

1 19A NCAC 02E .0601 IS AMENDED WITH CHANGES AS PUBLISHED IN 29:06 NCR 645 AS FOLLOWS:

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3
4 **SECTION .0600 - SELECTIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL POLICY**

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6 **19A NCAC 02E .0601 SELECTIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMIT REQUIRED TO REMOVE**
7 **VEGETATION FROM STATE HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY**

8 (a) ~~In recognition of the State of North Carolina's desire to assure that high quality and aesthetically pleasing views are~~
9 ~~provided highway users, along with recognizing that, within certain specified limitations, limitations as set out in G.S.~~
10 ~~136-129(4) and (5), business facilities, hereinafter referred to as facilities, defined as office, institutional, commercial,~~
11 ~~and industrial buildings, and certain outdoor advertising are legitimate commercial uses of property adjacent to the~~
12 ~~highways and are an integral part of the State's business and marketing economy, selective vegetation removal permits for~~
13 ~~opening views to facilities and legally erected forms of outdoor advertising, advertising that which border State highways~~
14 ~~highways, are provided by this Section.~~

15 (b) ~~(a)~~ Selective cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal of vegetation within highway rights of way may be permitted only
16 for opening views to a ~~facility building~~ business facilities and legally erected forms of outdoor advertising as described in
17 G.S. 136-93(b), that which are located directly adjacent to State highway rights of way. For purposes of selective
18 vegetation removal ~~permitting, facilities,~~ permitting "business [facilities-] facilities," hereinafter referred to as facilities,
19 are defined as office, institutional, commercial, and industrial buildings. In accordance with G.S. 136-93.3, "agritourism
20 activities" as defined in G.S. 99E-30 are considered facilities under this Section. The following requirements apply to
21 facilities under this Section:

22 (1) ~~all facilities, except for agritourism activities shall include at least one permanent structural building,~~
23 ~~building;~~

24 (2) ~~The the~~ building ~~must shall~~ have all required local and State permits, be related to the facility's
25 function, and be open and operational on a year-round ~~basis- basis; and~~

26 (3) ~~When such any~~ cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal of vegetation is allowed pursuant to G.S. 136-
27 93(b), it shall be performed by the permittee or his agent at no cost to the Department of
28 Transportation and shall comply with this Section.

29 (b) For purposes of this Section, agritourism activities include any activity carried out on a farm or ranch that allows
30 members of the general public, for recreational, entertainment, or educational purposes, to view or enjoy rural activities,
31 including farming, ranching, historic, cultural, harvest-your-own activities, or natural activities and attractions. The
32 following requirements apply to agritourism activities under this Section:

33 (1) ~~[agritourism activities that qualify for selective cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal of vegetation~~
34 ~~shall be located directly adjacent to State highway rights of way.]~~

35 (2) ~~[the requested selective vegetation removal site shall be directly related to agritourism activities.]~~

36 (3) (1) the agritourism activities shall be open for business at least four days per week, with a minimum of
37 32 hours per week, and at least 10 months of the [year-] year; and

1 (4) (2) the applicant ~~[for a selective vegetation removal permit]~~ shall certify that the activities for a
2 selective vegetation removal permit qualify as an agritourism activity. The Department may require
3 additional documentation from the applicant if the requested site's compliance as eligible agritourism
4 activities remains in question.
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7 *History Note: Authority G.S. 136-18(5); 136-18(7); 136-18(9); 136-93 (b); 136-93.3;*
8 *Temporary Rule Eff. April 13, 1982 for a Period of 48 Days to Expire on June 1, 1982;*
9 *Eff. June 1, 1982;*
10 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2015; November 1, 2012; June 2, 1982.*
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1 19A NCAC 02E .0602 is proposed for amendment as follows:

2
3 **19A NCAC 02E .0602 REQUESTS FOR SELECTIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMITS FOR A**
4 **FACILITY**

5 (a) Applications for selective vegetation cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal (exclusive of grasses) at a facility shall be
6 made by the owner of the facility to the appropriate Division Engineer of the North Carolina Department of
7 Transportation, Division of Highways. ~~Applications with all required documentation~~ Applications shall be submitted in
8 both printed and electronic form. ~~A non-refundable fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) must accompany each~~
9 ~~application.~~ Applications for selective vegetation removal permits shall include the following information:

- 10 (1) applicant contact information;
- 11 (2) name and location of the facility;
- 12 (3) indication of request being for a business facility or agritourism activity;
- 13 (4) municipal review indication, if applicable;
- 14 (5) requested use of and site access for power-driven equipment in accordance with Rule .0604(22);
- 15 (6) performance ~~and indemnity~~ bond or certified check or cashier's check pursuant to G.S. 136-93;
- 16 (7) if using a contractor for vegetation removal work, identify the contractor and their qualifications if
17 contractor is not listed on the Department's website directory of qualified transportation firms;
- 18 (8) payment of non-refundable \$200 permit fee, pursuant to G.S. 136-18.7;
- 19 (9) certificate of liability and ~~proof of [all legally required insurance coverage, including]~~ worker's
20 compensation and vehicle liability ~~insurance coverage; [in the amounts required and according to~~
21 North Carolina law;
- 22 (10) geographic information system document and property tax identification number to verify location of
23 facility in relation to municipal limits;
- 24 (11) verification of on-site marking and tree-tagging requirements;
- 25 (12) sketch, ~~and if needed,~~ or amended sketch of the requested cut zone and information about trees to
26 be cut, thinned, pruned, or removed in accordance with Rule .0604(11);
- 27 (13) certification that applicant has permission from the adjoining landowner(s) to access their private
28 property, if applicable, for the purpose of conducting selective vegetation removal permit activities;
- 29 (14) certification that the facility qualifies as an agritourism activity as required pursuant to G.S. 136-93.3;
30 and
- 31 (15) applicant's notarized signature.

32 (b) Selective vegetation cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal for opening views to facilities shall be permitted only for
33 the permittee's facilities adjacent to highway right of way at locations where such facilities have been ~~constructed.~~
34 constructed or where agritourism activities are carried out as set forth in G.S. 136-93.3 and Rule .0601 of this Section.
35 Complete removal of all trees and other vegetation shall not be permitted. Dogwood trees and redbud trees shall be
36 preserved. Other ~~trees, which~~ trees that are not screening the facility from view and are four caliper inches and greater in
37 diameter, measured six inches from the ground, shall be preserved. Trees, shrubs, and other vegetation less than four

1 caliper inches in diameter may be removed. Trees, shrubs, and other ~~vegetation, which~~ vegetation that are four caliper
2 inches or greater in diameter as measured six inches from the ground and not to be preserved, may be cut, thinned,
3 pruned, or removed according to approval of Department personnel designated by the Division Engineer. All vegetation
4 cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal shall be in accordance with ~~accepted~~ the current edition and subsequent
5 amendments and editions of the American National Standard for Arboricultural Operations-Safety Requirements ANSI
6 Z133.1, approved by the American National Standards Institute and published by the International Society of
7 Arboriculture. Arboriculture that is hereby incorporated. ~~(ISA) standards.~~ Copies of the Standard are available for
8 inspection in the office of the State Roadside Environmental Engineer, Division of Highways, Raleigh, N.C. Copies of
9 the Standard may be obtained from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) for a \$20.00 cost. The ISA may be
10 contacted at P.O. Box 3129 Champaign, Illinois 61826 or by accessing this website: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/>.

11 ~~(e) The provisions in this Rule shall not be used to provide visibility to undeveloped property or to on-premise signs.~~

12 ~~(d)~~ (c) Applications ~~must~~ shall be accompanied by a sketch showing the requested limits of the selective cutting,
13 thinning, pruning, or removal of vegetation. For ~~commercial, industrial, institutional, and office facilities~~ facilities, the
14 limits of selective cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal shall be restricted to ~~the one~~ area of right-of-way immediately
15 adjacent to frontage property of the facility but not to exceed 1,000 contiguous linear feet. Facilities with frontage
16 property on opposite sides of the State highway right-of-way may split the maximum vegetation removal distance
17 between the two sides of the highway, resulting in a total of two contiguous cutting or removal distances along frontage
18 property, with the total of the two sides not exceeding 1,000 linear feet. The permitted limits of the selective vegetation
19 removal permit shall not be altered for subsequent applications. The applicant shall also include on the sketch the
20 location, species, and caliper inches of all trees with a diameter of four caliper inches and greater, as measured six inches
21 above ground level, at the time of the application and desired to be cut, thinned, pruned, or removed.

22 ~~(e) The applicant must certify that permission has been obtained from the adjoining landowner(s) to access their private~~
23 ~~property, if applicable, for the purpose of conducting activities related to the selective vegetation removal permit~~
24 ~~application.~~

25 ~~(f)~~ (d) The selective vegetation removal request may be ~~investigated~~ reviewed on site by Department personnel and a
26 representative of the applicant.

27 ~~(g)~~ (e) ~~If~~ In accordance with G.S. 136-93(d), if the application for vegetation cutting is for a site located within the
28 corporate limits of a municipality and ~~if~~ the municipality has previously advised the Division Engineer in writing of its
29 desire to review such applications, the applicant shall deliver the application to the municipality at least 30 days prior to
30 submitting the application to the Department, so ~~the municipality that local officials~~ shall be given the opportunity to
31 review the application. Information regarding whether a municipality desires to review vegetation removal applications
32 may be found on the Department website www.ncdot.gov or by contacting the Division Engineer's office.

