

Public Waters Work Permit

What do public waters work permits cover?

Public waters work permits are required for any activity affecting the course, current or cross-section of public waters unless specifically exempted under Minnesota Rules 6115.0160 to 6115.0280.

What does the draft NorthMet public waters work permit cover?

This draft public waters work permit is for a culvert extension on Unnamed Creek, which is tributary to Wyman Creek, to initiate the widening of the Dunka Road, the connecting road between the proposed NorthMet plant site and mine site.

What criteria does the DNR consider in determining whether to issue a public waters work permit?

The DNR must ensure that the proposed project is consistent with provisions in the state's Public Waters Work Rules, which require that the proposal minimizes resource impacts. Some of the impacts the rules consider are flooding, erosion, natural streamflow and fish and wildlife habitat. The project must also be consistent with other local, state and federal rules and programs.

What water resource area is this project within?

This draft public waters work permit is for a culvert extension on Unnamed Creek, which is tributary to Wyman Creek. This creek ultimately flows into the Partridge River (St. Louis River Watershed).

How many draft public waters work permits are there for the NorthMet project?

There is one draft public waters work permit. It is for a culvert extension to widen Dunka Road for the proposed NorthMet project.

Will there be a public meeting on this permit?

No, DNR will not hold a public meeting. The comment period itself is not required under state law, and we do not typically hold public comment periods on draft public waters work permits. However, DNR understands that there is great interest in this project. We chose to provide a 30 day public comment period to allow the public to review and comment on this draft public waters work permit. That comment period is now closed.