MAINTENANCE OF FIBER FILTRATION TUBES:

TO ASSURE LONG TERM PERFORMANCE, FIBER FILTRATION TUBES (FFTS) INSTALLATIONS MUST BE PROPERLY MAINTAINED. BY DEFINITION, THESE DEVICES ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FILTRATION AND IT IS INTUITIVE THAT A PROPERLY FUNCTIONING FILTER WILL EVENTUALLY NEED TO BE REPLACED. THIS IS THE CASE WITH THE WATER, OIL AND AIR FILTERS THAT WE ALL USE ON A DAILY BASIS.

THE FIRST MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY FOR FFTS IS TO INSPECT THE INSTALLATION EVERY TWO WEEKS AND/OR AFTER EACH SIGNIFICANT PRECIPITATION EVENT (TYPICALLY ≥ ½" OF RAINFALL) AS MANDATED BY THE US EPA NPDES REGULATIONS. WHEN SEDIMENT ACCUMULATIONS REACH ½ OF THE FFT HEIGHT THE SEDIMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED TO INSURE STORAGE CAPACITY FOR THE NEXT EVENT. THIS MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED USING HAND LABOR OR A SMALL BUCKET LOADER. CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO THE FFTS. REPLACE ALL FFTS THAT DISPLAY TORN NETTING AND/OR EXCESSIVE DEFORMATION.

UNLIKE MANY SEDIMENT RETENTION DEVICES THAT SIMPLY ACT AS BARRIERS TO SLOW WATER FLOW VELOCITIES, FFTS ARE ALSO DESIGNED TO CAPTURE SEDIMENT WITHIN THEIR 3-D MATRIX. AS FILTERED MATERIAL ACCUMULATES THE MATRIX WILL EVENTUALLY BEGIN TO BLIND OR CLOG RESULTING IN REDUCED FLOW RATES AND INCREASED TURBIDITY OF WATER EXITING THE FFT. THE FUNCTIONAL LONGEVITY OF AN FFT IS DEPENDENT UPON A VARIETY OF SITE SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING DURATION OF INSTALLATION, SEDIMENT COMPOSITION, THE PRESENCE/TYPE OF A FLOCCULANT AND AMOUNT OF WATER THAT HAS PASSED THROUGH THE DEVICE. THE FUNCTIONAL LONGEVITY OF AN FFT MUST BE DETERMINED BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED FIELD INSPECTIONS AND ON SITE EXPERIENCE WILL LEAD TO PREDICTIVE RESULTS IN A GIVEN ENVIRONMENT.

FIBER FILTRATION TUBES ARE DESIGNED TO PHOTO-BIODEGRADE WITHIN TWO YEARS. DEPENDING UPON APPLICATION AND LONG TERM LAND USE THE DEVICES MAY BE LEFT IN PLACE OR REMOVED. FFTS WILL SUPPORT LONG TERM PLANT GROWTH IN AREAS CONDUCIVE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF DENSE VEGETATION. IF AN FFT IS REMOVED THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE OPTIONS FOR DISPOSAL AND RE-USE.

- 1.THE FFT MAY BE RE-USED FOR ADDITIONAL SEDIMENT RETENTION OR STORM WATER
- TREATMENT APPLICATIONS IF THERE IS NOT EXCESSIVE SEDIMENT LOADING.

 2.THE FFT MAY BE CUT OPEN AND THE MATRIX MAY BE ROLLED OUT TO BE USED AS A BLANKET IF THERE IS NOT EXCESSIVE SEDIMENT LOADING.
- 3.THE FFT MAY BE HAULED TO A LANDFILL IF THERE ARE POTENTIALLY UNDESIRABLE CONSTITUENTS TRAPPED WITHIN THE MATRIX.

TO REPLACE, CAREFULLY PULL OUT THE ANCHORING STAPLES AND STAKES. TAKE CARE NOT TO DAMAGE EROSION CONTROL DEVICES THAT HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN CONJUNCTION WITH FFTS. THE STAPLES AND STAKES MAY BE REUSED IF THEY DEMONSTRATE NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE AND CAN BE DRIVEN BACK INTO THE GROUND. REMOVE THE "SPENT" FFT AND RESHAPE THE EXISTING TRENCH, IF APPLICABLE. SMOOTH THE SOIL SURFACE AND INSTALL THE NEW FFTS FOLLOWING THE PUBLISHED INSTALLATION GUIDELINES. BE SURE TO COMPACT ANY RESIDUAL SOIL AGAINST THE BASE OF THE FFTS TO MINIMIZE THE CHANCE OF UNDERMINING BY WATER.

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