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34 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 136-18(5); 136-18(7); 136-18(9); 136-18.7; 136-93; 136-93.3; 136-130;
35 *Temporary Rule Eff. April 13, 1982 for a Period of 48 Days to Expire on June 1, 1982;*
36 *Eff. June 1, 1982;*
37 *Amended Eff. November 16, 1991; December 1, 1990; August 1, 1985; June 2, 1982;*

1 *Temporary Amendment Eff. November 16, 1999;*
2 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2000;*
3 *Temporary Amendment Eff. March 1, 2012;*
4 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2015; November 1, 2012.*

1 19A NCAC 02E .0603 IS AMENDED WITH CHANGES AS PUBLISHED IN 29:06 NCR 646 AS FOLLOWS:
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3 **19A NCAC 02E .0603 ISSUANCE OR DENIAL OF SELECTIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMIT FOR**
4 **A FACILITY**

5 (a) ~~The applicant, as part of the application, shall state in writing the date that he or she has delivered a copy of the~~
6 ~~completed application with required attachments to a municipality pursuant to G.S. 136-93(d), which has that previously~~
7 ~~advised the Department in writing that it seeks to review such applications. After the 30-day municipal review period has~~
8 ~~concluded and all required documentation has been received by the Department, including the fee set out in G.S. 136-~~
9 ~~18.7, the Division Engineer shall have 30 days to approve or deny the application. At the expiration of the 30-day~~
10 ~~municipality review and comment period, the Division Engineer shall review the application. The Division Engineer shall~~
11 ~~not review the application if the fee set out in G.S. 136-18.7 has not been paid. The Division Engineer shall have 30 days~~
12 ~~to approve or deny the application. If written notice of approval or denial is not given to the applicant within the 30-day~~
13 ~~Department review period, the application shall be deemed approved. If the application is denied, the Division Engineer~~
14 ~~shall advise the applicant, in writing, of the reasons for denial.~~

15 (a) Pursuant to G.S. 136-133.2, within 30 days following receipt of the application for a selective vegetation removal
16 permit for a facility, including the fee set out in G.S. 136-18.7, the Division Engineer shall approve or deny the
17 application. The applicant, as part of the application, shall state in writing the date that he or she has delivered a copy of
18 the application with required attachments to a municipality that has previously advised the Department in writing that it
19 seeks to provide comments regarding such applications. The applicant shall deliver the application to the municipality at
20 least 30 days prior to submitting the application to the Department. The list of municipalities requesting to review
21 applications shall be maintained and updated by the Department on the website www.ncdot.gov. Upon receipt of the
22 [completed] application, the Division Engineer shall have 30 days to approve or deny the application. If written notice of
23 approval or denial is not given to the applicant within the 30-day Department review period, then the application shall be
24 deemed approved. If the application is denied, the Division Engineer shall advise the applicant, in writing, of the reasons
25 for denial.

26 (b) The application shall be denied by the Division Engineer if:

- 27 (1) ~~The the~~ application is for the opening of view to a facility that does not meet the requirements of Rule
28 .0601 of the Section; which that has been declared illegal or is currently involved in litigation with
29 Local, State, or Federal governments;
- 30 (2) ~~It it~~ is determined by Departmental personnel that the facility is not screened from view;
- 31 (3) ~~The the~~ application is for the opening of view to undeveloped property or to a facility that, due to
32 obstructions off the right of way, is screened from view from the travel way regardless of the presence
33 or absence of trees and other vegetation on the highway right of way;
- 34 (4) ~~Removal it~~ is determined by Department personnel that removal of vegetation will [may] [will] may
35 diminish a planting installed for headlight screening [that will] adversely and affect the safety of the
36 traveling public;
- 37 (5) ~~The the~~ application is solely for providing visibility to on-premise signs;

- 1 (6) ~~The~~ the application is for the removal of vegetation planted in accordance with a local, State, or
 2 ~~Federal~~ federal beautification project. However, if a mitigation replanting plan ~~which~~ that is related to
 3 the site for which the vegetation permit request is made (as set forth in 19A NCAC 02E .0611 except
 4 for the provisions in Paragraph (d) and Subparagraph (g)(11)) is ~~approved~~ agreed upon in writing by
 5 the applicant, the Department, and if applicable, the Federal Highway ~~Administration~~ Administration,
 6 then this subsection does not apply;
- 7 (7) ~~On~~ on two previous occasions, the applicant has failed to meet the requirements of a selective
 8 vegetation removal ~~permit. This is not cause for denial if~~ permit, unless the applicant engages a
 9 landscape contractor to perform the current work;
- 10 (8) ~~It involves opening of~~ the application is for removal of vegetation that will open views to junkyards;
- 11 (9) ~~The~~ the applicant fails to ~~provide~~ complete an application, as described in Rule .0602 of this Section;
 12 ~~all documentation required by statute and rule;~~
- 13 (10) ~~If~~ any cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal of vegetation encompassing the entirety of the maximum
 14 vegetation cutting or removal zone is prohibited due to conservation easements or conditions affecting
 15 the right of way to which the State is subjected or agrees in writing to subject itself and other
 16 restrictions agreed upon by the State in writing in the right of way; or State or Federal rules, statutes,
 17 or permits; or
- 18 (11) ~~If~~ an unlawful destruction or illegal cutting of vegetation has occurred within the highway right-of-way
 19 to create, increase, or improve a view to the facility from the travel way including acceleration and
 20 deceleration ~~ramps, ramps, the~~ The Department shall not issue a selective vegetation removal permit at
 21 the requested site for a period of five years. five years that shall begin on the date the Department
 22 resolves the [unlawful destruction or illegal cutting] “unlawful destruction” or “illegal cutting” incident
 23 by settlement agreement with responsible party or the Department administratively closes the case. For
 24 the purposes of this Section, unlawful destruction or illegal cutting is defined as the destruction or
 25 cutting of trees, shrubs, or other vegetation on the State-owned or State-maintained rights-of-way by
 26 anyone other than the Department or its authorized agents, or without written permission of the
 27 Department.

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 30 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 99E-30; 136-18(5); 136-18(7); 136-18(9); 136-93; 136-93.3; 136-130;
 31 *Temporary Rule Eff. April 13, 1982 for a Period of 48 Days to Expire on June 1, 1982;*
 32 *Eff. June 1, 1982;*
 33 *Amended Eff. August 1, 2000; November 1, 1991; December 1, 1990; August 1, 1985; June 2, 1982;*
 34 *Temporary Amendment Eff. March 1, 2012;*
 35 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2015; November 1, 2012.*
 36

1 19A NCAC 02E .0604 IS AMENDED WITH CHANGES AS PUBLISHED IN 29:06 NCR 647 AS FOLLOWS:
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3 **19A NCAC 02E .0604 CONDITIONS OF SELECTIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMIT FOR**
4 **FACILITIES ~~OR PERMIT REQUIREMENTS~~**

5 The following apply to the conditions of selective vegetation removal permit for facilities; ~~facilities or permit~~
6 ~~requirements~~:

- 7 (1) Selected vegetation, within the approved limits as set forth in Rule .0602(c) of this Section may be cut,
8 thinned, ~~pruned~~ pruned, or removed by the permittee in accordance with the standards set out in G.S.
9 136-133.4;
- 10 (2) ~~The permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless the North Carolina Department of Transportation,~~
11 ~~and its employees, attorneys, agents, and contractors against any and all claims or causes of action, and~~
12 ~~all losses therefrom, arising out of or in any way related to the permittee's operation;~~
- 13 (3) The permittee shall furnish a ~~Performance and Indemnity Bond or certified check or cashier's check~~
14 ~~Performance [and Indemnity] Bond, or certified check or cashier's check~~ made payable to North
15 Carolina Department of Transportation for the minimum sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000). The
16 ~~bond, certified check or cashier's check~~ Performance [and Indemnity] Bond, or certified check or
17 cashier's check shall cover all restoration of the right of way to the condition prior to the occurrence of
18 the damage caused by the permittee or the permittee's agent, if damage occurs during the permitted
19 selective vegetation removal. The ~~bond or certified check or cashier's check~~ Performance [and
20 Indemnity] Bond, or certified check or cashier's check is required shall be paid with the application
21 before each permit to cut vegetation is issued. The ~~bond~~ Performance [and Indemnity] Bond, or
22 certified check or cashier's check shall run concurrently with the permit. The ~~bond~~ Performance [and
23 Indemnity] Bond, or certified check or cashier's check shall be released after a final inspection of the
24 work by ~~NCDOT~~ the Department reveals that all work provided for and specified by the permit is
25 found to be completed and all damages to the right of way, including damage to fencing and other
26 structures within the right-of-way, have been repaired or restored to the condition prior to the
27 occurrence of the damage caused by the permittee or the permittee's agent;
- 28 (4) Companies that plan to apply for two or more permits may provide continuing bonds for a minimum
29 the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) and ~~this that~~ type of bond shall be kept on file by
30 the Utilities Unit of the Department;
- 31 (5) If the work is to be performed by any entity other than the ~~sign owner or~~ permittee, either the permittee
32 or the other entity ~~must shall~~ furnish the ~~required bonding,~~ Performance [and Indemnity] Bond or
33 certified check or cashier's' check, as described in this ~~Section, Rule,~~ for all work provided for and
34 specified by the permit. Required forms for all bonds are available upon request from the ~~Department.~~
35 Department and [can] may be found on the Department's website www.ncdot.gov. Bonds are to be
36 furnished with the selective vegetation removal ~~Selective-Vegetation-Removal~~ application form to the

1 appropriate official assigned to receive selective vegetation removal applications at the local ~~NCDOT~~
2 North Carolina Department of Transportation, Division of Highways Office;

