Definition and Purpose

- A critical factor in reducing erosion and subsequent sedimentation on construction projects is scheduling or planning the sequence of work at appropriate times or seasons. Another important factor is minimizing the total amount of disturbed soil exposed to erosion at any time. Large areas of disturbance could lead to additional water quality monitoring compliance requirements on your project.

- Proper scheduling of construction during periods when the potential for erosion is low and the effectiveness of erosion control measures is high will greatly reduce sediment loads due to runoff. The amounts of disturbed ground exposed at any one time before erosion control measures are put in place will always influence the amount of erosion and sediment loss.

Appropriate Applications

Scheduling or sequencing is especially relevant to:

- Projects where ground is disturbed to facilitate construction.

- Large projects where work activities can be planned to coincide with periods of low erosion potential.

- Projects where an NPDES permit requires the minimization of exposed soil.

Limitations

- Contractor work scheduling may not coincide with the schedule that was anticipated during the design of the project or current weather conditions.

- Seasonal limitations are not always possible to incorporate, due to bidding, letting, timing, and administration of contracts.
• Certain environmental permits and their requirements may contain restrictions on scheduling or sequencing of certain work activities and the maximum allowable exposure of surface area.

Design Parameters
• SWPPP requirements shall be included to clarify allowable parameters. Erosion potential and maximum area that can be exposed at any time should be evaluated based on specified criterion cited in the NPDES Permit and contract specifications, and consideration of terrain, soil type, season of work, and current and forecasted weather conditions.
• Required erosion control measures and disturbed surface area limitations should be specified in the work scheduling, SWPPP, and project plans and specifications.
• Whenever possible, construction work should be scheduled during seasonal low runoff periods and under favorable soil moisture conditions.
• Installation of erosion control measures should be scheduled or timed in stages to coincide with construction sequencing and as required by the NPDES permit.

Construction Guidelines
• The Contractor shall develop a schedule and work plan indicating sequence of activities. The Contractor shall schedule construction activities when the potential for erosion is low and allow time for installation of erosion control measures as the work phasing progresses.
• Check for excessive clearing, grubbing, or grading that is beyond the Contractor’s capability to manage erosion and install erosion and sediment control measures in an effective manner.
• Minimize the length of time between bare ground exposure and the installation of erosion and sediment control measures. Areas should only be disturbed as needed or intended for specific construction work or related staging activities.
• Stabilization must occur per the NPDES permit and contract specifications.

Maintenance and Inspection
• Conduct inspections as required by the NPDES permit or contract specifications.
• Maintain appropriate erosion and sediment control measures that align with construction phasing and sequencing.