



HALL COUNTY

G E O R G I A

Runoff Reduction Feasibility Policy & Guide

**Hall County Government
Public Works and Utilities
Engineering Division**

Effective December 1, 2020

Overview of Processing a Determination of Infeasibility

Obtaining a Determination of Infeasibility

Determination of Infeasibility is not an all or nothing proposition. Designers must demonstrate that they have explored all avenues to meet the runoff reduction standard. If this is determined to be infeasible, they must attempt to provide the maximum percentage of RRV on site as feasible. Only after all attempts to provide any RRV on site are exhausted will the local jurisdiction consider a Determination of Infeasibility. The following process is recommended to:

1. identify conditions early,
2. provide flexibility,
3. support efficient land development application review, and
4. protect water quality to the maximum extent practicable.

Does the Site Qualify for a Determination of Infeasibility?

Answering “NO” to any of the following questions may indicate that the site qualifies for a Determination of Infeasibility:

1. Can GSMM runoff reduction BMPs fully meet the runoff reduction volume?
2. Does the site analysis show the conditions are supportive for managing the calculated runoff reduction volume needed for the site?
3. Can better site design practices (see GSMM, Volume 2, Section 2.3) be used to avoid challenging site conditions or constraints?
4. Can BMPs, such as green roofs and rainwater harvesting techniques, be used in ways that do not require infiltration into subsurface soils, but rather rely on evapotranspiration and reuse?
5. Can the installation of multiple runoff reduction BMPs, such as installing runoff reduction BMPs at higher elevations or in multiple sub watersheds, manage the calculated runoff reduction volume needed for the site?

Prior to Construction

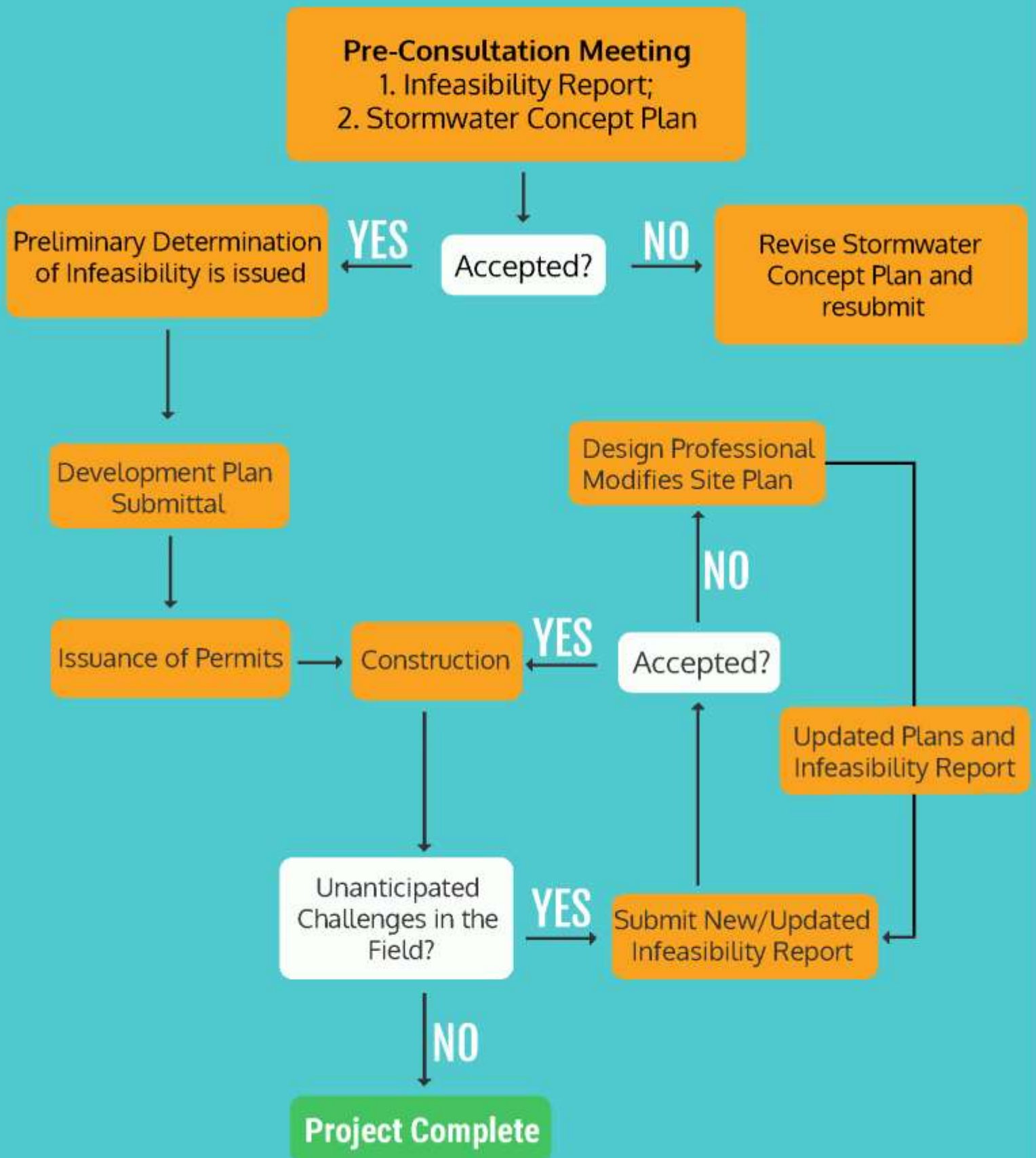
- 1) The design professional identifies conditions that limit using runoff reduction methods to retain 100% of the first 1.0 inch of rainfall onsite and initiates a pre-submittal meeting with the plan reviewer prior to submittal of the land development permit application. During the meeting, the following information will be reviewed:
 - Runoff Reduction Infeasibility Form to initiate the request and provide basic project information, confirmation that supporting documentation was submitted, and documentation of pre-submittal meeting outcomes.
 - Stormwater Concept Plan that has been developed based on site analysis, and natural resources inventory (including impracticability) in accordance with Section 2.4.2.5 of the GSMM.
- 2) The plan reviewer will evaluate the pre-submittal information on a case-by-case basis; coordinate with the design professional to understand site-specific issues; and (if possible) explore potential design strategies to achieve 100% RRV in compliance with the standards and specifications of the Post-Construction Stormwater Management Ordinance and GSMM.

- 3) Based on the pre-submittal information and meeting, the plan reviewer will provide one of the following determinations to the design professional:
 - Approval – preliminary Determination of Infeasibility issued
 - Approval with conditions – preliminary Determination of Infeasibility issued with conditions to incorporate plan reviewer comments into the Stormwater Concept Plan
 - Denial - revise the Stormwater Concept Plan to obtain 100% RRv
- 4) Design professional may either:
 - Submit the land development application with the Stormwater Management Plan and preliminary Determination of Infeasibility (as applicable).
 - Appeal the “denial” or “conditions” following the appeals process outlined in the local jurisdiction’s regulations.

During Construction

- 1) During the development process, the owner encounters a site condition that would prevent building stormwater BMPs as specified in the Stormwater Management Plan. The design professional will complete a Runoff Reduction Infeasibility Form and initiate a meeting with the local jurisdiction plan reviewer to discuss the findings. The designer must evaluate modifications to the proposed BMPs or installation of alternative BMPs that will provide some or all RRv in an alternative method.
- 2) The plan reviewer will evaluate the Runoff Reduction Infeasibility Form on a case-by-case basis; coordinate with the design professional to understand site-specific issues; and (if possible) explore potential design strategies to keep the stormwater BMPs identified in the Stormwater Management Plan.
- 3) Based on the Runoff Reduction Infeasibility Form and meeting, the plan reviewer will provide one of the following determinations to the design professional:
 - Approval – Determination of Infeasibility is issued and attached to the land development permit
 - Approval with conditions – preliminary Determination of Infeasibility issued with conditions to either:
 - i) Revise the design of runoff reduction methods (e.g. adding soil amendments or an underdrain to maximize runoff reduction volume) to retain the first 1.0 inch of rainfall onsite.
 - ii) Meet the stormwater runoff quality/reduction standard through a combination of Runoff Reduction and Water Quality.
- 4) Design professional may either:
 - Continue construction as outlined modified Stormwater Management Plan under the Permit Revision with approved Determination of Infeasibility.
 - Appeal the “conditions” following the appeals process as outlined in the local jurisdiction regulations.