3 (6) The permittee shall also provide proof of liability insurance ~~of a minimum~~ coverage of five million
4 dollars (\$5,000,000). Whoever performs the work, the permittee, his ~~contractor~~ contractor, or agent,
5 shall maintain ~~all legally required insurance coverage, including worker's compensation workers'~~
6 compensation and vehicle liability insurance coverage, in the amounts required by and according to
7 North Carolina law. The permittee, his ~~contractor~~ contractor, and ~~agent, agent may be~~ are liable for
8 any losses due to the negligence or willful misconduct of his agents, assigns, and employees. The
9 permittee may, in lieu of providing proof of liability insurance as described in this ~~paragraph, Item,~~ be
10 shown as an additional insured on the general liability policy of the approved contractor or agent to
11 perform the permitted work on condition that the contractor or agent's policy is ~~for a minimum~~
12 coverage of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) and the permittee provides proof to the Department of
13 the coverage. The permittee or contractor or agent providing the coverage shall also name the
14 Department as an additional insured on its general liability policy and provide the Department with a
15 copy of the certificate showing the Department named as an additional insured. Regardless of which
16 entity provides the proof of general liability insurance, the required limit of insurance may be obtained
17 by a single general liability policy or the combination of a general liability and excess liability or
18 umbrella policy;

19 (7) The permittee shall provide a document verifying the requested selective vegetation removal site
20 location in relationship to corporate limits of a municipality. The document shall be a current
21 geographic information system map of the nearest municipality, with color-coded boundary lines and a
22 corresponding key or legend indicating corporate limit and territorial jurisdiction boundaries and
23 indicating the precise location of the business facility. The permittee shall also provide the property
24 tax identification number for the parcel on which the ~~boundary or~~ facility is located. The Department
25 may require additional information if the boundary or facility location remains in question;

26 (8) Access from the highway main travel way shall be allowed only for surveying or delineation work in
27 preparation for and in the processing of an application for a selective vegetation removal permit;

28 (9) The permittee shall perform site marking of the maximum vegetation cut or removal zone. The
29 applicant shall mark the permitted cutting distances according to Rule .0602(c) of this Section. ~~19A~~
30 ~~NCAC 02E .0602(d)~~. The two maximum points along the right-of-way boundary (or fence if there is a
31 control of access fence) shall be marked with visible flagging tape. The two maximum points,
32 corresponding to the ~~actual~~ beginning point and the ~~actual~~ ending ~~point, point~~ point, point along the edge of the
33 pavement of the travel way, perpendicular to the maximum points marked along the right-of-way
34 boundary, shall be marked with spray paint. If the facility is located next to an acceleration or
35 deceleration ramp, the two corresponding maximum points shall be marked along the edge of the
36 pavement of the travel way of the ramp instead of the mainline of the roadway;

- 1 (10) The permittee shall tag, with visible material or flagging, ~~those trees~~ trees, according to Rule .0602(b)
2 of this Section, with a diameter of four caliper inches and larger, as measured six inches above ground
3 ~~level,~~ level at the time of the application that are screening the facility from view and are requested to
4 be cut, thinned, pruned, or removed within the maximum vegetation cut or removal zone. Trees
5 tagged for cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal shall match with the trees shown on the required
6 sketch of the requested vegetation cut or removal zone;
- 7 (11) The Department may disapprove the requested cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal of selected trees
8 of four caliper inches or greater in diameter, as measured six inches above ground ~~level,~~ which level
9 that are not screening the facility from view from the roadway. The Department ~~will~~ shall make this
10 determination by allowing selective thinning of tree density ~~which~~ that opens the view to the facility or
11 agritourism activities across the entire length of the maximum cut or removal zone, without complete
12 removal of all trees and other vegetation. The Department shall disapprove cutting, thinning, pruning,
13 or removal of dogwood and redbud trees that may have been tagged in error. If trees are disapproved
14 for cutting, thinning, ~~pruning~~ pruning, or removal, the Department shall specify those trees to the
15 applicant during the site review, investigation. The applicant shall remove the tree flagging for the
16 disapproved trees and submit to the Department by electronic means (including electronic mail or
17 facsimile) an amended version of the original sketch of the site by indicating the changes on the sketch
18 and initialing and dating the changes thereon; ~~thereon.~~ ~~Failure to amend the sketch of the site~~
19 ~~according to this rule shall be considered failure to provide required documentation;~~
- 20 (12) If any cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal of vegetation from any portion of but less than the
21 entirety of the maximum vegetation cutting or removal zone is prohibited due to conservation
22 easements or conditions easements, conditions or other restrictions affecting the right of way to which
23 the State is subjected or agrees in writing to subject itself and other restrictions agreed upon by the
24 State in writing in the right of way or itself, or State or Federal rules, statutes, or permits, the permittee
25 shall comply with applicable easements, rules, statutes, or permits for those portions of vegetation.
- 26 (a) If applicable conservation easements, or conditions affecting the right of way to which the
27 State is subjected or agrees in writing to subject itself and other restrictions agreed upon by
28 the State in writing in the right of way, State or Federal rules, statutes, or permits allow
29 certain degrees and methods of cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal for portions of
30 vegetation, the permittee shall comply with applicable easements, State or Federal rules,
31 statutes, or permits including equipment type for those portions of vegetation.
- 32 (b) Portions of the maximum cutting or removal zone not within a conservation easement nor
33 applicable to conditions affecting the right of way to which the State is subjected or agrees in
34 writing to subject itself and other restrictions agreed upon by the State in writing in the right
35 of way, nor regulated by State or Federal rules, statutes, or permits regulating vegetation
36 removal and other activities shall be governed by standards set out in G.S. 136-93;

- 1 (13) The permittee ~~must~~ shall adhere to erosion control requirements, according to the North Carolina
2 General Statutes, Article 4, Chapter 113A entitled: Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973;
- 3 (14) A Division of Highways Inspector may be present while work is underway. The presence or absence
4 of a Division of Highways inspector at the work site does not lessen the permittee's responsibility for
5 conformity with the requirements of the permit. ~~and all applicable statutes and rules. Should the~~
6 ~~inspector fail~~ When a present inspector fails to point out work that does not conform with the
7 requirements, it does not prevent later notification to the permittee that the work is not in compliance
8 with the permit;
- 9 (15) A selective vegetation removal permit ~~must~~ shall be secured for each applicable facility prior to
10 performing any vegetation removal work. The Permittee or its contractor or agent ~~must~~ shall have a
11 copy of the ~~Selective Vegetation Removal Permit~~ selective vegetation removal permit on the work site
12 at all times during any phase of selective vegetation cutting, thinning, trimming, pruning, removal, or
13 planting operations;
- 14 (16) ~~Should~~ When the Division Engineer ("Engineer") or his representative ~~observe~~ observes unsafe
15 operations, ~~activities~~ activities, or conditions, he shall suspend work. Work shall not resume until the
16 unsafe ~~conditions or activities~~ operations, activities, or conditions have been eliminated or corrected.
17 Failure to comply with any of the ~~[Federal,] [Federal] federal and State [and local]~~ federal and State [and local] laws, ordinances,
18 and regulations governing requirements for safety and traffic control of this permit shall result in
19 suspension of work. The permittee shall adhere to safety requirements, according to the North Carolina
20 General Statutes, Article 16, Chapter 95 entitled: Occupational Safety and Health Act of North
21 Carolina. Traffic control shall be in accordance with G.S. 136-30 and 19A NCAC 02B .0208;
- 22 (17) The permittee or its contractor or agent shall take ~~appropriate~~ measures to locate and protect utilities
23 within the highway right-of-way within the work area of the selective vegetation removal zone. The
24 permittee ~~shall~~ may be responsible for restoration of any losses or damages to utilities caused by any
25 actions of the permittee or its contractors or agents to the satisfaction of the utility owner;
- 26 (18) Permits are valid for a period of one year and the permittee may cut, thin, prune, or remove vegetation
27 more than one time during the permit year. If the applicant applies for and is approved for another
28 permit at the same site during an existing permit year, the previous permit shall become null and void
29 at the same time the new permit is issued;
- 30 (19) The permittee shall provide to the ~~appropriate~~ Department ~~official~~ a 48-hour notification before
31 entering the right-of-way for any work covered by the conditions of the permit. The permittee shall
32 schedule all work with the Department. ~~appropriate Department official~~. The permittee shall notify the
33 Department in advance of work scheduled for nights, weekends, and holidays. The Department
34 ~~reserves the right to~~ may modify the permittee's work schedule for nights, weekends, and holidays.
35 When the Department restricts construction in work zones for the safety of the traveling public, the
36 Department shall deny access to the right-of-way for selective vegetation removal;

- 1 (20) If work is planned in an active work zone, the permittee shall receive written permission from the
2 contractor or the Department (~~if~~ if the Department's employees are performing the work, ~~work~~). The
3 permittee shall provide the Division Engineer with a copy of the written permission;
- 4 (21) Sites with vegetation not presenting a hazard from falling tree parts and follow-up work shall be
5 restricted to individual and manual-operated power equipment and hand-held tools;
- 6 (22) The Department may allow use of power-driven vegetation removal equipment (such as excavator-
7 based land clearing attachments, skid-steer cutters, and bucket trucks) if the Department determines
8 that the use of such equipment will not cause undue safety hazards, any erosion, or unreasonable
9 damage to the [right-of-way]right-of-way, and may allow access from the private property side to the
10 right-of-way. Tree removal removal, which that presents a hazard from falling tree parts, parts shall be
11 performed in accordance with the current edition and subsequent amendments and editions of the
12 American National Standard for Arboricultural Operations-Safety Requirements ANSI Z133.1,
13 approved by the American National Standards Institute and published by the International Society of
14 [Arboriculture.] Arboriculture that is hereby incorporated. Copies of the Standard are available for
15 inspection in the office of the State Roadside Environmental Engineer, Division of Highways, Raleigh,
16 N.C. Copies of the Standard may be obtained from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) for
17 a \$20.00 cost. The ISA can be contacted at P.O. Box 3129 Champaign, Illinois 61826 or by accessing
18 this [website: ~~http://www.isa-arbor.com/.~~ website: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/>; Arboriculture
19 standards. Written authorization must [shall] be obtained from the Department for use of power-driven
20 vegetation removal equipment as well as for access to move resources from the private property to the
21 right-of-way. The applicant must [shall] provide information on the permit application for which
22 type(s) of equipment and access is requested. The applicant shall also provide contractor qualifications
23 to the Department;
- 24 (23) The Department shall determine the traffic control signage that is shall be required. The permittee shall
25 furnish, erect, and maintain the required signs as directed by the Department in accordance with G.S.
26 136-30;
- 27 (24) The height of stumps remaining after tree removal shall not exceed four inches above the surrounding
28 ground level. The work site shall be left in a clean and orderly appearance, [leaving no debris at the
29 site as a result of the cutting operation] with all vegetation cut, thinned, or pruned at the site either
30 removed or chipped and spread in accordance with G.S. 136-133.4 at the end of each workday;
- 31 (25) An applicant for a selective vegetation removal permit for a facility or agritourism activities issued
32 pursuant to Rule .0602 of this Section 19A NCAC 02E .0602 may appeal a decision of the Department
33 pertaining to the denial or conditioning of a permit for selective vegetation removal pursuant to the
34 provisions of this section. Such an appeal shall be in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 136-
35 133.3; and
- 36 (26) Upon completion of all work, the Department shall notify the Division Engineer who shall notify the
37 Permittee permittee in writing of acceptance, terminate the permit, and return the Performance and

