

# Soil & Water Conservation District Policies and Procedures Manual

*Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality-Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship*

## SOIL LOSS REGULATIONS (SLR)

### Land Disturbing Activities (09/17)

Iowa Code 161A.64 requires erosion control plans for certain projects.

Iowa Code 161A.64, subsection 2, states that prior to initiating a land disturbing activity in a political subdivision which has not adopted sediment control ordinances as described in subsection 1, a person engaged in the land disturbing activity shall file a signed affidavit with the soil and water conservation district that the project will not exceed the soil loss limits, (**GO TO: FORMS/SLR/Land Disturbing Activities Affidavit**). This form must be signed and filed with the applicable political subdivision or the soil and water conservation district before the land disturbing activity is initiated.

The affidavit shall be in the form prescribed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and made available by the district. Districts may obtain a supply of these forms from the Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality.

Iowa Code 161A.64, subsection 3, further states that for the purposes of this section, “land disturbing activity” means a land change such as tilling, clearing, grading, excavating, transporting or filling of land which may result in soil erosion from water or wind and the movement of sediment and sediment related pollutants into the waters of the state or onto lands in the state but does not include the following:

- a. Tilling, planting or harvesting of agricultural, horticultural or forest crops.
- b. Preparation for single-family residences separately built unless in conjunction with multiple construction in subdivision development.
- c. Minor activities such as home gardens, landscaping, repairs and maintenance work.
- d. Surface of deep mining.
- e. Installation of public utility lines and connections, fence posts, sign posts, telephone poles, electric poles, and other kinds of posts or poles.
- f. Septic tanks and drainage fields unless they are to serve a building whose construction is a land disturbing activity.
- g. Construction and repair of the tracks, right of way, bridges, communication facilities and other related structures of a railroad.
- h. Emergency work to protect life or property.
- i. Disturbed land areas of less than twenty-five thousand square feet unless a political subdivision by ordinance establishes a smaller exception or establishes conditions for this exemption.
- j. The construction, relocation, alteration or maintenance of public roads by a public body.

Iowa Code 161A.47 authorizes district commissioners to inspect land based upon a soil loss complaint.