



DEPARTMENT OF PERMITTING SERVICES

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**WATER RESOURCES TECHNICAL POLICY**  
**HEIGHT OF EMBANKMENT FOR**  
**WATER QUALITY STRUCTURES**  
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1. These structures are designed to collect and treat runoff to meet stormwater management water quality requirements only. Runoff that exceeds this amount is diverted away from the structure using flow splitters within the storm drain system.
2. These structures contain some sort of filter media (sand, specific soil mixes, etc.). The filter media is not used in the design of the structure to determine water quality volume. The structure must be designed such that the required water quality volume is contained above the filter media.
3. One foot of freeboard is provided above the ten-year water surface elevation in the structure.
4. There is no emergency spillway or principal spillway. There is only a 6-inch PVC underdrain.
5. For compliance with MD-378, the height of the embankment is measured from the top of the filter media to the top of the berm.
6. When site conditions warrant, Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (MCDPS) can require the structure to be designed in accordance with MD-378 standards regardless of the height of the berm.
7. MCDPS currently uses the standard "Construction Specifications for Shallow Facilities" for the design and construction of these structures. The standard includes construction inspection, site preparation, earth fill and backfill requirements, and specifications for the underdrain.