1 ~~Indemnity Bond~~ Bond, or certified or cashier's check to the permittee. For replanting work, a different
2 release schedule shall be applicable according to Rule .0611. The permittee may terminate the permit
3 at any time and request return of the Performance Bond ~~[and Indemnity Bond,]~~ or certified or cashier's
4 check. The termination and request for return of the Performance Bond ~~[and Indemnity Bond,]~~ or
5 certified or cashier's check shall be made in writing and sent to the Division Engineer.

6 (27) Pursuant to 136-133.4(e), willful failure to substantially comply with all the requirements specified in
7 the permit, unless otherwise mutually resolved, shall result in immediate and summary revocation of
8 the selective vegetation removal permit, and forfeiture of any or all of the Performance and Indemnity
9 Bond or check as determined by the Division Engineer based on conditions stated in this Rule.

10
11 *History Note:* Authority 136-18(5); 136-18(7); 136-18(9); 136-30; 136-93; 136-93.3; 136-133.4; 136-133.4(e);
12 Temporary Rule Eff. April 13, 1982 for a Period of 48 Days to Expire on June 1, 1982;
13 Eff. June 1, 1982;
14 Amended Eff. January 1, 2015; November 1, 2012; August 1, 2000; November 1, 1991; August 1,
15 1985; August 1, 1982; June 2, 1982.

1 19A NCAC 02E .0608 IS AMENDED WITH CHANGES AS PUBLISHED IN 29:06 NCR 650 AS FOLLOWS:

2
3 **19A NCAC 02E .0608 REQUESTS FOR SELECTIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMITS FOR**
4 **OUTDOOR ADVERTISING**

5
6 (a) Applications for selective vegetation cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal (exclusive of grasses) shall be made by
7 the owner of an outdoor advertising sign permitted under G.S. 136-129(4) or (5) to the ~~appropriate~~ applicable county's
8 Division Engineer of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Division of Highways. ~~Applications with all~~
9 ~~required documentation~~ Applications shall be submitted in both printed and electronic form. For sites within the
10 corporate limits of a municipality ~~which that~~ that has previously advised the Department in writing that it seeks to review such
11 applications, the applicant shall deliver the application to the municipality at least 30 days prior to submitting the
12 application to the Department. ~~A non-refundable fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) must accompany each application.~~
13 Applications for selective vegetation removal permits shall include the following information consistent with G.S. 136-

14 133.1:

- 15 (1) applicant contact information;
16 (2) outdoor advertising permit tag number and location of the sign;
17 (3) for a sign located on a ramp, indication of application being for a modified cut zone or normal cut
18 zone;
19 (4) for applications eligible for municipal review, an indication of the year the sign was erected;
20 (5) indication of appropriate maximum cutting distance;
21 (6) applicant's desire to remove existing trees, if present. If existing trees are to be removed, such trees
22 require compensation by either monetary reimbursement or removal of two nonconforming outdoor
23 advertising [signs] signs, or a beautification and replanting plan as set out in Rule .0611 by submitting
24 the Existing Tree Compensation Agreement form found on the Department web site www.ncdot.gov;
25 (7) site plan, if existing trees are to be cut, thinned, pruned, or removed;
26 (8) if existing trees are to be cut, thinned, pruned, or removed, the additional required form includes
27 applicant contact information, permit tag number, sign location, the number and caliper inches and
28 monetary value of existing trees to be cut, thinned, pruned, or removed, and indication of
29 compensatory choice;
30 (9) the additional form for existing tree removal, based on the compensatory choice made, also requires
31 submittal of either a payment check in the amount of the tree loss monetary value, or indication of the
32 two nonconforming outdoor advertising signs to be surrendered, or agreement to submit a
33 beautification replanting plan to the Department. Compliance with the compensatory choice shall be
34 required [is a requirement] before the selective vegetation removal permit can be approved;
35 (10) municipal review indication, if applicable;
36 (11) requested use of and site access for power-driven equipment in accordance with Rule .0610(24) of this
37 Section;
38 (12) performance [and indemnity] bond or certified check or cashier's check pursuant to G.S. 136-93;

- 1 (13) if using a contractor for vegetation removal work, identify the contractor and their qualifications if
2 contractor is not listed on the Department’s website directory of qualified transportation firms;
- 3 (14) payment of non-refundable \$200 permit fee, pursuant to G.S. 136-18.7;
- 4 (15) certificate of liability and proof of [all legally required insurance coverage, including] worker’s
5 compensation and vehicle liability insurance coverage; [in the amounts required and according to
6 North Carolina law;]
- 7 (16) geographic information system document and property tax identification number to verify location of
8 sign in relation to municipal limits and territorial jurisdiction boundary;
- 9 (17) verification of on-site marking and tree-tagging requirements;
- 10 (18) if cutting request is for a modified cut zone along a highway ramp, a diagram of the cut zone is
11 required unless diagram is included on a site plan and calculations are required comparing the
12 modified cut zone to the normal cut zone;
- 13 (19) if the Department disputes the site plan, the Department may request additional information per G.S.
14 136-133.1(c);
- 15 (20) certification that applicant has permission from the adjoining landowner(s) to access their private
16 property for the purpose of conducting selective vegetation removal permit activities; and
- 17 (21) applicant’s notarized signature.

18 ~~(b) Applications which include existing trees to be cut, thinned, pruned or removed, must be accompanied by a site plan~~
19 ~~in accordance with G.S. 136-133.1(c).~~

20 ~~(e)~~ (b) For signs eligible for municipal review review, the applicant ~~must~~ must, shall include on the application and, as a
21 prerequisite to applicable municipal review submittal, the year the outdoor advertising sign was originally erected. Upon
22 request, the Department ~~will~~ shall furnish the year of sign erection to the applicant. The Department ~~reserves the right to~~
23 may require additional proof if the year of the sign erection remains in question.

24 ~~(d)~~ (c) The selective vegetation removal request may be ~~investigated~~ reviewed on site by Department personnel and a
25 representative of the applicant.

26
27 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 136-18(5); 136-18(7); 136-18(9); 136-18.7; 136-93; 136-129(4); 136-129(5); 136-
28 130; 136-133.1; 136-133.2;
29 Temporary Rule Eff. March 1, 2012;
30 Eff. November 1, 2012.
31 Amended Eff. January 1, 2015.
32

1 19A NCAC 02E .0609 IS AMENDED WITH CHANGES AS PUBLISHED IN 29:06 NCR 652 AS FOLLOWS:
2

3 **19A NCAC 02E .0609 ISSUANCE OR DENIAL OF SELECTIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMIT**
4 **FOR OUTDOOR ADVERTISING**

5 (a) Within 30 days following receipt of the application for a selective vegetation removal permit for outdoor
6 advertising, including the fee set out in G.S. 136-18.7, ~~G.S. 136-18.7~~ and all required documentation set out in G.S.
7 136-133.2 and these rules, the Division Engineer shall approve or deny the application. The applicant, as part of the
8 application, shall state in writing the date that he [or she] has delivered a copy of the application with required
9 attachments to a municipality which has previously advised the Department in writing that it seeks to review such
10 applications. The applicant shall deliver the application to the municipality at least 30 days prior to submitting the
11 application to the Department. Once all required documentation has been received by the Department, the Division
12 Engineer shall have 30 days to approve or deny the application. If written notice of approval or denial is not given to
13 the applicant within the 30 day Department review period, then the application shall be deemed approved. If the
14 application is denied, the Division Engineer shall advise the applicant, in writing, of the reasons for denial.