Determination of Infeasibility Process



Runoff Reduction Infeasibility Form

Date (submitted): _____

**Hall County Engineering Division
Runoff Reduction Infeasibility (RRI) Form for
Determination of Infeasibility**

Design Professional Primary Contact (Name/Email/Phone): _____

Description of Site/Land Development Application Number: _____

Address: _____

Size (acres): _____

Maximum Practicable Runoff Reduction Volume*: _____

**If any of the stormwater runoff volume generated by the first 1.0" of rainfall cannot be reduced or retained on the site, due to site characteristics or constraints, the remaining volume shall be increased by a multiplier of 1.2 and shall be intercepted and treated in one or more best management practices that provide at least an 80 percent reduction in total suspended solids.*

GENERAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

All General Supporting Documentation must be included with this RRI Form for the submittal for a Determination of Infeasibility to be considered complete. Please check each item below to confirm it has been included in the submittal package.

- Stormwater Concept Plan that has been developed based on site analysis, and natural resources inventory (including impracticability) in accordance with Section 2.4.2.5 of the GSMM
- GSMM Stormwater Quality Site Development Review Tool for the Stormwater Concept Plan
- Please include justification that the site cannot accommodate best management practices that rely on evapotranspiration and reuse such as rainwater harvesting or green roofs

SITE CONDITION APPLICABILITY

(descriptions are in *Policy on Practicability Analysis for Runoff Reduction*)

Please check each applicable item below and confirm the supporting documentation has been included in the submittal for a Determination of Infeasibility.

Site Condition	Supporting Documentation
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil Infiltration Rate	Infiltration test(s), Soil Boring Log(s), and Report of results as interpreted by a Professional Engineer, Professional Geologist, or Soil Scientist licensed in Georgia
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Table	Soil Boring Log(s) and Report with results of the seasonal high-water table assessment as interpreted by a Professional Engineer, Professional Geologist, or Soil Scientist licensed in Georgia
<input type="checkbox"/> Bedrock	Soil Boring Log(s) and Report with results of the shallow bedrock assessment as interpreted by a Professional Engineer, Professional Geologist, or Soil Scientist licensed in Georgia
<input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Topography	Site survey showing 50% of the site is steeper than 3:1 slopes as interpreted by a Professional Engineer or Land Surveyor licensed in Georgia AND Stormwater Concept Plan showing the proposed post-development condition will not change from the site survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Karst Topography	Report developed by a Professional Engineer, Professional Geologist, or Soil Scientist licensed in Georgia
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotspots/ Contamination	Phase I Environmental Assessment Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Resources	Documentation of the NAHRGIS listing OR Report of assessment from a Preservation Professional (including Archaeologist, Architectural Historian, Historian, Historic Preservationist, or Historic Preservation Planner)
<input type="checkbox"/> Site Constraints	Site Plan identifying all development requirements (e.g. zoning side/front setbacks, build-to-lines, stream buffers, floodplains, septic fields) that are creating irreconcilable conflicts with on-site runoff reduction
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Hardship*	An estimated cost comparison of proposed runoff reduction practices compared to the proposed water quality practices must be included to demonstrate an economic hardship and must show the cost of providing runoff reduction is a minimum of three times greater than the cost of providing water quality practices

** Note: A Determination of Infeasibility cannot be granted solely for economic hardship and must be present with another site condition. Additionally, a Determination of Infeasibility for economic hardship may only be allowed for up to 50% runoff reduction volume.*

STORMWATER RUNOFF QUALITY/ REDUCTION SUMMARY

Maximum Practicable Runoff Reduction Volume*: _____

Remainder of Volume treated by Water Quality Best Management Practice: _____

**If any of the stormwater runoff volume generated by the first 1.0" of rainfall cannot be reduced or retained on the site, due to site characteristics or constraints, the remaining volume shall be increased by a multiplier of 1.2 and shall be intercepted and treated in one or more best management practices that provide at least an 80 percent reduction in total suspended solids.*

Design Professional Printed Name _____

Design Professional Signature _____

Design Professional P.E. Number _____

FOR HALL COUNTY ENGINEERING DIVISION USE ONLY

APPROVED

APPROVED with
conditions _____

DENIED _____

Reviewer: _____

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Date)