

Other Qualifications for Conducting Visual Site Inspections on Project Sites with Chapter 102 NPDES Permits (Alternative Qualifications List)

August 22, 2025

The PAG-02 General Permit and Individual NPDES Permits (as they are issued, renewed or amended) require that visual site inspections be conducted by qualified personnel upon an effective date identified in the permit (i.e., December 8, 2025 for PAG-02). A qualified inspector is someone who meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Has completed the [Qualified Visual Site Inspector Training Program](#) in the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP's) [Clean Water Academy](#) (CWA) initially and every two years thereafter (note that a CWA account is needed to access this program); or
2. Holds active certification as a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) or as a Certified Erosion, Sediment, and Stormwater Inspector (CESSWI) from a recognized organization; or
3. Can demonstrate to the satisfaction of DEP or a delegated county conservation district (CCD) that they have qualifications equivalent to or exceeding those identified in criteria #1 or #2.

DEP/CCD recognizes the following training and experience to satisfy criterion #3:

- a. A licensed professional, as defined at 25 Pa. Code § 102.1, that has a minimum of six (6) months of experience in the installation or oversight or inspection of erosion and sediment control (E&S) best management practices (BMPs) and/or post-construction stormwater management (PCSM) stormwater control measures (SCMs).
- b. Someone who has completed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Construction Inspection Training course](#) and the following:
 - DEP's How to Complete the Visual Site Inspection Report course in CWA; and
 - DEP's Installation and Maintenance of Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) course in CWA.

Persons using criteria 3.a or 3.b to demonstrate qualifications do not need to seek approval from DEP/CCD and should maintain all applicable records on-site to be made available to DEP/CCD inspectors upon request (e.g., completion certificates for courses, copies of licenses, resumes of experience).

Other training and experience may satisfy criterion #3. Anyone requesting written approval from DEP/CCD for criterion #3 should submit a resume of experience, including project sites and locations where experience was obtained, and documentation of completion of training courses or programs, to the

CCD office that has jurisdiction over the project site where inspections will be completed. If approval is being sought for project sites in more than one county, the inspector candidate may submit their resume to DEP's Bureau of Clean Water at RA-EPChapter102@pa.gov. If DEP/CCD approves your qualifications, you should maintain a copy of the written approval on-site to be made available upon request.