15 (b) The application shall be denied by the Division Engineer if:

- 16 (1) ~~The~~ the application is for an outdoor advertising location where the outdoor advertising permit is
17 less than two years old pursuant to G.S. 136-133.2;
- 18 (2) ~~The~~ the application is for the opening of a view to a sign ~~which~~ that has been declared illegal, or
19 whose permit has been revoked or is currently involved in litigation with the Department;
- 20 (3) ~~Removal of vegetation will adversely affect the safety of the traveling public; it is determined by~~
21 Department personnel that removal of vegetation [may] [will] may diminish a planting installed
22 for headlight screening [that will] adversely and affect the safety of the traveling public;
- 23 (4) ~~The~~ the application is for the removal of vegetation planted in accordance with a local, state, or
24 Federal federal beautification project prior to September 1, 2011 or prior to the issuance of an
25 outdoor advertising permit for the erection of the applicable outdoor advertising structure,
26 whichever date is later, unless a mitigating replanting plan related to the site for which the
27 vegetation permit request is made as set forth in ~~19A NCAC 02E .0611~~, Rule .0611 of this
28 Section, except for the provisions in Paragraph (d) and Subparagraph (g)(11); and is ~~approved~~
29 agreed upon in writing by the applicant, the Department, and, if applicable, the Federal Highway
30 Administration;
- 31 (5) ~~On~~ on two previous occasions, the applicant has failed to meet the requirements of a selective
32 vegetation removal permit. ~~This is not cause for denial if the applicant permit, unless the applicant~~
33 engages a landscape contractor to perform the current work;
- 34 (6) ~~It involves opening of views to junkyards; the application is for removal of vegetation that will~~
35 open views to junkyards;
- 36 (7) ~~The~~ the requested site is subject to a five-year moratorium for willful failure to substantially
37 comply with all requirements specified in a prior selective vegetation removal permit pursuant to
38 G.S. 136-133.4(e);

- 1 (8) ~~The~~ the applicant fails to ~~provide~~ ~~[a completed]~~ complete an application, as described in Rule
2 .0608 of this Section; ~~all documentation required in applicable General Statutes and rules~~;
- 3 (9) ~~Any~~ any cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal of vegetation encompassing the entirety of the
4 maximum vegetation cutting or removal zone is prohibited due to conditions affecting the right of
5 way to which the State is subjected or agrees in writing to subject itself, including conservation
6 agreements, prior to September 1, 2011 or prior to the issuance of an outdoor advertising permit
7 for the erection of the applicable outdoor advertising structure, whichever date is later, or due to
8 the application at any time of State statutes or Federal statutes or rules, including any conditions
9 mandated as part of the issuance of a permit to the Department for a construction project by a
10 Federal or State agency with jurisdiction over the construction project. The Department may
11 mitigate within the right of way in the cut zone of a permitted outdoor advertising structure so
12 long as trees and other plant materials for mitigation may not be of a projected mature height to
13 decrease the visibility of a sign face, and such mitigation vegetation may not be cut or removed
14 pursuant to a selective vegetation removal ~~permit~~. permit; or
- 15 (10) a modified vegetation removal zone application request along acceleration or deceleration ramps is
16 not in accordance with G.S. 136-133.1(a1) or Rule .0612 of this Section.

17
18 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 136-18(5); 136-18(7); 136-18(9); 136-130; 136-133.1 (a1), 136-133.2; 136-133.3;
19 136-133.4, 136-93;
20 Temporary Adoption Eff. March 1, 2012;
21 Eff. February 1, 2013.
22 Amended Eff. January 1, 2015.

3 **19A NCAC 02E .0610 CONDITIONS OF SELECTIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL PERMITS FOR**
4 **OUTDOOR ADVERTISING ~~OR PERMIT REQUIREMENTS~~**

5 The following apply to the conditions of selective vegetation removal ~~permit~~ permits for outdoor advertising:
6 advertising or permit requirements:

7 (1) Selected vegetation, as defined in G.S. 136-133.1(b), may ~~be allowed to~~ be cut, thinned, pruned
8 pruned, or removed in accordance with the standards set out in G.S. 136-133.4;

9 ~~(2) The permittee shall indemnify and hold harmless the North Carolina Department of~~
10 ~~Transportation, its employees, attorneys, agents, and contractors against any and all claims or~~
11 ~~causes of action, and all losses there from, [therefrom,] arising out of or in any way related to [the]~~
12 ~~permittee's operation;~~

13 ~~(3)(2)~~ (2) The permittee shall furnish a Performance and Indemnity Bond Bond, or certified check or
14 cashier's check made payable to North Carolina Department of Transportation for the minimum
15 sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000). The ~~bond, certified check or Performance~~ [and Indemnity]
16 Bond, or certified check or cashier's check shall cover all restoration of the right of way to the
17 condition prior to the occurrence of the damage caused by the permittee or the permittee's agent, if
18 damage occurs during the permitted selective vegetation removal. The Performance [and
19 Indemnity] Bond, or certified check or cashier's check ~~bond or certified check or cashier's check~~ is
20 required shall be paid with the application before each permit to cut vegetation is issued. The bond
21 shall run concurrently with the permit. The bond shall be released after a final inspection of the
22 work by ~~NCDOT~~ the Department reveals that all work provided for and specified by the permit is
23 found to be completed and all damages to the right of way, including damage to fencing and other
24 structures within the right-of-way, have been repaired or restored to the condition prior to the
25 occurrence of the damage caused by the permittee or the permittee's agent;

26 ~~(4)(3)~~ (3) Companies that plan to apply for two or more permits may provide continuing bonds for a
27 minimum the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) and ~~this~~ that type of bond shall be
28 kept on file by the Utilities Unit of the Department;

29 ~~(5)(4)~~ (4) If the work is to be performed by any entity other than the sign owner or permittee, either the
30 permittee or the other entity ~~must~~ shall furnish the Performance [and Indemnity] Bond or certified
31 check or cashier's check ~~required bonding~~ as described in this ~~Section, Rule,~~ Section, Rule, for all work provided
32 for and specified by the permit. Required forms for all bonds are available upon request from the
33 ~~Department.~~ Department, or on the Department's website www.ncdot.gov. Bonds are to be
34 furnished with the ~~Selective Vegetation Removal~~ selective vegetation removal application form to
35 the ~~appropriate~~ official assigned to receive selective vegetation removal applications at the local
36 ~~NCDOT~~ North Carolina Department of Transportation, Division of Highways Office;

37 ~~(6)(5)~~ (5) The permittee shall also provide proof of liability insurance of a minimum coverage of five
38 million dollars (\$5,000,000). Whoever performs the work, the permittee, his ~~contractor or agent,~~

1 contractor, or agent shall maintain ~~all legally required insurance coverage, including~~ worker's
2 compensation and vehicle liability ~~insurance coverage, in the amounts required by and according~~
3 ~~to North Carolina law.~~ The permittee, his ~~contractor or agent,~~ contractor, or agent, ~~may be~~ are
4 liable for any losses due to the negligence or willful misconduct of his agents, assigns, and
5 employees. The permittee may, in lieu of providing proof of liability insurance as described in this
6 ~~Paragraph, Item,~~ be shown as an additional insured on the general liability policy of the approved
7 contractor or agent to perform the permitted work on condition that the contractor or agent's policy
8 is for a minimum coverage of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) and the permittee provides proof to
9 the Department of the coverage. The permittee or contractor or agent providing the coverage shall
10 also name the Department as an additional insured on its general liability policy and provide the
11 Department with a copy of the certificate showing the Department named as an additional insured.
12 Regardless of which entity provides the proof of general liability insurance, the required limit of
13 insurance may be obtained by a single general liability policy or the combination of a general
14 liability and excess liability or umbrella policy;

15 (7)(6) The permittee shall provide a document verifying the requested selective vegetation removal site
16 location in relationship to corporate limits of a municipality, per G.S. 136-133.1(a)(5). The
17 document shall be a current geographic information system map of the nearest municipality, with
18 color-coded boundary lines and a corresponding key or legend indicating corporate limit and
19 territorial jurisdiction boundaries and indicating the precise location of the outdoor advertising
20 structure. The permittee shall also provide the property tax identification number for the parcel on
21 which the outdoor advertising structure is located. The Department may require additional
22 information if the boundary or sign location remains in question;

23 (8)(7) The permittee shall perform site marking of the maximum vegetation cut or removal zone. The
24 applicant shall mark the proper permitted cutting distances according to G.S. 136-133.1(a)(1) –
25 (6). Points A & B along the right-of-way boundary (or fence if there is a control of access fence)
26 ~~are to shall~~ be marked with visible flagging tape. Points C, D, & E along the edge of the pavement
27 of the travel way ~~are to shall~~ be marked with spray paint, including the actual distances. If the sign
28 is located at an acceleration or deceleration ramp, points C, D, & E shall be marked along the edge
29 of the pavement of the travel way of the ramp instead of the mainline of the roadway;

30 (9)(8) The permittee shall perform tagging of trees. The permittee shall tag with a visible material or
31 flagging all trees, including existing trees and other trees that are, at the time of the selective
32 vegetation removal application, greater than four-inches in diameter as measured six inches from
33 the ground and requested to be cut, thinned, pruned, or removed. The applicant shall tag the
34 existing trees (the exact same existing trees as on the site plan) that are desired to be cut, thinned,
35 pruned, or removed with visible material or flagging of a contrasting color. The permittee shall
36 denote on the site plan or on the application the colors of flagging used to mark each category of
37 trees;

1 (40)(9) If there are existing trees requested to be removed, before any work can be performed under a
2 selective vegetation removal permit the permittee ~~must~~ shall:

3 (A) (a) ~~Submit~~ submit the reimbursement to the Department pursuant to G.S. ~~136-93.2~~ 136-
4 133.1(d) in a cashier's or certified check;

5 (B) (b) ~~Fully~~ fully disassemble two non-conforming outdoor advertising signs and their
6 supporting structures and return the outdoor advertising permits tags to the Department
7 pursuant to G.S. 136-133.1(d); or

8 (C) (c) ~~Obtain~~ obtain Departmental approval for the replanting plan in accordance with G.S. 136-
9 133.1(e) and 19A NCAC 02E .0611. Rule .0611 of this Section.

