

Permits & Approvals

General

PA DOT Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP)

Required for construction or alteration of an existing access road from a state road.

Road Bonds

If a state road has a posted weight restriction (i.e. 10 tons) a road bond will be required for delivery of materials (such as limestone). An inspection before and after hauling is required. If any damage occurs due to the deliveries, the permit holder is required to repair, or pay for repairs, prior to bond release. Township roads also usually require bonding and the process is similar to bonding state roads. This requirement can be passed onto the construction contractor.

PA One-Call

All activities that involve excavation must notify the PA One Call System at 1-800-242-1776. This must be completed during the design process 10-90 days prior to final design to determine the locations of any underground utilities to be avoided. A second PA One-Call notification must be made 3-10 days prior to the start of any excavation.

Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI)

One-page project screening, typically submitted to the County Conservation District, to determine the presence of species of special concern. Required for all DEP permits.

If no species are indicated to be potentially within the project area, the PNDI screening will result in a "No Potential Conflict" and no further action is required. If the screening results in a potential conflict, the appropriate agency must be contacted for consultation and recommendations.

General Information Form (GIF)

To be submitted to the DEP in order to determine which environmental permits and approvals are required for a specific project. Does not result in any permits or approvals. There are no review fees for this submission.

Cultural Resource Notice (PHMC)

Required for a Joint Permit to document any archeological sites and historic structures that may be encountered during the project. Only required for an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Individual permit that affects more than 10 acres or if an Environmental Assessment is being prepared. An Individual NPDES permit is not required within the Montour Run Watershed for Earth Disturbance activities. (See below.)

Preparedness, Prevention, and Contingency Plan (PPC)

Required to be developed and must be available on site if fuel, oil, chemicals, etc. are to be kept/handled on site. The Plan is not required to be submitted for review and approval; however, the County Conservation District may request to review the Plan.

Earth Disturbance (PA Code Title 25 Chapter 102)

Note: If the proposed earth disturbance activity is located in a watershed listed as Special Protection Waters, which are either Exceptional Value or High Quality, an Individual NPDES permit is required; however, Montour Run is listed as a Trout Stocked Fishery (TSF). Therefore, a *General* NPDES Permit is required. More stringent Best Management Practices and higher permit fees are required when an Individual NPDES is necessary.

There are different requirements for NPDES permits associated with earth disturbance activities based on the total amount of area that will be affected. These permits are intended to include all areas that will be disturbed during a single project, which may include several phases. These are typically more applicable to land development projects such as multi-phase residential developments. Generally speaking, each of the high priority areas will be approached as individual projects.

Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (E&S)

5000 SF to 1 acre: A written E&S Plan must be prepared. This plan does not need to be submitted to Conservation District for review or approval.

1 acre to <5 acres *without* a point source discharge: A written E&S Plan must be prepared. An NPDES permit for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities is not required. This plan does not need to be submitted to Conservation District for review or approval.

1 acre to <5 acres *with* a point source discharge: An NPDES permit will need to be obtained through the County Conservation District, which will require a reviewed and approved E&S Plan plus General Permit Registration. Permit and Review Fees apply.

>5 acres: Same requirements as 1 acre to <5 acres with point source discharge.

Water Obstruction and Encroachment (PA Code Title 25 Chapter 105)

Intake and Outfall Structures (GP-4)

GP-4 registration is required for all stream intake and outfall structures. These typically include pipe inlets from streams into a passive treatment system and pipe or spillway outlets from a passive treatment system to a stream. An Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan for the Intake/Outfall structure must be submitted for review with the GP registration form. Review fees will apply.

Joint Permit

Required for any structure or activity that changes, expands or diminishes the course, current, or cross-section of a watercourse, floodway or body of water. Bodies of water include both natural and artificial lakes, ponds, reservoirs, swamps, marshes, and wetlands. Application fees will apply. A Joint Permit Application requires the following submission: GIF, Fee, Notifications, PHMC, PNDI, Site Plans, Location Map, Narrative,

Photographs, Environmental Assessment, approved E&S Plan, Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis, Stormwater Management Analysis (if applicable), Floodplain Management Analysis (if applicable), Risk Assessment (if applicable), Professional Engineer's Seal and Certification (if applicable), Alternative Analysis and Mitigation Plan (if applicable). Depending on the nature of the activity and existing conditions, the permit requirements may be waived. (See Restoration Waiver below.) Please note that if a Joint Permit is required, an E&S Plan must be submitted, reviewed, and approved by the County Conservation District. Review fees will apply but permit fees will not be required.

Environmental Assessment (EA)

An Environmental Assessment involves a Resource Identification and a Project Description. All water resources need to be identified on a site including the identification and delineation of wetlands according to the 1987 ACOE Wetland Delineation Manual along with a description of the aquatic habitats. Under the Project Description, impacts to resources are identified and assessed. Restoration Waiver: If the project is being conducted under a restoration plan, approved in writing by the Department of Environmental Protection, water obstruction and encroachment permit requirements may be waived with a Restoration Waiver. Documentation similar to that required for the Joint Permit is to be submitted to the PA DEP for review including the Environmental Assessment. If the project includes wetland impacts, the mitigation requirements are waived for any wetlands documented as meeting the following environmental parameters: a site containing less than 0.05 acre of vegetated wetlands; pH<5, Aluminum>0.6 mg/l, Iron> 7.0 mg/l, or Manganese> 4.0 mg/l. If the project is to affect <1 acre of existing wetlands and/or <250 linear feet of stream channel, the project is eligible for authorization under the Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit 2 (PASPGP2). If the project affects ≥1 acre of existing wetlands or >250 linear feet of stream, the submitted information will be forwarded to the US Army Corps of Engineers for review. Subsequently, additional information may be requested by the Corps. If the project is to impact non-degraded wetlands, additional mitigation wetlands may be required, depending on the nature of the passive system.

General Estimated Timeframes

Permit/Approval	Preparation	Review/Comment	Finalization
HOP	1 – 5 days	1 – 4+ weeks	1 – 2 months
Road Bonds	1 – 5 days	1 – 4 weeks	1 month
PA One Call	<1 day	3 days	3 days
PNDI (w/o conflict)	<1 day	1 day	1 week
PNDI (w/conflict)	<1 day	1 – 4+ weeks	1 – 4+ weeks
GIF	1-5 days	1 week	1 – 2 weeks
PHMC (non significant)	1-5 days	15 days	1 month
PHMC (significant)	1-5 days	2 – 8 months	1 – 9+ months
E & S Plan (written only)	1-2 weeks	NA	1-2 weeks
E & S Plan (approved)	1-3 weeks	1 – 2 months	1 – 3 months
General NPDES Permit w/Approved E&S Plan	1-6 weeks	1 – 2 months	1 – 4 months
GP-4	1 – 5 days	1 – 2 months	1 – 2 months
Joint Permit	1 – 3 months	2 – 4 months	3 – 7+ months
Restoration Waiver	1 – 3 months	2 – 4 months	3 – 7+ months
PPC	1 day	NA	NA