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700.01 Introduction

Part 7 summarizes environmental requirements covered in the WSDOT *Maintenance Manual M 51-01* and *Regional Road Maintenance Endangered Species Act Program Guidelines*, and it gives additional details on several environmental issues with reference to **Part 4** and **Part 5** of the *Environmental Procedures Manual M 31-11*, the *Highway Runoff Manual M 31-16* (revised in May 2006), *Roadside Manual M 25-30*, and other WSDOT documents.

At WSDOT, highway maintenance includes both maintenance and operations. The maintenance service objective, stated in the State Highway Systems Plan, is to “maintain and operate state highways on a daily basis to ensure safe, reliable, and pleasant movement of people and goods.”

Maintenance work is performed to care for and maintain the highway and associated features so it substantially retains its original intended use and function. Maintenance activities include patching pavement, cleaning ditches and culverts, repairing slopes and streambank stabilization structures, controlling vegetation, and painting stripes on the road surface.

Operations activities affect the reliability of a direct service to users of the highway system. Activities include operating rest areas, reversible lane gates, highway lighting, traffic signals, snow and ice control, and keeping the roads operational during a disaster.

The information referenced in **Part 7** primarily applies to highway maintenance; it also covers procedures for compliance with state surface water quality standards applicable to ferry system maintenance activities.

700.02 Process Overview

Often environmental commitments made years before during Design and Environmental Review (**Part 4**) and Environmental Permitting and PS&E (**Part 5**) will require on going maintenance and attention. **Figure 700-1** illustrates the relationship between maintenance and operations and preceding phases of WSDOT’s transportation decision-making process.

Among the maintenance activities that may impact the environment are painting, sanding, anti-icing, applying herbicide, mowing and brush control, restoring native plants, and maintaining drainage facilities. Maintenance facility material handling also can have environmental and safety implications for WSDOT employees and the general public. Environmental, health, and safety issues are being addressed through an environmental management program for maintenance employees provided by WSDOT Headquarters (see *Maintenance Manual M 51-01*, Chapter 11).

Figure 700-1: Maintenance and Operations Phase

EPM Part 6	EPM Part 7				EPM Part 8
Construction Phase	Maintenance and Operations Phase				Property Management Phase
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700.03 Organization of Part 7

Part 7 has three chapters. **Chapter 710** summarizes the environmental requirements applicable to WSDOT maintenance and operations, including those found in policy documents, interagency agreements, and permits and approvals. **Chapter 720** briefly describes the WSDOT manuals that give detailed technical guidance on maintenance and operations, and summarizes the guidance applicable as general practices for all maintenance activities and specific practices for various activity groups. **Chapter 790** reviews how environmental commitments made during transportation planning, project scoping and programming, design and environmental review, and permitting and PS&E are implemented during maintenance and operations.

700.04 Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviations and acronyms used in **Part 7** are listed below. Others are found in the general list in **Appendix A**.

BMP	Best Management Practice
GHPA	General Hydraulic Project Approval
HPA	Hydraulic Project Approval
LWD	Large Woody Debris
MAP	Maintenance Accountability Program
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PDA	Personal Data Assistant
REM	Regional Environmental Manager
RMEC	Regional Maintenance Environmental Coordinator

SPCC Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures

700.05 Glossary

None. See **Appendix B** for a general glossary of terms used in the EPM.

700.06 Exhibits

None.

