



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES
235 PROMENADE STREET
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02908-5767

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED PERMIT ACTION UNDER THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT'S (RI DEM) FRESHWATER WETLANDS PROGRAM WHICH REGULATES ALTERATIONS TO FRESHWATER WETLANDS, BUFFERS AND FLOODPLAIN UNDER CHAPTER 2-1-18 ET. SEQ. OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL LAWS OF 1956, AS AMENDED.

DATE OF NOTICE: July 29, 2022

Draft Freshwater Wetlands General Permit

In accordance with Chapter 2-1-18 et. seq. of the Rhode Island General Laws, and Rule No. 3.5.5. of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the RI Freshwater Wetlands Act (250-RICR-150-15-3, "FWW Rules") the alteration of any freshwater wetland, buffer, floodplain, area subject to flooding or area subject to storm flowage, or undertaking any activity within a wetland jurisdictional area that may alter the character of a freshwater wetland, buffer, or floodplain, is prohibited without first obtaining the approval of RI DEM.

Pursuant to Rule 3.10 of the FWW Rules, RI DEM may issue a general permit for activities within jurisdictional areas that a) involve the same or similar types and areas of alteration or impacts; b) occur only within the jurisdictional area identified in the general permit; c) involve similar land uses and that d) in the opinion of the Department are more appropriately authorized under a general permit than under individual Freshwater Wetlands Permits.

At this time, RI DEM is proposing to issue a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit (FWW GP). The FWW GP covers four general categories of activities within wetland jurisdictional areas, including 1) Individual residential construction; 2) Limited projects associated with existing developed property; 3) Stormwater retrofit projects; and 4) Other development located outside of designated buffer zones. All activities will have specific requirements and are subject to standard terms and conditions. This FWW GP is proposed to be effective for a five-year period, expiring in October 2027.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Copies of the FWW GP and a fact sheet (providing basic questions and answers associated with the authorized activities covered by this permit action) may be obtained at no cost by emailing or calling RI DEM as noted below:

Charles A. Horbert
chuck.horbert@dem.ri.gov
(401) 222-6820, Ext. 2777402
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Resources
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767

This information is also available at the following website during the public comment period:

<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/water/permits/pn-wetland.php>

All of these documents may also be inspected, by appointment, at the RI DEM's Providence office mentioned above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. An appointment can be scheduled by contacting the Permit Application Center (PAC) at 401-222-4700, Ext. 2777265 or DEM.PAC@dem.ri.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Interested parties may submit comments on the permit actions and the administrative record to the contact above **no later than 4:00 p.m. on September 12, 2022.**

If, during the public comment period, significant new questions are raised concerning the FWW GP, RI DEM may consider a revised FWW GP or may reopen the public comment period. A new public notice will be issued for any of these actions.

Any person who believes these permit actions are inappropriate must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments and factual grounds supporting their position, including all supporting material, by the close of the public comment period under Rule 3.10(A)(4)(a). The public comment period is from July 29, 2022 to September 12, 2022. Comments should be directed to RI DEM as noted above.

PUBLIC WORKSHOP:

A public workshop will be held via Zoom on August 29, 2022 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm to provide an overview of the FWW GP and to answer questions. This is not a public hearing intended to solicit comments. All comments need to be submitted in writing as described above. To register for the workshop, please use this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_noGZWa3PRDq8Y2B-NNXq_A

FINAL DECISION:

Following the close of the comment period, the Director will issue a final decision and forward a copy of the final decision to each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice.

July 29, 2022

Date

Charles A. Horbert, Deputy Administrator
Groundwater and Freshwater Wetlands Protection
Office of Water Resources
Department of Environmental Management