



Standard Operating Procedure: Water Disposal from Dewatering Activities

Issue Date: 5/1/2024 Version: 4 Review Frequency: Annual

Scope

This procedure applies the disposal of water pumped during construction and maintenance activities not covered by another permit where that water could be discarded outdoors or directly to stormwater conveyances. This includes but is not limited to the dewatering of utility vaults, tunnels, basements, crawl spaces and excavations.

Responsibility

Anyone performing dewatering activities on UVA property must comply with this procedure

Procedures

1. Tunnels, Vaults, Electrical Manholes, and other Structures

- a. Visually inspect the water to be removed. Determine if there are visible pollutants in the water to be pumped and the potential sources of those pollutants on site.
- b. Water collected in vaults or tunnels often results from rainwater or groundwater infiltration. If there is no reason to suspect the water has become contaminated as determined by the visual inspection and lack of potential pollutant sources, clear water can be pumped into a nearby vegetated area and allowed to infiltrate. Staff should observe the de-watering procedure to ensure that pumped water does not travel from the vegetated area or cause localized erosion. If a suitable vegetated area is not available, the pumped water can be discharged to the sanitary sewer or hauled off from site for disposal at an appropriate treatment facility. Environmental Resources staff can assist with this determination.
- c. Water that is suspected of having chemical or biological contamination or to contain anything other than pure rain or groundwater should be evaluated for proper disposal options. Environmental Resources or Outside Utilities staff can be contacted for consultation. Proper disposal options could include discharging the water to the sanitary sewer, hauling it to an off-site permitted disposal facility, or if it is deemed appropriate based on the assessment, to the surface as described in 1.b.

2. Excavations

- a. UVA staff and/or the contractor are encouraged to take appropriate measures to restrict the flow of water from the surface into an excavation if possible.
- b. Visually inspect the water to be removed. Water in excavations usually results from groundwater infiltration or rainfall. Determine if the water is laden with sediment or shows visible signs of any other contaminants.

Water Disposal from Dewatering Activities

- c. Sediment laden water may be allowed to settle to remove suspended solids prior to dewatering. Once the water is clear, the water can be pumped into a nearby vegetated area to promote infiltration and filtration.
- d. Sediment laden water that needs to be removed immediately must be pumped through an appropriately sized sediment bag following manufacturer's specifications for discharge volumes. Discharge water from the sediment bag should be directed into a vegetated area, wherever possible, but is allowed to discharge into stormwater conveyances after passing through the sediment bag. The sediment bag must be routinely inspected during the pumping operation to make sure that it is functioning properly and has not become clogged. If muddy water is being released from the sediment bag, additional measures may be needed to minimize impacts from the discharge. This could include surrounding the bag with silt fence and straw bales or placing the bag on a gravel pad.