10 (41)(10) Should the vegetation removal permit be approved and tree removal is scheduled, for all disputed
11 trees the sign owner shall cut such tree stumps in a level, horizontal manner uniformly across the
12 stump at a four inch height, so that tree rings can be counted by the applicant or the Department to
13 determine the age of the tree;

14 (42)(11) After a tree is removed and the applicant or the Department discovers, based on the number of
15 rings in the tree stump, an error in the tree survey report or site plan, the Department shall request
16 an amendment to the tree survey report or site plan, and a redetermination pursuant to G.S. 136-
17 133.1(d) and (e) shall be made by the Department and the applicant shall be subject to that
18 redetermination;

19 (13) ~~If any cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal of vegetation from any portion but less than the~~
20 ~~entirety of the maximum vegetation cutting or removal zone is prohibited due to conditions~~
21 ~~affecting the right of way to which the State is subjected or agrees in writing to subject itself,~~
22 ~~including conservation agreements, prior to September 1, 2011, or prior to the issuance of an~~
23 ~~outdoor advertising permit for the erection of the applicable outdoor advertising structure,~~
24 ~~whichever date is later, or due to the application at any time of State statutes or Federal statutes or~~
25 ~~rules, including any conditions mandated as part of the issuance of a permit to the Department for~~
26 ~~a construction project by a Federal or State agency with jurisdiction over the construction project~~
27 ~~or due to mitigation within the right of way in the cut zone of a permitted outdoor advertising~~
28 ~~structure so long as trees and other plant materials for mitigation may not be of a projected mature~~
29 ~~height to decrease the visibility of a sign face, the permittee shall comply with applicable~~
30 ~~conditions, mitigation, rules, statutes, or permits for such portion of the cutting or removal zone. If~~
31 ~~applicable conservation agreements, mitigation or conditions affecting the right of way to which~~
32 ~~the State is subjected or agrees to in writing to subject itself and other restrictions agreed upon by~~
33 ~~the State in writing in the right of way, State or Federal rules, statutes, or permits allow certain~~
34 ~~degrees and methods of cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal for portions of vegetation, the~~
35 ~~permittee shall comply with applicable conservation agreements, mitigation, conditions, State or~~
36 ~~Federal rules, statutes or permits including equipment type for those portions of the cutting or~~
37 ~~removal zone. Portions of the maximum cutting or removal zone not within a conservation or~~
38 ~~mitigation area nor applicable to conditions affecting the right of way to which the State is subject~~

1 or agrees in writing to subject itself and other restrictions agreed upon by the State in writing in
2 the right of way, nor regulated by State or Federal rules, statutes, or permits regulating vegetation
3 removal and other activities shall be governed by standards set out in G.S. 136-93.

4 ~~(13)~~(12) For purposes of this Rule, the portion of the cut or removal zone means less ~~that~~ than the entirety
5 of the ~~of~~ cut or removal ~~zone, the~~ zone. The permittee shall comply with applicable conditions,
6 mitigation requirements, rules, statutes, or permit requirements related to cutting, thinning,
7 pruning, or removal of vegetation within the right of way, where any portion of the cut or
8 vegetation removal zone is restricted for the following reasons set forth below:

9 (a) the State is subjected to or agrees in writing to subject itself to conditions
10 affecting the right of way, including conservation agreements, prior to
11 September 1, 2011, or prior to the issuance of an outdoor advertising permit for
12 the erection of the applicable outdoor advertising structure, whichever date is
13 later: ~~or~~

14 (b) applicable State or Federal statutes or rules, including any conditions mandated
15 as part of the issuance of a permit to the Department for a construction project
16 by a Federal or State agency with jurisdiction over the construction project
17 prohibit vegetation removal; or

18 (c) mitigation within the right of way in the cut zone of a permitted outdoor
19 advertising structure prohibits vegetation removal, however, trees and other
20 plant materials for mitigation may not be of a projected mature height to
21 decrease the visibility of a sign face.

22 If the reasons set forth in Sub-items (a), (b), and (c) allow certain degrees and methods of cutting,
23 thinning, pruning, or removal for portions of vegetation, the permittee shall comply with the
24 conditions set forth above, including equipment type for those portions of the cutting or removal
25 zone. Vegetation removal for portions of the maximum cutting or removal zone not affected by the
26 reasons set forth ~~above~~ in Sub-items (a), (b) and (c) shall be governed by standards set out in
27 G.S. 136-93.

28 ~~(14)~~(13) The permittee ~~must~~ shall adhere to erosion control requirements, according to North Carolina
29 General Statutes, Article 4, Chapter 113A entitled: Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973;

30 ~~(15)~~(14) A Division of Highways Inspector may be present while work is underway. The presence or
31 absence of a Division of Highways inspector at the work site does not lessen the permittee's
32 responsibility for conformity with the requirements of the ~~permit, permit and all applicable~~
33 ~~General Statutes and rules.~~ Should the inspector fail ~~When a present inspector fails~~ to point out
34 work that does not conform with the requirements, it does not prevent later notification to the
35 permittee that the work is not in compliance with the permit;

36 ~~(16)~~(15) A selective vegetation removal permit ~~must~~ shall be secured for each applicable outdoor
37 advertising site prior to performing any vegetation removal work;

1 ~~(17)(16)~~ Should the Division Engineer or his representative observe unsafe operations, activities or
2 conditions, he shall suspend work. Work shall not resume until the unsafe conditions or activities
3 have been eliminated or corrected. Failure to comply with any of the requirements for safety and
4 traffic control of this permit shall result in suspension of work; When the Division Engineer
5 ("Engineer") or his representative observes unsafe operations, activities, or conditions, he shall
6 suspend work. Work shall not resume until the unsafe operations, activities, or conditions have
7 been eliminated or corrected. Failure to comply with any of the ~~Federal, [Federal]~~ federal and
8 State ~~[and local]~~ laws, ordinances, and regulations governing safety and traffic control shall result
9 in suspension of work. The permittee shall adhere to safety requirements, according to the North
10 Carolina General Statutes, Article 16, Chapter 95 entitled: Occupational Safety and Health Act of
11 North Carolina. Traffic control shall be in accordance with G.S. 136-30 and 19A NCAC 02B
12 .0208;

13 ~~(18)(17)~~ The applicant ~~must~~ shall certify that he or she has permission from the adjoining landowner(s) to
14 access their private property for the purpose of conducting activities related to the selective
15 vegetation removal permit application;

16 ~~(19)(18)~~ The ~~Permittee~~ permittee or its contractor or agent ~~must~~ shall have a copy of the ~~Selective~~
17 ~~Vegetation Removal Permit~~ selective vegetation removal permit on the work site at all times
18 during any phase of selective vegetation cutting, thinning, trimming, pruning, removal, or planting
19 operations;

20 ~~(20)(19)~~ The permittee or its contractor or agent shall take ~~appropriate~~ measures to locate and protect
21 utilities within the highway right-of-way within the work area of the selective vegetation removal
22 zone. The permittee shall ~~may~~ be responsible for restoration of any losses or damages to utilities
23 caused by any actions of the permittee or its contractors or agents to the satisfaction of the utility
24 owner;

25 ~~(21)(20)~~ Permits are valid for a period of one year and the permittee may cut, thin, prune, or remove
26 vegetation more than one time during the permit year. If the applicant applies for and is approved
27 for another selective vegetation removal permit at the same site during an existing permit year, the
28 previous permit shall become null and void at the same time the new permit is issued;

29 ~~(22)(21)~~ The permittee shall provide to the ~~appropriate~~ Department ~~official~~ a 48-hour notification before
30 entering the right-of-way for any work covered by the conditions of the permit. The permittee
31 shall schedule all work with the Department, ~~appropriate Department official~~. The permittee shall
32 notify the Department in advance of work scheduled for nights, weekends and holidays. The
33 Department ~~reserves the right to~~ may modify the permittee's work schedule for nights, weekends,
34 and holidays. When the Department restricts construction in work zones for the safety of the
35 traveling public, the Department shall deny access to the right-of-way for selective vegetation
36 removal;

1 ~~(23)~~(22) If work is planned in an active work zone, the permittee shall receive written permission from the
2 contractor or the Department (~~if if~~ the Department's employees are performing the work, ~~work~~).
3 The permittee shall provide the Division Engineer with a copy of the written permission;

4 (24)(23) An applicant shall be allowed to use individual and manual-operated power equipment and hand
5 held tools at any site during initial cutting or removal of vegetation or while maintaining a site
6 during the duration of a selected vegetation removal permit. The Department may allow use of
7 power-driven vegetation removal equipment (such as excavator-based land clearing attachments,
8 skid-steer cutters, and bucket trucks) if the Department determines the permit applicant can
9 ~~demonstrate satisfactorily to the Department with an onsite inspection~~ that the use of such
10 equipment will not cause undue safety hazards, any ~~erosion~~ erosion, or unreasonable damage to
11 the right-of-way, and may allow access from the private property side to the right-of-way, right of
12 way. Access for use of any equipment must [shall] be gained from the private property side to the
13 right of way for each individual selective removal permit site. Tree removal that removal, which
14 presents a hazard from falling tree parts, parts shall be performed in accordance with the current
15 edition and subsequent amendments and editions of the American National Standard for
16 Arboricultural Operations-Safety Requirements ANSI Z133.1, approved by the American National
17 Standards Institute and published by the International Society of Arboriculture that is hereby
18 incorporated. [Arboriculture.] ~~Arboriculture Standards.~~ Copies of the Standard are available for
19 inspection in the office of the State Roadside Environmental Engineer, Division of Highways,
20 Raleigh, N.C. Copies of the Standard may be obtained from the International Society of
21 Arboriculture (ISA) for a \$20.00 cost. The ISA can be contacted at P.O. Box 3129 Champaign,
22 Illinois 61826 or by accessing this website: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/>. ~~Written authorization must~~
23 ~~[shall]~~ be obtained from the Department for use of power driven vegetation removal equipment as
24 well as for access to move resources from the private property to the right of way. The applicant
25 must ~~[shall]~~ provide information on the permit application for which type(s) of equipment and
26 access is requested. The applicant shall provide contractor qualifications to the Department.

27 (25)(24) The Department shall determine the traffic control signage that is shall be required. The permittee
28 shall furnish, erect, and maintain the required signs as directed by the Department;

29 (26)(25) The height of stumps remaining after tree removal shall not exceed four inches above the
30 surrounding ground level. The work site shall be left ~~in a clean and orderly appearance,~~ [with no
31 debris at the site as a result of the cutting operation] with all vegetation cut, thinned, or pruned at
32 the site either removed or chipped and spread in accordance with G.S. 136-133.4 at the end of each
33 workday; and

34 (27)(26) Upon completion of all work, the Department shall notify ~~the Division Engineer who shall notify~~
35 the ~~Permittee~~ permittee in writing of acceptance, terminate the permit, and return the Performance
36 and Indemnity Bond Bond, or certified or cashier's check to the permittee. For replanting work, a
37 different bond release schedule shall be applicable according to Rule .0611 of this Section. ~~to~~
38 19A NCAC 02E. 0611(e)(8); The permittee may terminate the permit at any time and request

1 return of the Performance ~~[and Indemnity]~~ Bond, or certified or cashier's check. The termination
2 and request for return of the Performance ~~[and Indemnity]~~ Bond, or certified or cashier's check
3 shall be made in writing and sent to the Division Engineer.

