



# Maryland

## Department of the Environment

Larry Hogan  
Governor

Boyd Rutherford  
Lieutenant Governor

Ben Grumbles  
Secretary

February 13, 2019

Mr. Robert Hagy  
Territory Sales Manager  
ACF Environmental  
11435 Red Lion Rd.  
White Marsh, Maryland 21162

Dear Mr. Hagy:

The Maryland Department of the Environment, Water and Science Administration (MDE/WSA) has conducted a two-year field review and evaluation of the SMARTfence 42 sediment and erosion control BMP. This product has been presented as a lower cost, less wasteful alternative to the current Maryland specification E-3, "Super Silt Fence" (SSF). The main differences between the SMARTfence 42 product and the current specifications for SSF include elimination of the chain-link reinforcing component, deeper penetration of the supporting posts, and closer spacing of the support posts. The objective of this product is to provide the filtering capability and energy resistance provided by SSF but eliminate the need to produce, ship, and dispose of the chain link and post components of SSF.

As with any practice, proper installation per the manufacturer's instructions as well as thorough and robust inspection and maintenance protocols are critical to the BMP's performance. The SMARTfence 42 product has demonstrated the ability to perform under the same conditions specified for SSF if the manufacturer's installation and maintenance guidelines are followed. The maintenance guidelines are effectively the same as for SSF.

MDE/WSA grants provisional approval for SMARTfence 42 to be considered as a substitute for SSF in conditions where SSF would typically be specified. Designers and plan reviewers are reminded that every site is unique and no single BMP will suit every possible circumstance. Designers are encouraged to exercise best professional judgement when selecting BMP's, taking into account not just grading and drainage area, but site soil characteristics/properties, installation and maintenance logistics, and any other factors that would influence the efficacy of any particular BMP.

"Provisional" approval provides delegated jurisdictions as well as the Soil Conservation Districts an additional tool to utilize in the generation and approval of sediment and erosion control plans. MDE/WSA welcomes any comments and/or feedback from the construction oversight community regarding the performance of the SMARTfence 42. The MDE/WSA review of the product was necessarily limited to two sites over two years, and does not represent every potential scenario that might be encountered within the State.

The MDE/WSA provisional approval of this product is not an endorsement of the product, and MDE/WSA assumes no responsibility for the performance of this product.

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Use of this product as part of an approved erosion and sediment control plan requires that installation and all materials conform to the manufacturers specific installation and maintenance direction.

Thank you for your interest in Maryland's erosion and sediment control program. Please contact me at 410-537-3550 or Pat Depkin, Sediment, Stormwater, and Dam Safety Program at 410-537-3628 or [pat.depkin@maryland.gov](mailto:pat.depkin@maryland.gov) should you have any questions regarding this approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. R. Comstock". The signature is stylized with a large initial "S" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stewart R. Comstock, P.E., Chief  
Program Review Division  
Water and Science Administration

cc: Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts