EROSION CONTROL ALONG THE TENNESSEE-TOMBIGBEE WATERWAY

by

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I. INTRODUCTION

During the past few years, there has been a tremendous change in the land use patterns of this country. The building of new roads, buildings, shopping centers and reservoirs has converted many acres of land from agricultural use to commercial or public use. With this construction has come one of the largest sources of pollution in the country today, the construction activity itself. Oftentimes, serious stormwater runoff, accelerated erosion, and sedimentation occur when heavy rain and wind storms sweep across exposed soil on construction sites. Often the results created by these storms are flooding, sedimentation in natural streams and water supplies, and creation of unsightly landscapes. The magnitude of these results is greatly dependent upon such factors as topography, climate and soil erodibility.

The seriousness of the problem of erosion around construction sites has been shown by the enactment of legislation, at both the state and federal level, to control water pollution resulting from construction activities. Creation of the Council on Environmental Quality which reports directly to the President, passage of the National Environmental Policy Act, and the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency are all federal attempts at setting down guidelines and regulations to control pollution. Included in these regulations are requirements for prevention of pollution resulting from sedimentation produced by construction projects. Control of pollutants released during construction is viewed by the regulatory agencies as a part of broader land use and watershed management. For this reason, it is now considered to be one of the major problems requiring immediate and long-term solutions.