



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2012 POLICY FACT SHEET General Permits Bill

It is needed because

In an effort to better meet growing expectations for permit streamlining, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is proposing to expand the use of general permits (GP) for a variety of DNR programs, including water appropriation permits, work in beds of public water permits, aquatic plant management permits, aeration system permits and threatened and endangered species taking permits. DNR's longer-term plan is to develop an online permit system (similar to the existing hunting and fishing license system), which would allow the public to apply for these permits online and enable the public to print out their GP permit approval either immediately or within a few days.

Major program elements

Sec. 1. M.S. 84.0895, subd. 7 – Endangered Species Taking Permits: Allows for use of GPs for broad categories of activities like using threatened trees for landscaping projects.

Sec. 2. M.S. 97A.401, subd. 1 – Special Permits for Wild Animal Taking: Allows for use of GPs for common, low-impact activities like specimen collection for schools.

Sec. 3. M.S. 103G.245, subd. 3 – Public Water Work Permits: Clarifies that GPs can be used for more types of projects.

Sec. 4. M.S. 103G.271, subd. 1 – Water Appropriation Permits: Clarifies that GPs can be used for more types of projects.

Secs. 5-8. M.S. 103G.301 – Fees: Clarifies that DNR does not charge for creating a GP and can charge a \$100 fee for approving projects under a GP, instead of charging \$150 to \$1000 for an individual permit fee.

Sec. 9. M.S. 103G.611 – Aeration System Permits: Allows for use of GPs for certain types of systems and reduces the permit approval cost to \$100 rather than the \$250 fee charged for an individual permit.

Secs. 10-11. M.S. 103G.615 – Aquatic Plant Management Permits: Allows for use of GPs for certain types of projects and reduces the permit approval cost to \$30 rather than the \$35+ fee charged for an individual permit.

Priority-setting

NA.

Project locations

Statewide.

Key measures and outcomes

- Faster permit approvals
- Savings of DNR staff time for administration
- Allowing DNR staff to concentrate more on important project reviews

Financial Implications (if appropriate)

- May result in a \$100,000+ loss in permit revenue annually, which will be made up by savings of staff time to process individual permits.
- Will result in a savings to companies, local agencies, and the general public in both permit costs and time savings.

For further information contact:

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