



Changes to Dredge Permitting

Expand the expedited permitting categories for dredging

- Separating dredging in inland lakes and streams from Great Lakes and harbors work.
- Expand the General Permit category for maintenance dredging in Great Lakes and harbors from 100 cubic yards to 500 cubic yards.
- Expand the Minor Project for new dredging in Great Lakes and harbors from 25 cubic yards to 300 cubic yards.
- Create a new MP category to allow maintenance dredging in Great Lakes and harbors up to 10,000 cubic yards, or higher if the material is sand.

Statutory amendment changes

- Add emergency permitting authority to allow the DEQ to issue permits to protect public health, safety and welfare prior to the expiration of a public notice normally required during application processing.
- Exclude dredge material that is 90% or more sand from the Major Permit categories.

DEQ procedural changes

- The boundaries of mandatory testing have been refined and reduced
- The volume allowed for streamlined offsite disposal has increased to 2000 CY (previously 1000 CY)
- We increased the ability to use historical test data from the past 10 years to meet any project volume (previous project volume limit was 5000 CY)
- Added the ability to use neighboring test data if it is from within 100' of the project and from within the last 10 years.
- Sand percentage not requiring additional testing is now 90% instead of 95%. (The dioxin/furan special test areas for sand remain in effect on the Tittabawassee River, Saginaw River, & a portion of Saginaw Bay).
- Metals testing changed from 12 criteria to 7 statewide, PCB testing reduced from statewide to areas specified in the procedure
- 3 new areas of elevated default background levels for Arsenic disposal covering 22 counties have been identified (map is in the procedure). This is expected to result in increased upland disposal options in those areas.

Other Information

DEQ is working with DNR Fisheries Division on a case-by-case basis to address biological concerns and timing of dredging activity.

Communities and dredge applicants should immediately contact DEQ WRD staff if they have not already submitted a permit application for anticipated dredging activities.