4 (28) Pursuant to G.S. 136-133.4(e), willful failure to substantially comply with all the requirements
5 specified in the permit, unless otherwise mutually resolved, shall result in immediate and summary
6 revocation of the selective vegetation removal permit and forfeiture of any or all of the
7 Performance and Indemnity Bond or check as determined by the Division Engineer based on
8 conditions stated in this Rule.

9
10 *History Note:* Authority G.S. 136-18(5); 136-18(7); 136-18(9); 136-93; 136-93.2; 136-127; 136-130;
11 136-133.1; 136-133.1 (a1); 136-133.2; 136-133.3; 136-133.4; 136-133.5;
12 *Temporary Adoption Eff. March 1, 2012;*
13 *Eff. February 1, 2013.*
14 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2015.*

1 19A NCAC 02E .0611 IS AMENDED WITH CHANGES AS PUBLISHED IN 29:06 NCR 656 AS FOLLOWS:
2

3 **19A NCAC 02E .0611 REQUIREMENTS FOR BEAUTIFICATION AND REPLANTING**
4 **REQUIREMENTS FOR CONDITIONS OF SELECTIVE VEGETATION REMOVAL**
5 **PERMITS FOR OUTDOOR ADVERTISING AND BUSINESS FACILITIES**

6 (a) Any site with a valid selective vegetation removal permit issued pursuant to G.S. 136-93(b) qualifies for a
7 beautification and replanting ~~plan.~~ plan as set forth in G.S. 136-133.1 (e).

8 (b) For future selective vegetation removal applications at replanted sites, replanted materials may be removed only if
9 partially blocking the view to a sign face. In this case, the Department ~~will~~ shall require plant substitutions on a one for
10 one basis. All requests for plant substitutions shall be approved by the Department and installed according to the rules in
11 this Section.

12 (c) Submittal of a ~~selective vegetation removal application~~ site plan shall be in accordance with G.S. 136.133.1(c).

13 (d) This Paragraph applies to all replanting plans except mitigating replanting plans as specified in ~~19A NCAC 02E~~
14 Rules .0603(b)(6) and .0609(b)(4) of this Section. ~~.0609(b)(4).~~ The caliper inches of existing trees to be removed,
15 according to the applicant's site plan shall equal the caliper inches to be replanted by the applicant at the outdoor
16 advertising site from which existing trees are requested to be removed. If the caliper inches of existing trees from the site
17 plan exceed the density of the Departments replanting site design, the excess caliper inches of trees shall be delivered by
18 the applicant to the Department according to the schedule described in Subparagraph (g)(6) of this Rule. If plant material
19 other than trees is proposed, the Department may consider such substitution for the required caliper inches. ~~The excess~~
20 ~~trees shall be planted and maintained by the Department at sites to be determined by the Department.~~

21 (e) For sites that qualify according to the replanting criteria described in this Rule, the Department shall consult with the
22 applicant and any local government that has requested to review and provide comments on selective vegetation removal
23 applications pursuant to G.S. 136-93(d) or has notified the Department of its desire to review and provide comments on
24 beautification and replanting plans. The local government shall be given 15 days to review and provide comments on
25 beautification and replanting plans. If the local government does provide comments on a beautification and replanting
26 plan, the Department shall take the comments into consideration. If the local government does not make appropriate
27 request for a review, the criteria stated in the rules in this ~~section~~ Section shall be followed for replanting determination.

28 (f) In consideration of differences in outdoor advertising sign structure heights, business facilities, or agritourism
29 activities, the Department shall maintain on file regionalized landscape design plans and plant lists as a guide for
30 applicants. The applicant may submit one of the Department's plans or a proposed beautification and replanting plan
31 prepared and sealed by a North Carolina licensed landscape architect. The Department's written approval, based on the
32 current edition and subsequent amendments and editions of the American Standard for Nursery Stock ANSI Z60.1
33 approved by the American National Standards Institute and published by the American Horticulture Association that is
34 hereby incorporated for a minimum of a 1.5 caliper inch replanted tree, of the beautification, replanting, and maintenance
35 plan shall allow the applicant to proceed with requested vegetation cutting, thinning, pruning pruning, or removal at the
36 ~~outdoor advertising~~ site. If plant material other than trees is proposed, the Department may consider such substitution for
37 the required caliper inches. Copies of the Standard are available for inspection in the office of the State Roadside

1 Environmental Engineer, Division of Highways, Raleigh, N.C. Copies of the Standard may be obtained free of charge
2 from this website of the American Horticulture Association: www.americanhort.org. The mailing address for
3 AmericanHort is 2130 Stella Ct, Columbus, OH 43215

4 (g) The approved beautification and replanting plan becomes a part of the selective vegetation removal permit pursuant
5 to G.S. 136-93(b) and 136-133.1(e). All applicable ~~permit~~ requirements of the permit, including the performance bond
6 ~~and insurance~~, shall continue to apply until all replanting and establishment requirements are satisfied and accepted in
7 writing by the Department. The Department shall approve the replanting portion of the selective vegetation removal
8 permit in writing ~~detailing~~ and detail the requirements of the beautification and replanting plan. The requirements
9 include the following:

10 (1) The work for initial plantings and all future replacements ~~must be adhered to~~ by the permittee or any ~~or~~
11 of their employees, agents, or assigns according to shall be in accordance with the current edition and
12 subsequent amendments and editions of the American National Standard for Tree Care Operations-
13 Transplanting ANSI A300 (Part 6), approved by the American National Standards Institute and
14 published by the Tree Care Industry Association, Inc. that is hereby incorporated, [Association, Inc.,]
15 ~~International Society of Arboriculture standards~~ except as stipulated in the rules in this Section. Copies
16 of the Standard are available for inspection in the office of the State Roadside Environmental
17 Engineer, Division of Highways, Raleigh, N.C. Copies of the Standard may be obtained from the Tree
18 Care Industry Association, Inc. for a \$20.00 cost. The Tree Care Industry Association, Inc. (TCIA) can
19 be contacted at 136 Harvey Road, Suite 101 Londonberry, NH 03053 or at this website: www.tcia.org.
20 Initial and replacement planting ~~will~~ may be considered acceptable ~~when~~ if the plants have been placed
21 in the plant hole, backfilled, watered, mulched, staked, and guyed. All plants of one species that
22 species, which are shown on the plans to be planted within a bed, shall be planted concurrently and the
23 entire group shall be completed before any plant therein is considered acceptable. Replacement
24 planting consists of replacing those plants ~~which~~ that are not in a living and healthy condition as
25 defined in these Rules;

26 (2) The permittee ~~must~~ shall adhere to erosion control requirements, according to North Carolina General
27 Statutes, Article 4, Chapter 113A entitled: Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973;

28 (3) All plant materials shall be approved in writing by the Department prior to arrival at the ~~outdoor~~
29 ~~advertising~~ site or prior to excess trees being furnished and delivered to the Department. The approval
30 shall be based on the current edition and subsequent amendments and editions of the American
31 Standard for Nursery Stock; Stock ANSI Z60.1 approved by the American National Standards Institute
32 and published by the American Nursery and Landscape Association Horticulture Association that is
33 hereby incorporated. [Association. Copies of the Standard are available for inspection in the office of
34 the State Roadside Environmental Engineer, Division of Highways, Raleigh, N.C. Copies of the
35 Standard may be obtained free of charge from this website of the American Horticulture Association:
36 www.americanhort.org. The mailing address for AmericanHort is 2130 Stella Ct, Columbus, OH
37 43215;]

- 1 (4) All work is subject to NCDOT Division of Highways inspection and shall be scheduled with the
2 Department. A minimum 48-hour notification shall be provided to the Department by the permittee
3 before entering the right-of-way for any beautification and replanting plan requirements;
- 4 (5) Grinding or other mechanical removal of all cut stumps (to a minimum depth of four inches below
5 ground level) ~~must~~ shall be completed in the area of replanting during the preparation of the site, prior
6 to initial planting;
- 7 (6) All initial and replacement plantings shall be installed during the first planting season (November 1 to
8 March 15) contemporaneous with or following the selective vegetation removal. If replanting cannot
9 be completed by the March 15 deadline, the replanting shall occur during the next planting season. The
10 same dates (November 1 to March 15) apply when the permittee provides the Department with excess
11 plant material at a site where existing caliper inches exceeds the site design capacity;
- 12 (7) The permittee shall contact the Department to schedule a final replanting acceptance inspection upon
13 completion of any plant material installation. For one year from the date of the initial planting
14 acceptance for the entire replanting plan, and the permittee ~~must~~ shall establish all plant materials
15 according to these provisions. Establishment for all initial or replacement plants shall begin
16 ~~immediately~~ after they are planted. The permittee shall be responsible for the area around plantings
17 for a distance of six feet beyond the outside edges of the mulch. Establishment shall include cutting of
18 grass and weeds; watering; replacement of mulch; repair or replacement of guy stakes, guy wires, and
19 water rings; and other work to encourage the survival and growth of plant material. The permittee
20 shall remove and dispose of dead plants from the replanting plan site during the establishment period.
21 Prior to the end of the one-year establishment period, the permittee is responsible for contacting the
22 Department to schedule a site meeting with Departmental officials to identify plants to be replaced that
23 are not in a living and healthy condition. Plants do not meet the living and healthy condition
24 requirement and need replacement if 25 percent or more of the crown is dead, if the main leader is
25 dead, or if an area of the plant has died leaving the character of its form compromised, lopsided, or
26 disfigured. The permittee shall replace, during the planting period, plant material needed to restore the
27 planting to the original quantity, size, and species of plant material. Any desired changes in plant
28 material proposed by the permittee ~~must~~ shall be requested in writing to the Department. The
29 Department shall notify the permittee in writing of the approved changes to the replacement plantings;
- 30 (8) At the conclusion of the one-year establishment period, the Department shall issue a written
31 acceptance of the permittee's work and release the ~~applicable~~ bond. Then a one-year observation
32 period shall begin in during which the permittee ~~or sign owner~~ shall maintain stability of the original
33 and replacement plantings to promote their continued livability and healthy growth. The ~~sign owner~~
34 permittee is responsible for replacement of plants not meeting the living and healthy condition
35 requirement during the observation ~~period and in~~ period. Replacement shall occur in accordance with
36 the dates of planting as stated in the rules in this Section;

