DAILY COVER

Car Tire Dust Is Killing Salmon Every Time It Rains

MUD INFILTRATES BIG CREEK WATER

SEDIMENT APPARENTLY TIED TO ROAD PROJECT



A muddy plume visible in Big Creek Lake in late October appears to originate from the mouth of Long Branch, a small creek that enters the lake near the U.S. 98 bridge. The plume expands as it flows toward the water treatment plant intakes, which are not visible in the image. Long Branch, along with many other creeks and wetlands downstream of the Alabama Department of Transportation's U.S. 98 project, has suffered a heavy influx of sediment since the road work began.

How Washington's Roads Are Killing Salmon

More mud

Published: Nov. 08, 2007, 8:32 p.m.



...rs and ...treams often die be... ...wn. Photo by Roger Ta...or,



stormwater runoff remains a leading source of impairment for US waters

WE NEED BETTER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES













AUBURN UNIVERSITY

STORMWATER RESEARCH FACILITY



AUBURN
STORMWATER



AUBURN STORMWATER

STORMWATER RESEARCH FACILITY

1900 Lee Rd. 151, Opelika, AL 36804

Our Mission

AU-SRF advances stormwater management through evaluation, innovation, and education that supports real-world, science-based solutions. We lead the development and application of practical approaches that shape the future of stormwater management.

Our Sponsors

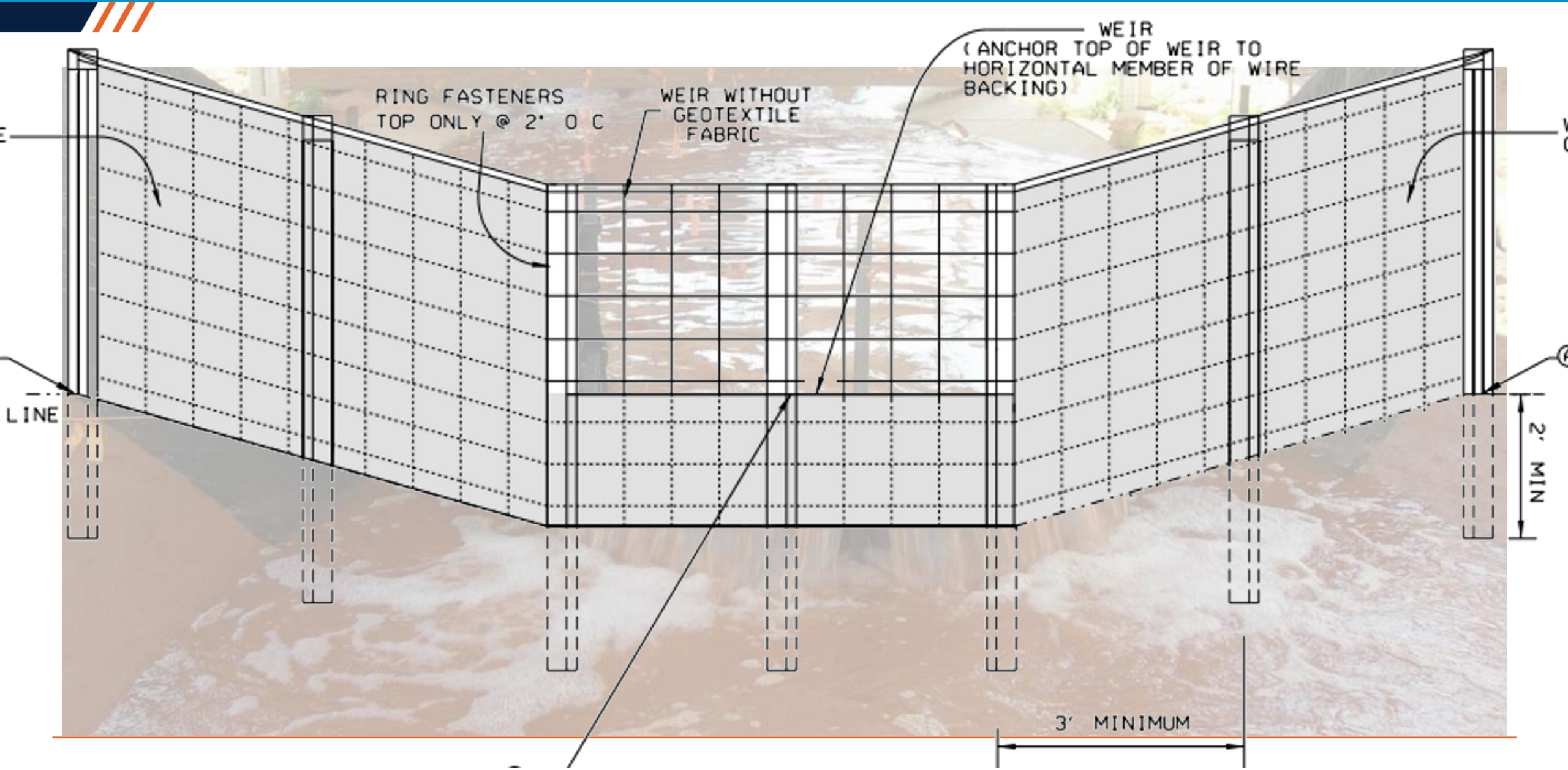
ALDOT Alabama Department of Transportation · IOWA DOT · NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION · MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION · Ohio Department of Transportation · EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency · NCHRP National Cooperative Highway Research Program · USDA United States Department of Agriculture · U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration · USGS science for a changing world

We are grateful for the generous research funding provided by our sponsors.

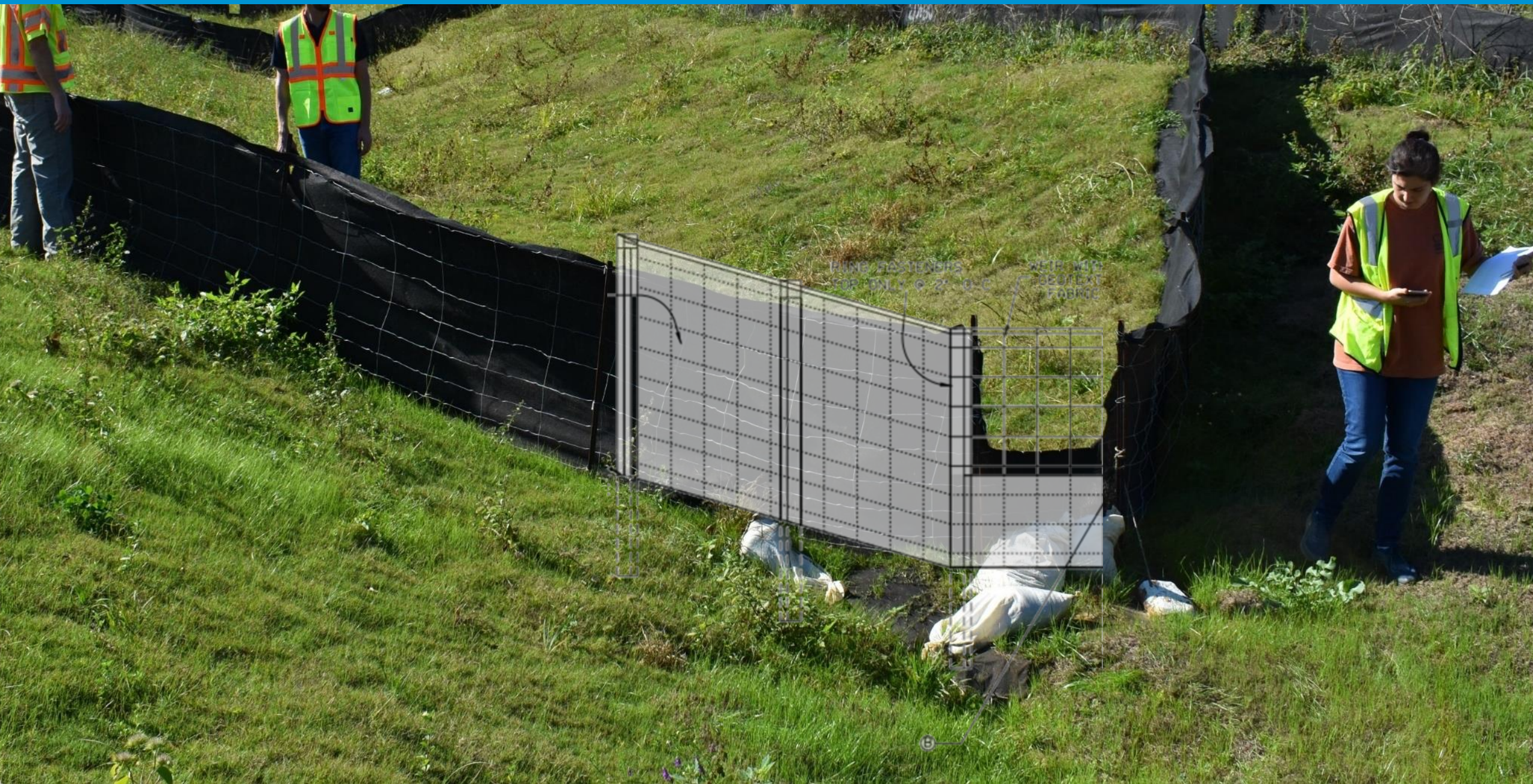
FROM RESEARCH TO IMPLEMENTATION



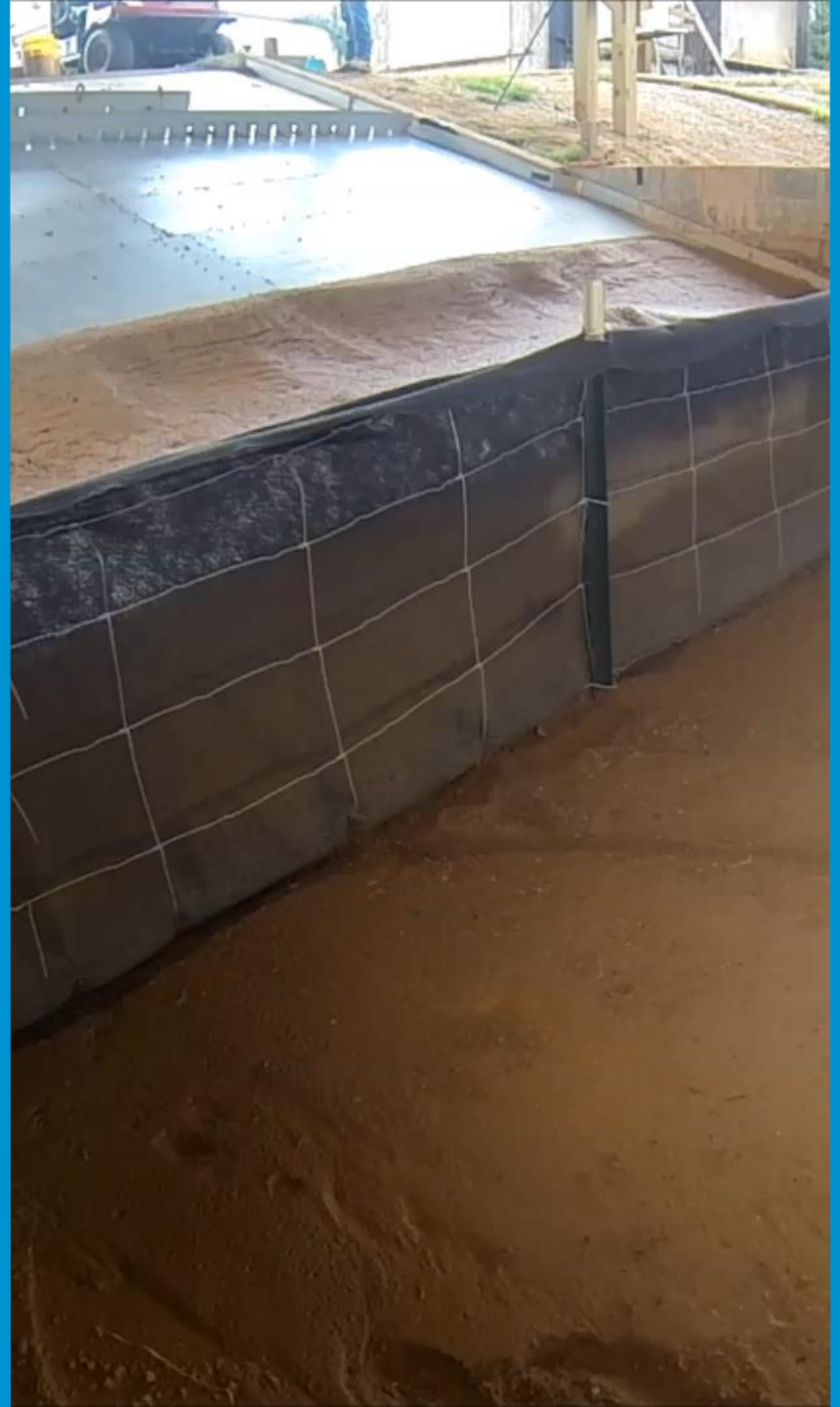
