Kentucky Erosion Prevention and Sediment Guide

A guide to preventing erosion and controlling sediment from construction activities in Kentucky

Floodplain Construction

The Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) Floodplain Management Section has the primary responsibility for the approval or denial of proposed construction and other activities in the 100-year floodplain of all streams in the Commonwealth. Typical activities permitted are dams, bridges, culverts, residential and commercial buildings, placement of fill, stream alterations or relocations, small impoundments, and water and wastewater treatment plants.

Applicants must submit a completed application with a location map, plans of the proposed construction, and the addressing of public notice. If the proposed construction lies in an area where there is no existing floodplain information, hydrologic and hydraulic analysis must be performed. The Kentucky Flood Hazard Portal provides current floodplain information.

KDOW engineers will perform the required analysis provided the Applicant supplies them with the floodplain geometry in the form of cross sections, preferably tabulated on an Excel Spreadsheet. This analysis determines the effects the proposed construction has on existing flood conditions and determines the expected 100-year flood heights and the delineation of the floodway (a portion of the natural floodplain that is restricted to little or no construction).

From this analysis, construction limits for fills and buildings and required elevations for finished floors or floodproofing can be provided. For all construction, especially bridges and culverts, a check is made to ensure that the project has only minimal impacts on existing flood levels. Regulations limit the effect to a maximum of one foot. For more information, see Understand Your Flood Hazards.