

ICC Environmental Overview

The State Highway Administration (SHA) project incorporated environmental initiatives as part of the ICC that go beyond the requirements of the governing environmental agencies. Elements of the project will correct environmental problems caused by past development – unrelated to the construction of the ICC – that otherwise would remain unaddressed.

SHA also planned the ICC to include extensive avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures to protect the natural, cultural and human environment to the greatest extent possible.

Contract B falls within the Northwest Branch and Upper Paint Branch of the Anacostia River. Realizing these diverse forested habitats support a wide variety of wildlife, SHA engineers designed many bridges over parks and streams to reduce the amount of environmental impact in these sensitive areas. The longer bridges will also maintain wildlife movement and vegetative growth in important habitat areas.

Strict Environmental Oversight

SHA's ICC project team coordinated the development of permit conditions and project commitments with Federal, State and Local agencies. The team is monitoring the efforts to comply with these commitments by:

- Assigning an Independent Environmental Expert to monitor activity and report directly to regulatory agencies
- Assigning an Environmental Compliance Team to provide environmental oversight throughout design and construction activities
- Developing and implementing an Environmental Compliance Plan that includes an:
 - Avoidance and Minimization Plan
 - Wildlife Management Plan
 - Forest Compliance Plan
 - Water Quality Monitoring Plan
 - Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan
 - Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
 - Air Quality Plan
 - Hazardous Materials Plan
 - Access and Mobility Plan
 - Commitment Tracking Database
 - Environmental Compliance and Awareness Training Program (ECAT)
 - Construction Noise Monitoring and Work Hours Plan
 - Vibration Monitoring Plan
 - Wetland and Stream Restoration Plan

Water Quality Monitoring Plan

SHA is committed to achieving a zero (or positive) balance of impervious area treated with approved best management practices. The team is using some of the following methods:

- Monitoring continuously before, during and after construction
- Recording water quality upstream and downstream of construction activities
- Installing monitoring equipment that will instantly inform the Environmental Compliance Team of any change in water quality
- Conducting stormwater facility monitoring in the Special Protection Area - New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650) to the east end of the project
- Avoiding discharging pavement runoff to Good Hope and its tributaries.
- Providing continuous linear stormwater management with grassed ditch pretreatment, filtration trenches and underground stormwater management facilities
- Maintaining groundwater seeps in environmentally sensitive areas