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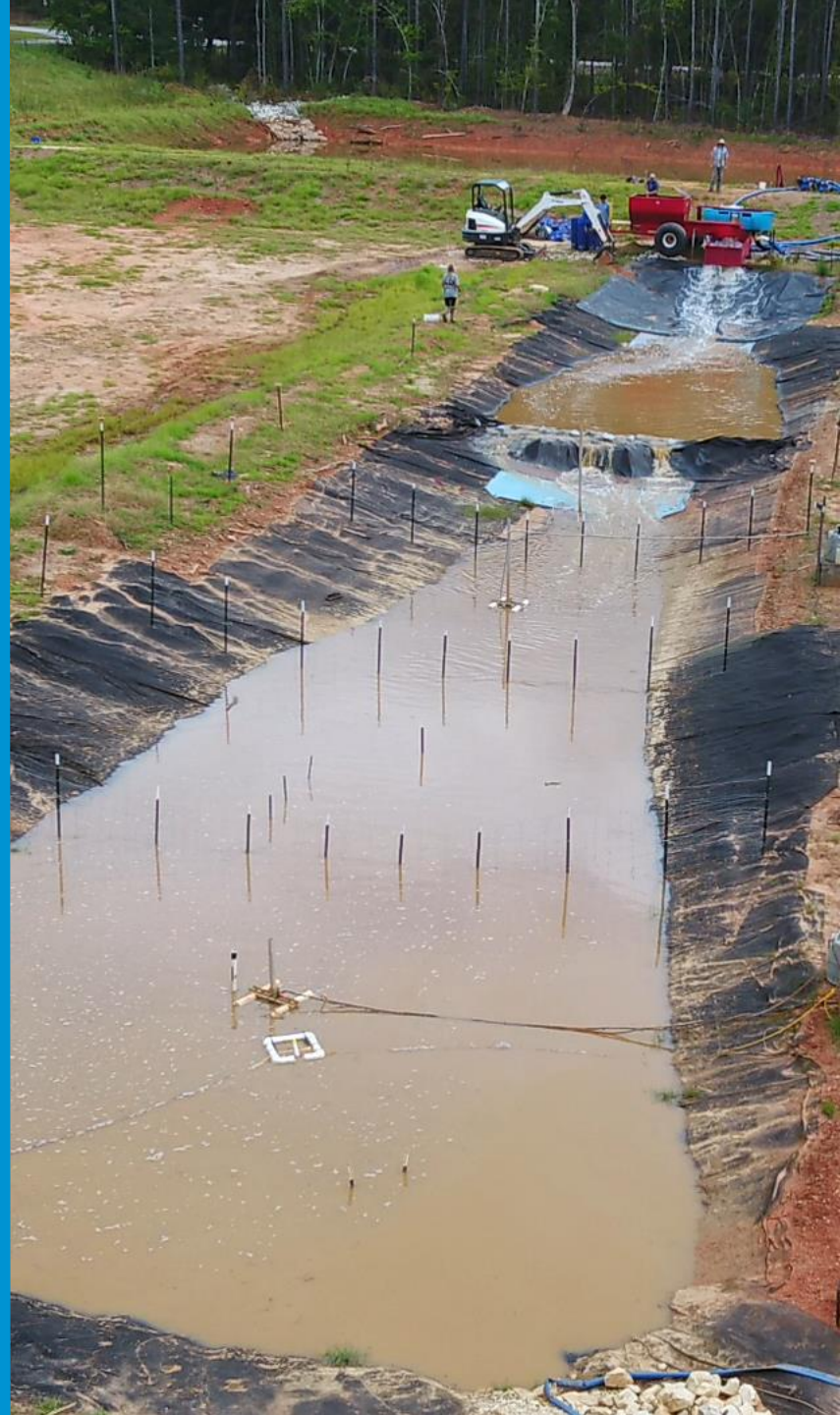