- 1 (9) After the one-year observation period concludes, the Department shall notify the ~~sign owner~~ permittee
2 if the permit requirement conditions have been met successfully;
- 3 (10) Replanted materials may be pruned according to the current edition and subsequent amendments and
4 editions of the American National Standard for Tree Care Operations-Pruning ANSI A300 (Part 1),
5 approved by the American National Standards Institute and published by the Tree Care Industry
6 Association Inc. that is hereby incorporated, [Association Inc.,] however, topping of trees or other
7 vegetation is not ~~allowed;~~ allowed. [~~Copies of the Standard are available for inspection in the office of~~
8 ~~the State Roadside Environmental Engineer, Division of Highways, Raleigh, N.C. Copies of the~~
9 ~~Standard may be obtained from the Tree Care Industry Association, Inc. for a \$20.00 cost. The Tree~~
10 ~~Care Industry Association, Inc. (TCIA) can be contacted at 136 Harvey Road, Suite 101 Londonberry,~~
11 ~~NH 03053 or at this website: www.tcia.org;~~]
- 12 (11) This Paragraph applies to all replanting plans except mitigating replanting plans as specified in Rule
13 .0609(b)(4) of this Section. ~~19A NCAC 02E .0609(b)(4).~~ Excess plants or trees furnished and
14 delivered to the Department, shall receive care and handling in accordance with ~~the following:~~ In
15 digging, loading, transporting, unloading, planting, or otherwise handling plants, and the permittee
16 shall exercise care to prevent windburn; injury to or drying out of the trunk, branches, or roots; and to
17 prevent freezing of the plant roots. The solidity of the plant ball shall be preserved. Delivery of
18 excess plant material shall be scheduled with the Department, allowing a minimum three days
19 notification for each delivery. The permittee's responsibility for the furnished excess plants or trees
20 ends at the time the plant material is delivered to, inspected by, and accepted by the Department;
- 21 (12) For mitigating replanting plans according to ~~19A NCAC 02E Rule .0609(b)(4) of this Section,~~ trees
22 and other plant material for a proposed beautification and replanting plan taken from the Department's
23 landscape design plans and plant lists or prepared and sealed by a North Carolina licensed landscape
24 architect, may be of a projected mature height to reduce visibility limitations to outdoor advertising
25 ~~sign faces:~~ faces. As an alternative to replanting, mitigation by pruning for vegetative crown reduction
26 at an existing beautification project may be allowed, if mutually agreed upon in writing by the
27 Department and permittee. All pruning shall be performed by removing the fewest number of branches
28 necessary to accomplish the desired objective but in consideration of normal seasonal regrowth for the
29 type of vegetation. All pruning for purposes of mitigation shall be in accordance with the current
30 edition and subsequent amendments and editions of the American National Standards for Tree Care
31 Operations-Pruning ANSI A300 (Part 1), approved by the American National Standards Institute and
32 published by the Tree Care Industry Association, Inc. [Copies of the Standard are available for
33 inspection in the office of the State Roadside Environmental Engineer, Division of Highways, Raleigh,
34 N.C. Copies of the Standard may be obtained from the Tree Care Industry Association, Inc. for a
35 \$20.00 cost. The Tree Care Industry Association, Inc. (TCIA) can be contacted at 136 Harvey Road,
36 Suite 101 Londonberry, NH 03053 or at this website: www.tcia.org.] In the case of vegetation

1 mortality caused by pruning, replacement plantings shall be required according to Rule .0611 of this
2 subchapter; this Rule:

- 3 (13) Should the outdoor advertising structure related to the selective vegetation permit be sold or
4 transferred, the new owner or permit holder is subject to the requirements in the General Statutes and
5 rules in this ~~section~~, Section, including those regarding planting, establishment, replacement or
6 renovation plantings, minimum living and healthy condition, and observation; and
7 (14) Willful failure to substantially comply with the requirements of this ~~Paragraph~~ Rule for the
8 beautification and replanting plan shall subject the permittee to penalties prescribed in G.S. 136-133.4.

9
10 *History Note: Authority G.S. 99E-30; 136-93; 136-93 (b); 136-130; 136-133.4; 136-93.3;*
11 *Temporary Adoption Eff. March 1, 2012;*
12 *Eff. November 1, 2012.*
13 *Amended Eff. January 1, 2015.*
14

1 19A NCAC 02E .0612 IS ADOPTED WITH CHANGES AS PUBLISHED IN 29:06 NCR 659 AS FOLLOWS:
2

3 **19A NCAC 02E .0612 MODIFIED VEGETATION CUT OR REMOVAL ZONE FOR OUTDOOR**
4 **ADVERTISING**

5 (a) In accordance with G.S. 136-133.1(a1), at the request of **[aa]** a selective vegetation removal permit applicant, the
6 Department may approve plans for the cutting, thinning, pruning, or removal of vegetation outside of the cut or
7 removal zone along acceleration and deceleration ramps. Upon approval of this modified cut zone, the conditions of
8 the initial permit as set forth in Rule .0604 and Rule .0610 of this Section, in addition to the following requirements
9 shall apply:

- 10 (1) the request for a modified vegetation cut or removal zone along acceleration or
11 deceleration ramps shall be noted on the selective vegetation removal application at the
12 time the application is submitted. The same application requirements as set forth in Rule
13 .0608 of this Section shall apply to a modified vegetation cut or removal zone request.
- 14 (2) the application shall include a diagram of the modified cut zone request to **[clearly]**
15 indicate the relocated point A to point D line and the relocated point B to point E line. If
16 the request includes removal of existing trees as defined in G.S. 136-133.1(b)-(e), the
17 applicant may indicate the relocated points on the required site plan in lieu of a separate
18 diagram. The applicant shall provide calculations showing that the total aggregate area of
19 cutting or removal equals the maximum allowed in G.S. 136-133.1(a). The applicant shall
20 mark the modified points A, B, D, and E, as applicable, at the site for review by the
21 Department. Modified points A and B along the right-of-way boundary (or fence if there
22 is a control of access fence) are to be marked with visible flagging tape. Modified points
23 C, D, & E along the edge of the pavement of the ramp are to be marked with spray paint,
24 including the actual distances. Such markings for a modified vegetation cut or removal
25 zone under G.S. 136-133.1(a1) shall represent and equal the maximum cut or removal
26 area along the surface of the ground allowed in G.S. 136-133.1(a).
- 27 (3) the Department may authorize a one-time modification of the maximum vegetation cut or
28 removal zone for each requested sign face when the view to the outdoor advertising sign
29 face will be improved. The modified area of vegetation cutting or removal shall cause the
30 point A to point D line and the point B to point E line as set forth in G.S. 136-133.1(a) to
31 be relocated as long as the total aggregate area of cutting or removal does not exceed the
32 maximum allowed for the defined cut or removal zone in G.S. 136-133.1(a). Points A and
33 B shall always remain on the right-of-way line and points D and E shall always remain on
34 the edge of the pavement of the ramp. G.S. 136-133.1(g) regarding cutting vegetation
35 from the private property side along a controlled access fence shall remain applicable
36 from relocated point A of the modified cut zone to relocated point B of the modified cut
37 zone.

- 1 (4) the Department shall establish and document the modified cut or removal zone as the
2 permanent view ~~[zone, which]~~ **that** shall not be altered for future selective vegetation
3 removal permits.
- 4 (5) If an outdoor advertising site has previously been cut under a valid selective vegetation
5 removal permit, in accordance with G.S. 136-93 (b), to the extent that the requirement of
6 not exceeding the total aggregate area of cutting or removal allowed in G.S. 136-133.1(a)
7 cannot be met, the applicant may apply for a modified cut or removal zone no sooner
8 than one year after the most recent cutting activity at the site. Within the one year period,
9 the applicant may, to the extent that the maximum cut or removal zone defined in G.S.
10 136-133.1(a) was not previously cut, apply that uncut area towards determining the limits
11 of the one-time modified cut request as defined in G.S. 136-133.1(a1) and the Rules of
12 this Subchapter.
- 13 (6) Should the outdoor advertising structure subject to a modified cut or removal zone for a
14 selective vegetation removal permit be sold or transferred, the new owner or outdoor
15 advertising permit holder shall be subject to G.S. 136-133.1(a1), and the Rules of this
16 Subchapter and shall not alter the modified cut zone as established and documented for a
17 previous sign owner or permit holder.
- 18 (7) Upon denial or conditioning by the Department of Transportation of a modified
19 vegetative cut or removal zone under GS 136-133.1(a1), the applicant may file an appeal
20 pursuant to GS 136-133.3.

21
22 *History Note: Authority G.S. 136-18(5); 136-18(7); 136-18(9); 136-93; 136-93.2; 136-130; 136-133.1; 136-*
23 *133.1 (a1); 136-133.2; 136-133.3; 136-133.4; 136-133.5; 136-127;*
24 *Eff. January 1, 2015*