



RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES

235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767

SUMMARY OF ISSUANCE OF PROPOSED FRESHWATER WETLANDS GENERAL PERMIT

July 29, 2022 –The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Office of Water Resources intends to issue a Freshwater Wetlands General Permit (FWW GP) in accordance with Rule 3.10 of the [Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the RI Freshwater Wetlands Act \(250-RICR-150-15-3](#), “FWW Rules”). In the development of the FWW GP, RIDEM held a series of informal workshops involving stakeholders and a workgroup of professionals with experience in the preparation of freshwater wetland applications, and RIDEM is now issuing a Public Notice for the proposed FWW GP.

The purpose of the FWW GP is to provide standard permit Terms and Conditions and to streamline application requirements for categories of projects and activities that involve similar land uses and the same or substantially similar types and areas of alteration and impacts. The FWW GP includes four categories of eligible projects and activities within wetland jurisdictional areas:

1. Individual residential construction;
2. Limited projects associated with existing developed properties;
3. Stormwater retrofit projects; and
4. All other development outside of designated buffer zones.

All projects must meet the project-specific requirements listed in Part A of the FWW GP and the standard Terms and Conditions listed in Part D of the FWW GP to be considered eligible. Application and authorization procedures are also described in Parts B and C, respectively, of the FWW GP. The proposed FWW GP is available for review at <http://dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/pn/fw-gen-permit-0722.pdf>. Associated guidance documents are available at <http://www.dem.ri.gov/newwetlandrules> and www.dem.ri.gov/wetlandsguidance.

A public comment period is in effect from July 29, 2022, to September 12, 2022. Public comments may be submitted to Charles A. Horbert at chuck.horbert@dem.ri.gov. Additional methods of submitting comments or obtaining copies of relevant materials are provided in the Public Notice which has been posted at www.dem.ri.gov/newwetlandrules.

A public workshop will be held via Zoom on August 29, 2022, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm to provide an overview of the FWW GP and to answer questions. Please note that this is a workshop and not a public hearing. To register for the public workshop please use the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_noGZWa3PRDq8Y2B-NNXq_A.