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 EGLE – Wetlands Protection Program web site: <u>Michigan.gov/Wetlands</u> EGLE – Inland Lakes and Streams Program web site: <u>Michigan.gov/EGLEInlandLakes</u> For more information see the Resources Education and Outreach Series found at <u>Michigan.gov/JointPermit</u>

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

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

What resources are available to gather more information?

What services does EGLE provide to help with permitting? 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.

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.

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

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

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 <u>Resource Program</u> <u>Education and Outreach</u> series for more information on <u>pre-application meetings</u> and other services EGLE can provide to aid in flooding and other activities taking place at the land/water interface.

For information or assistance on this publication, please contact the Water Resources Division through the EGLE Environmental Assistance Center at 800-662-9278. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. EGLE will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information, or sexual orientation. Questions or concerns should be directed to the Quality of Life Human Resources, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909-7973. This publication is intended for guidance only and may be impacted by changes in legislation, rules, policies, and procedures adopted after the date of publication. Although this publication makes every effort to teach users how to meet applicable compliance obligations, use of this publication does not constitute the rendering of legal advice.