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August 27, 2009

TO: Roadway Design Division Section Engineers and Design Team Leaders

FROM: Roadway Design Division Engineer
John Reese *jr*

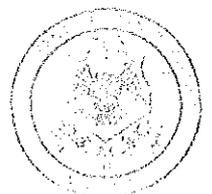
RE: Clearing Limits Adjacent to Streams

The Department's latest Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) contains new requirements to protect and preserve riparian buffers and native vegetation adjacent to streams. A riparian buffer is a vegetated area near a stream, usually forested, which helps protect the stream from the impact of adjacent land uses. Riparian buffers intercept sediment, nutrients, pesticides, metals and other materials in surface water runoff. They also provide wildlife habitat and corridors in primarily agricultural areas, and reduce erosion by providing bank stabilization.

In an effort to protect these important areas, the clearing limits adjacent to streams that are identified by blue lines on USGS quad maps will be limited to outside 50 feet from the top of the banks and 10 feet from the construction limits. A general note will be included in the plans describing the clearing limits, and identifying the streams by station numbers. John C. Taylor will be responsible for identifying the streams along which the riparian buffers are to be protected.

Mr. Taylor will also identify which streams are on the Mississippi DEQ 2008 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies, and recommend best management practices (BMP's) to lessen the highway constructions impacts on the impaired streams. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires the State to identify those waters within its jurisdiction that are impaired for any number of reasons, which may or may not have anything to do with MDOT operations. John is also responsible for providing Environmental Division the drawings necessary to obtain wetland permits, updating permit information in the active projects database, and for initialing the permit block on title sheets for highway projects. Therefore, please provide him with a link to project surveys as soon as they become available. If wetland information is sent separate from the initial survey, make sure John gets a copy or a link to the information at jtaylor@mdot.state.ms.us.

If questions arise, please contact John C. Taylor at 601-359-7275.



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Roadway Design Division, John C. Taylor
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