FROM RESEARCH TO IMPLEMENTATION









AU-SRF IMPACT

- 35 Research Projects
- $8.7 Million in Grants
- 52 Journal Articles
- 33 Workshops
- 17 Field Days
- 1,590 Field Day Participants
- 300+ Presentations
- 31 Graduate Students
- 292 Undergraduate Students



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- 18 Certifications



WHY ALABAMA NEEDS THE ACSP

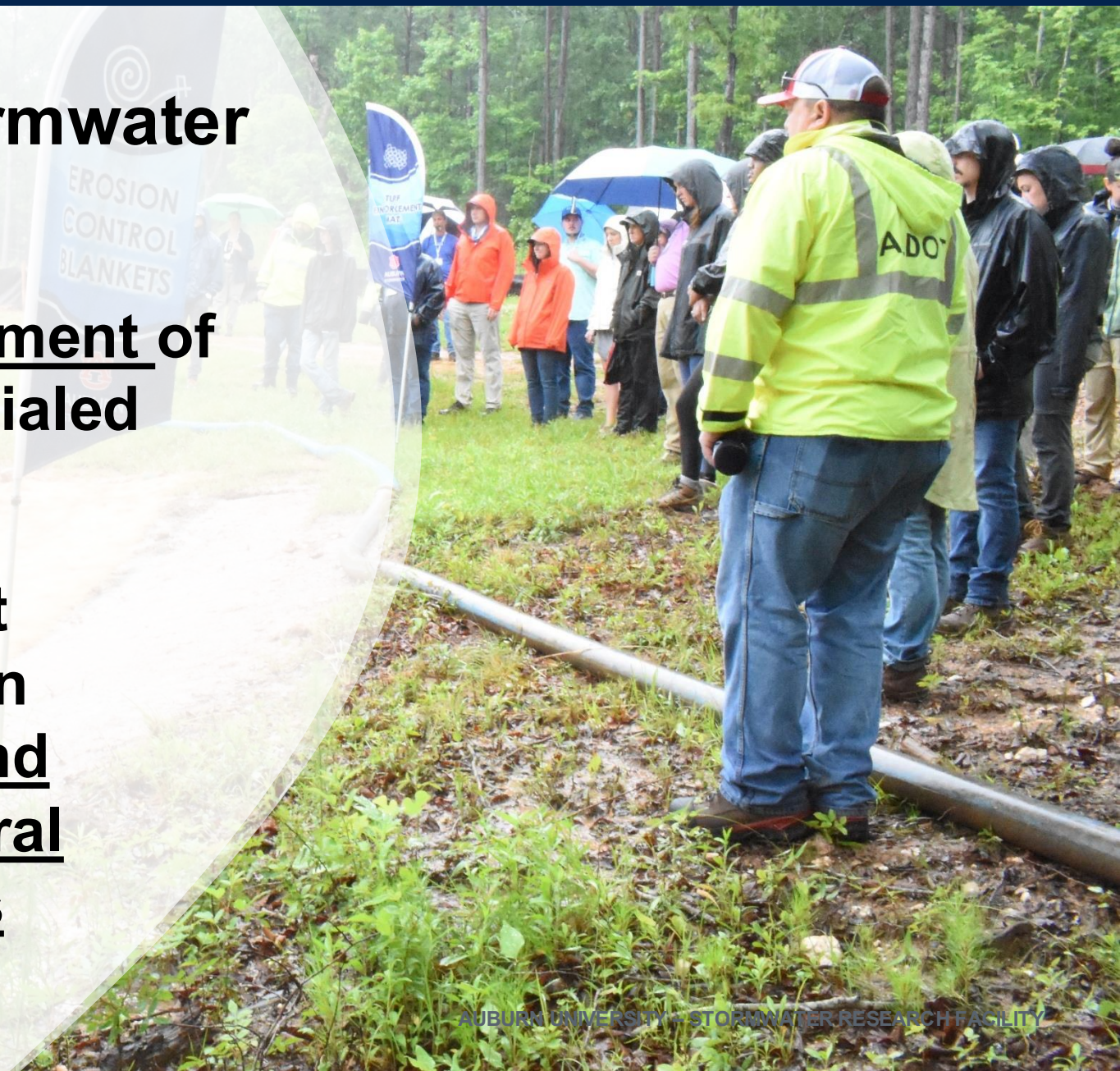
- Construction activities can:
  - Accelerate erosion
  - Deliver sediment & other pollutants to AL waters
- Regulations:
  - Establish minimum requirements
  - Depend on competent implementation
- ACSP credential:
  - Alabama-specific knowledge
  - Experience & professional judgment
- Defined technical & professional knowledge
- Common practice standard for:
  - Planning & design
  - Field implementation
  - Verification & response



PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Develop a Construction Stormwater Certification Program

- Focuses on proper assessment of potential Qualified Credentialed Professionals (QCP)
- Ensures Construction Best Management Practices Plan (CBMPP) can meet state and federal Construction General Permit (CGP) requirements

