

## SPA 124 PROCESS FOR CORE DRILLING

### 1. Purpose

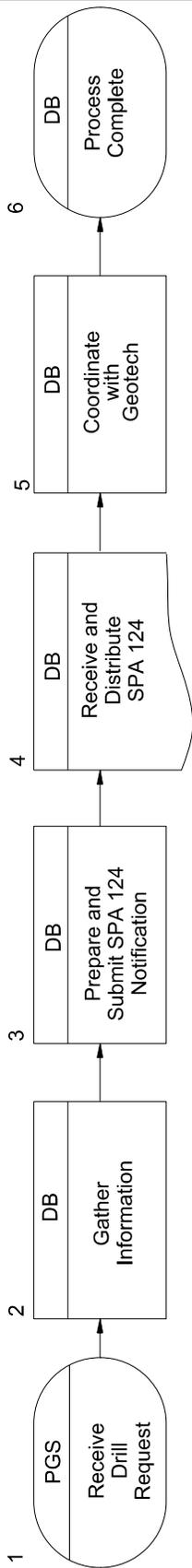
This work instruction describes the process for ensuring that Core Drill activities on projects that may affect any streams or tributaries in Montana are in full compliance with the requirements of the *Montana Stream Protection Act 124* (SPA 124)

### 2. Scope

The District Biologists within the MDT Environmental Services Bureau administer the SPA 124 process for core drilling actions, in cooperation with the Geotechnical Section within the MDT Materials Bureau. The process begins when the Geotechnical Section prepares a drill request for core drilling that affects streams or tributaries. The process is complete with the implementation of the SPA 124 conditions in the core drill activity.

### 3. Process

[Figure 1](#) presents a flowchart that illustrates the SPA 124 process for core drilling. Following the Figure is a description of each process task included within the flowchart.



Legend

- DB = District Biologist
- PGS = Project Geotechnical Specialist
- SPA 124 = (Montana) Stream Protection Act, Section 124
- # = Task Number

**Figure 1 — SPA 124 PROCESS (Core Drilling)**

**PROCESS TASK**

Task Title: Receive Drill Request

Task No.: 1

Task Description

If it is known or expected that the proposed core drilling will affect streams or tributaries, the Project Geotechnical Specialist (PGS) submits a Drill Request to the appropriate District Biologist (DB) in the Environmental Services Bureau.

The Drill Request includes proposed borehole locations and depths (i.e., on maps, plan drawings, aerial photographs) and a description of the proposed method and type of equipment to be used.

**PROCESS TASK**

Task Title: Gather Information

Task No.: 2

Task Description

After reviewing the Drill Request information, the DB coordinates with the PGS and/or District Geotechnical Manager to obtain clarification or additional information for completing the Joint Application Form that is submitted to Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) for the SPA 124 notification.

The DB also coordinates with resource agencies, reviews available environmental data and conducts any necessary field work to gather information on fish and wildlife resources and other environmental concerns associated with the affected streams.

**PROCESS TASK**

Task Title: Prepare and Submit SPA 124 Notification

Task No.: 3

Task Description

The DB completes the Joint Application Form for the SPA 124 notification. The information required on the Form for proposed core drilling activities includes the following:

Project Location

- map or sketch of project site;
- name of stream at project location;
- name of nearest town; and
- section, township, range, county (and longitude/latitude, if available).

Project Description

- plan or drawing of the proposed project, including borehole locations;
- type of project;
- purpose of project;
- proposed drilling start and finish dates;
- current condition (e.g., vegetation, bank condition) at the project site;
- brief description of project;
- project dimensions;
- type and amount of vegetation to be affected;
- materials and methods to be used;
- equipment to be used;
- planned efforts during and after drilling to:
  - + minimize erosion, sedimentation or turbidity;
  - + minimize stream channel alterations;
  - + minimize effects on stream flow or water quality caused by materials used or removal of ground cover;
  - + minimize effects on fish and aquatic habitat;
  - + minimize risks of flooding or erosion problems upstream or downstream; and
  - + revegetate/protect existing vegetation and control weeds; and
- natural resource benefits of the proposed project.

After obtaining all necessary information, the DB submits copies of the completed Form, along with a set of preliminary plans or sketches and any other supporting documentation, to FWP.

Regulations and Guidance

*Joint Application for Proposed Work in Montana's Streams, Wetlands, Floodplains, and Other Water Bodies*

**PROCESS TASK**

Task Title: Receive and Distribute SPA 124

Task No.: 4

Task Description

FWP has up to 30 days from receipt of the completed notification to review, perform an on-site investigation, if needed, and provide any recommendations in writing.

If necessary, the DB coordinates with the PGS to implement the SPA recommendations

Once the SPA 124 recommendations are accepted by the DB and the PGS, the recommendations are considered conditions of the activity. The DB distributes the SPA 124 to the Geotechnical Section and any other affected MDT Sections.

**PROCESS TASK**

Task Title: Coordinate with Geotechnical Section

Task No.: 5

Task Description

The DB coordinates with the PGS to ensure the conditions of the SPA 124 are implemented during the core drill activity.

**PROCESS TASK**

Task Title: Process Complete

Task No.: 6

Task Description

The process is complete upon implementation of the SPA 124 conditions during the core drill activity.