

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ACTIVITIES WITHIN MDOT RIGHT-OF-WAY

Issuance of a permit by MDOT does not relieve the permit applicant from meeting any and all requirements of law, or of other public bodies or agencies, including but not limited to the following:

1. Goemare-Anderson Wetland Protection Act, Part 303, P.A. 451 of 1994

Any activity that involves excavation or fill, located within a regulated wetland, requires a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) permit. Regulated wetlands are those systems that are contiguous to a lake or stream (within 500 feet) or greater than five (5) acres in size.

2. Inland Lakes and Streams Act, Part 301, P.A. 451 of 1994

Any activity located within the ordinary high-water mark of a regulated body of water, i.e., lake, stream, drain, pond, etc., shall require a permit. There are no exemptions to this requirement. Permit applications and questions can be submitted to the MDEQ's Land and Water Management Division.

3. Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act, Part 91, P.A. 451 1994

Any land disturbance of one (1) acre or greater, or that is located within 500 feet of a lake or stream, requires a soil erosion permit. Municipalities who are classified as an Authorized Public Agency (APA) are exempt from permits, but must follow proper soil erosion practices as identified in their standard plan. Any construction activity located within MDOT Right-of-Way that is authorized by a MDOT permit is the responsibility of the permit applicant and is not covered under MDOT's APA authority.

Soil erosion and sedimentation controls are required on all projects, even if a soil erosion permit is not required. Individuals performing work shall prevent sediment from entering any body of water or leaving the Right-of-Way. Permits can be obtained from the county/municipal agencies. Minor earth changes are exempted in this Act and are classified as normal maintenance and emergency repairs.

4. Clean Water Act: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Discharge Requirements for Construction Activities

Any land disturbance of five (5) acres or greater requires an NPDES Storm Water Discharge Permit. This can include any filling, excavating, grading, clearing, etc. Municipally-owned utilities who service a population of less than 100,000 are exempt from permit provisions, but not from environmental protection requirements. Permit applications require the Part 31, P.A. 451 permit number, or a declaration of APA status and the effective date. Permit applications and questions can be submitted to the MDEQ's Surface Water Quality Division.

5. Environmental Site Closures

A procedure was developed by the MDEQ and MDOT which may allow a property owner, who is responsible for of these sites, to close an environmentally impacted site. Questions regarding this activity shall be addressed by contacting MDOT's Environmental Specialist at 517-335-2271.

6. The Land and Water Management Division of the MDEQ also administers the following environmental laws which may require review prior to construction:

- Sand Dune Protection Act, Part 353, P.A. 451 of 1994.
- Shore-lands Protection and Management, Part 323, P.A. 451 of 1994.
- Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act, Part 325, and P.A. 451 of 1994.

7. The Wildlife Division of the MDNR also administers the following environmental laws which may require review prior to construction:

- Endangered Species Act, Part 365, and P.A. 451 of 1994.

Questions regarding these permits may be addressed by contacting the nearest MDEQ district field office, or the MDEQ Land and Water Management Division at 517-373-1170.

Additional information is available in MDOT's Environmental Procedures Manual.