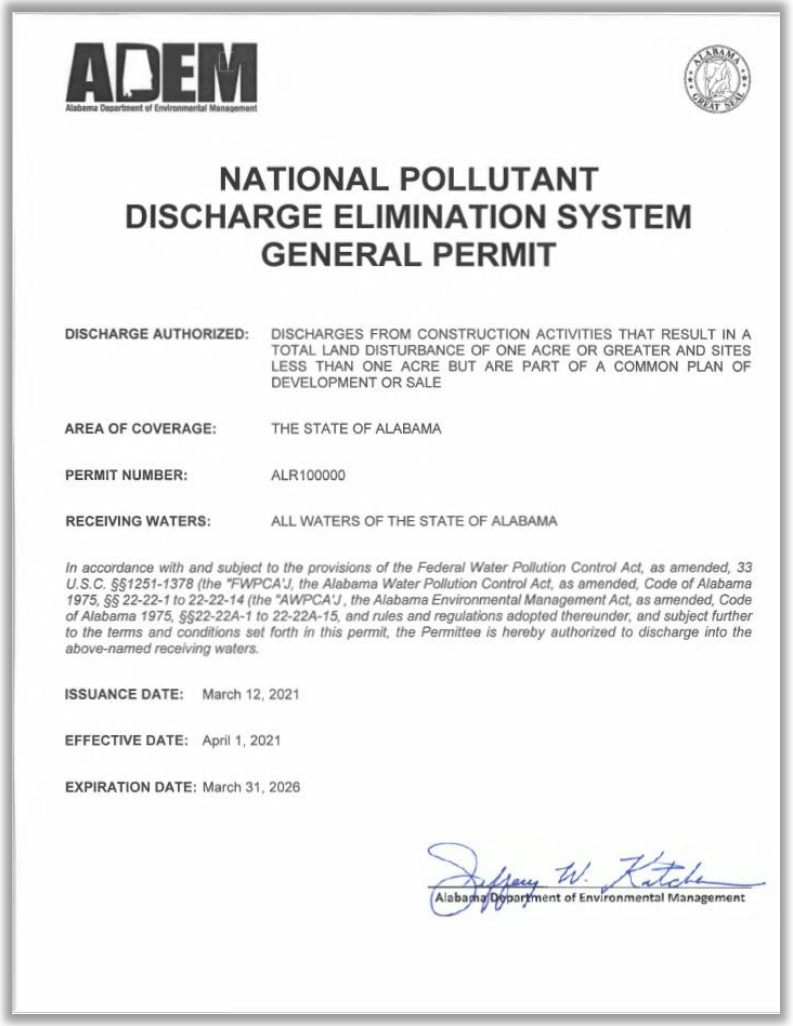


CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PERMIT (CGP)

Clean Water Act created the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) that authorizes the EPA and States to manage construction stormwater discharges through a CGP

CGP provides permit coverage of site operators

- Describes allowable discharges and how they should be controlled to maximum extent practicable
  - Sediment
  - Dewatering operations
- Specifies what discharges are prohibitive
  - Wash waters
  - Solvents
  - Trash and debris
- Structured for operators to:
  - Prevent discharge of sediment and other pollutants using effective planning and erosion control methods
  - Controlled discharges that do occur using effective sediment control measures



ADEM
Alabama Department of Environmental Management

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM GENERAL PERMIT

DISCHARGE AUTHORIZED: DISCHARGES FROM CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES THAT RESULT IN A TOTAL LAND DISTURBANCE OF ONE ACRE OR GREATER AND SITES LESS THAN ONE ACRE BUT ARE PART OF A COMMON PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT OR SALE

AREA OF COVERAGE: THE STATE OF ALABAMA

PERMIT NUMBER: ALR100000

RECEIVING WATERS: ALL WATERS OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA

In accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. §§1251-1378 (the "FWPCA'J, the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, Code of Alabama 1975, §§ 22-22-1 to 22-22-14 (the "AWPCA'J , the Alabama Environmental Management Act, as amended, Code of Alabama 1975, §§22-22A-1 to 22-22A-15, and rules and regulations adopted thereunder, and subject further to the terms and conditions set forth in this permit, the Permittee is hereby authorized to discharge into the above-named receiving waters.

