

2019 HIGH WATER LEVELS INFORMATION

FOR WETLANDS, INLAND LAKES, AND STREAMS PERMITTING



High water levels throughout Michigan have left several areas with flooding that has negatively affected residents and businesses, including homes, well and septic systems, farms, and roads. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has been collaborating on projects associated with both short-term and long-term solutions to flooding, and responding within our statutory authorities. EGLE does not typically have the ability to provide funding for flood relief projects. EGLE's role is to review permit applications for projects affecting wetlands, inland lakes, and streams. In critical cases, EGLE can expedite permit reviews and may issue emergency permits for projects that are intended to protect property and the public health, safety or welfare. However, EGLE also has the responsibility to ensure that these projects are completed in a manner that avoids and minimizes negative impacts to neighbors and the public trust resources of the state, including wetlands, inland lakes, and streams.

This Fact Sheet answers the following questions:

How can EGLE assist with flood alleviation projects?

Are permits needed for projects in wetlands, inland lakes, and streams?

What resources are available to gather more information?

What services does EGLE provide to help with permitting?

EGLE

**Michigan
Department of
Environment,
Great Lakes,
and Energy**

Water Resources Division

Michigan.gov/WRD

How can EGLE assist with flood alleviation projects on wetlands, inland lakes, and streams?

EGLE does not directly manage high-water level projects, and typically does not have the ability to provide funding for projects. However, EGLE does have several important roles when activities occur in wetlands, inland lakes, or streams:

- Support local and statewide emergency management and other government agencies on project planning and implementation.
- Provide technical assistance on projects, including information on water levels and trends, compliance with state environmental laws, shoreline protection techniques, and best management practices.
- Review permit applications for projects involving wetlands, inland lakes, and streams.

Are permits needed for projects in wetlands, inland lakes, or streams if it is to alleviate flooding?

Permits are required for many activities associated with wetlands, inland lakes, and streams, including:

- Fill, dredge, draining, or water level control activities affecting inland lakes, streams, and regulated wetlands.
- Projects affecting shorelines, dams, floodplains, critical dunes, and high risk erosion areas.
- Emergency permitting may be available when a project is deemed necessary to protect property or the public health, safety or welfare.

What resources are available to gather more information?

EGLE offers information on our web sites to help get you started including:

- **Joint Permit Application** - Permit application assistance.
- **MiWaters** – EGLE's online permitting and compliance database.
- **EGLE Staff Contacts** – Find local staff on the Land/Water Permitting Staff Map .
- **Consultants** - Hiring experienced consultants and contractors can help guide you, expedite the permitting process, and assure that the project will succeed.

What services does EGLE provide to help with permitting?

EGLE cannot provide design services or project management for any types of projects. However EGLE may provide technical expertise on wetlands, lakes, and streams issues. See the **Resource Program Education and Outreach** series for more information on **pre-application meetings** and other services EGLE can provide to aid in flooding and other activities taking place at the land/water interface.