ISSUANCE DATE: March 12, 2021

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 1, 2021

EXPIRATION DATE: March 31, 2026

Jeffery W. Kitchen
Alabama Department of Environmental Management

QCP DUTIES PER ADEM CGP

Qualified Credentialed Professionals (QCPs) are involved in projects from preconstruction to post-construction phase

- Designs and/or certifies CBMPP
- Performs preconstruction inspection
- Directs CBMPP implementation
- Oversees inspection activities of QCI
- Ensures all BMPs have been properly installed & adequately function to control pollution
- Performs CBMPP evaluations (site inspections) once every three months for priority sites or once every 6 months for non-priority sites
- Updates CBMPP based upon needs assessed through site inspections

DESIGN AND OPERATIONAL ROLES

DESIGN ACSP

Secures CGP coverage

Develops the CBMPP

Integrates site data, design needs, & regulatory commitments

OPERATIONAL ACSP

Implements & modifies the CBMPP

Oversees verification & reporting

Maintains & terminates permit coverage

ONE ROLE OR BOTH
FULL PROJECT-LIFECYCLE KNOWLEDGE

ACSP PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATION

- Primary obligation:
  - Protection of water quality
- Project involvement:
  - Planning & design
  - Construction & final stabilization
  - Post-construction operation & maintenance considerations
- Basis for judgment:
  - Alabama CGP
  - Alabama Blue Book
  - Contract documents & site conditions



ACSP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Develop a means for certification that ensures QCPs meet the educational/training/experience requirements to meet Alabama's CGP

- Create a certification exam that covers expected knowledge in areas of proficiency
  - Application process
  - Review process
  - Examination process
  - Recertification process
- Create an exam readiness course that reviews areas of proficiency
  - 1.0-day course
  - Content review
    - Concepts
    - Example problems
  - Independent of exam

THE ACSP SCOPE OF PRACTICE

1

CGP coverage

Secure, maintain, transfer, and terminate permit coverage

2

CBMPP development

Plan comprehensively and select site-specific practices

3

CBMPP implementation

Direct field execution, maintenance, modification, and removal

4

Implementation verification

Inspect, report, evaluate, and exercise professional oversight

5

Negative impacts and mitigation

Respond to noncompliance, sediment loss, and enforcement risk

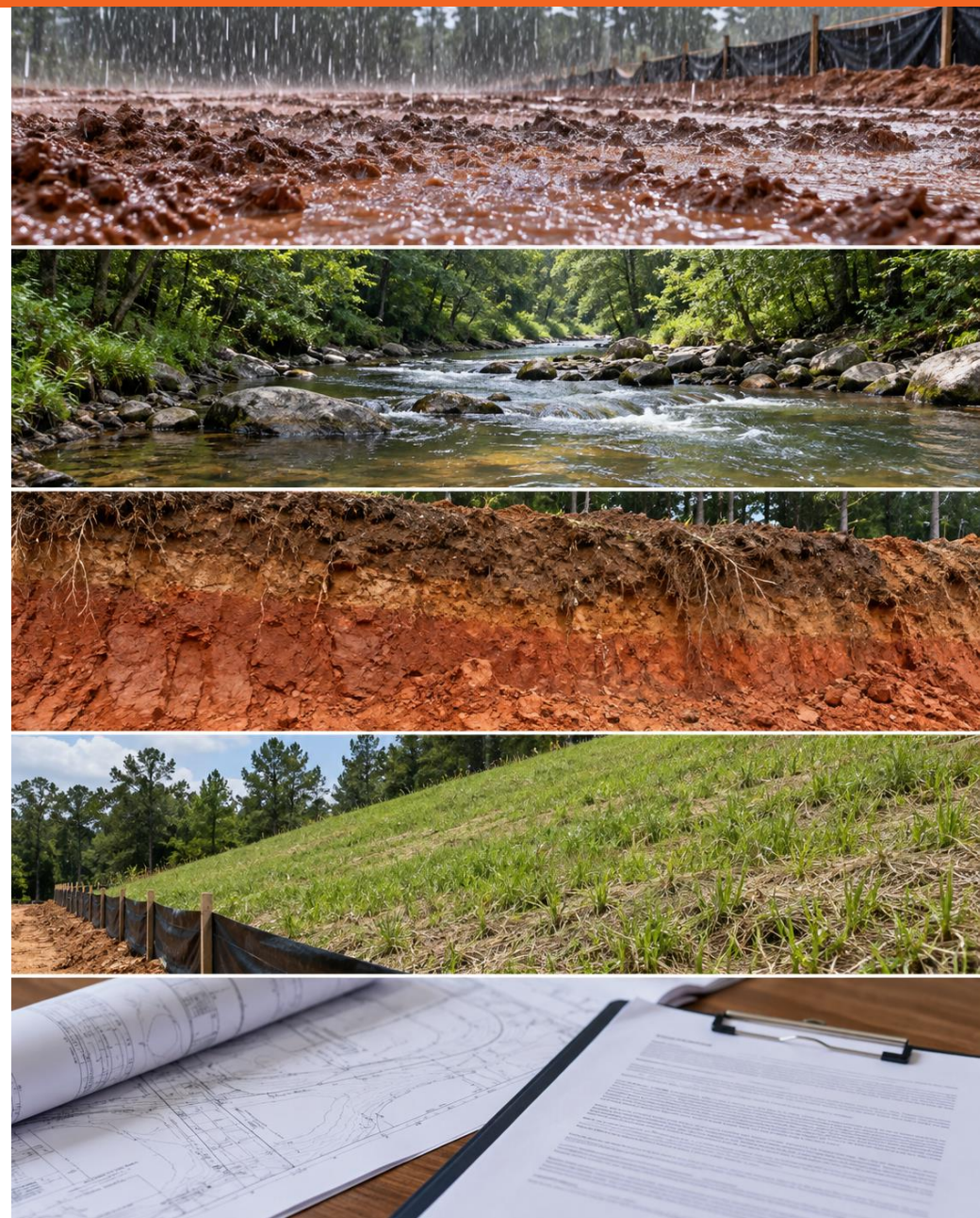
FOUNDATIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Basis for professional judgment
- Combination of:
  - Technical knowledge
  - Professional knowledge
- Continuous development through:
  - Regulatory changes
  - Research & technology
  - Field experience



TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AREAS

- Alabama climate:
  - Rainfall, hydrology & hydraulics
- Alabama waters:
  - Classifications, standards, impairments & sensitive resources
- Alabama soils:
  - Erosion, transport, prediction & delivery
- Vegetation establishment
- Construction stormwater laws & regulations



PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AREAS

- Project roles & responsibilities
- Coordination & planning:
  - Site assessment
  - Constructability & sequencing
- Comprehensive management framework
- Risk evaluation & abatement
- Training & technical communication
- Professional ethics



COORDINATION AND PLANNING

- Project review:
  - Scope, plans, specifications & schedule
- Project data:
  - Rainfall, hydrology, hydraulics, soils & vegetation
- Site assessment:
  - Sensitive areas & receiving waters
  - Existing problems & drainage patterns
  - Constraints & opportunities
- Constructability & sequencing



ACSP PROGRAM

Targeted assessment for construction stormwater managers/professionals

- ACSP Refresher Course
  - Attendees will get
    - Structured review on concepts the ACSPs are expected to be competent in
    - Gauge of exam readiness
    - May be taken as a learning tool only (PDHs are earned)
  - Not a requirement to take exam
- Fundamentals review
- Plan review & project assessment
- Online concepts review



ACSP PROGRAM

Targeted assessment for construction stormwater managers/professionals

- ACSP Certification Exam
  - Separate but related
  - Only means of attaining certification
- Online “pre-exam” components on CGP & ethics
- In-person 3-hour exam on fundamentals, design, & operational components



ACSP PROGRAM CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Certification Exam application determines if applicants meet requirements

- Previous knowledge
  - Experience (2-years min.)
  - Post secondary education
    - High level experience may replace education
- Examinees must attain a passing score
  - 70%
  - Failure more than twice requires taking a refresher course



ACSP PROGRAM RECERTIFICATION

Recertification ensures ACSPs continue education

- Continuing education based on earned credits/hours
  - PDH or CEUs likely accepted
  - Must be related to construction stormwater
- Additional advanced or topic specific training courses to be offered by ACSP
  - BMP Design (i.e., basins, ECPs)
  - Sector specific (i.e., transportation, development)



STORMWATER RESEARCH FACILITY BUILDING



UPCOMING ACSP COURSE OFFERINGS

Planned course offerings will be monthly in Auburn

- October 2026 – April 2027
  - NCAT main facility (not the Test Track) and/or
  - Main campus
  - No planned offerings Dec. 2026 or Jan. 2027
- May 2027 – Stormwater Week
- Summer 2027 – Auburn main campus
- Fall 2027 – AU-SRF Building



AUBURN UNIVERSITY - STORMWATER RESEARCH FACILITY

Mon-Tue, May 10-11

Hands-on E&SC Installer Workshop



Join us for five days of exciting stormwater events!

STORMWATER WEEK

May 10-15, 2027

Wed-Thur., May 12-13

Southeast IECA Municipal Wet Weather MS4 Conference.

Fri, May 15

E&SC Field Day



Save the Dates!

AUBURN STORMWATER

IECA International Erosion Control Association
Protecting Soil and Water Resources

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QUESTIONS

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