



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR


STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

VIA EMAIL

TO: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and
Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Members
Senate Environmental Quality Committee Members
Senate Natural Resources Committee Members
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Environment, Great Lakes,
and Energy Members
House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Committee Members

FROM: Liesl Eichler Clark, Director 

DATE: December 27, 2022

SUBJECT: Report on Permitting and Licensing

In accordance with Section 1311 of Part 13, Permits, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and Section 238 of Article 4, Part 2, of 2022 PA 166, attached is the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) report on permitting and licensing for fiscal year 2022.

If you need further information, please contact Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, at 517-285-8921; or you may contact me at 517-512-5992.

Attachment

cc/att: Kathryn Summers, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency
Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency
Christopher M. Harkins, Director, State Budget Office
Joe Fedewa, Legislative Affairs, Governor's Office
Marc Rehmann, Policy Director, Governor's Office
Chris Semrinec, Senate Fiscal Agency
Austin Scott, House Fiscal Agency
Jacques McNeely, State Budget Office
Zach Hendrix, State Budget Office
Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE
James Clift, Deputy Director, EGLE
Travis Boeskool, Legislative Liaison, EGLE
Elizabeth M. Browne, EGLE
Mary Ann Dolehanty, EGLE
Annette Switzer, EGLE
Paul McDonald, EGLE
Mike Neller, EGLE
Eric Oswald, EGLE
Brad Pagratis, EGLE
Teresa Seidel, EGLE
Adam Wygant, EGLE
Dale Shaw, EGLE

Permitting and Licensing Report

Report Period:
Fiscal Year 2022

Authority:
MCL 324.1311 and
Section 238 of Article 4, Part 2, of 2022 PA 166

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the ways the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) achieves its mission of protecting Michigan’s environment and public health by managing air, water, land, and energy resources is by assuring permits and licenses are issued in accordance with environmental standards. Permit issuance is one of EGLE’s core functions for projects ranging from homeowner permits for seawall installations to large manufacturing air permits.

EGLE administers 63 different permits and licenses, including 28 authorized under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA). Section 1311 of Part 13, Permits, of the NREPA, and Section 238 of Article 4, Part 2, of 2022 PA 166, require EGLE to report information on individual permitting and licensing programs annually.

*EGLE approved over
26,300 permits in fiscal
year 2022*

In fiscal year 2022, 27,319 applications were received for EGLE’s 63 permit and license categories. Nearly 96 percent of permit actions were approved. Below is a complete summary of fiscal year 2022 actions. Additional details regarding EGLE’s various permits and licenses are attached.

Action Taken	Number of Permit Application Actions Taken	Percentage
Approved	26,331	95.5%
Withdrawn	951	3.4%
Denied	286	1.0%
Total	27,568*	100%

*The number of permit applications approved, withdrawn, and denied differ from the number of permit applications received in a fiscal year as some applications are received in one fiscal year and approved, withdrawn, or denied in another fiscal year. Denial of a permit occurs when the applicant does not meet the regulations or due to lack of information provided to process the application.

Four-Year Comparison of Permit Applications Received

The following chart captures the change in permit applications received over the past four years by division:

Division	2019	2020	2021	2022
Air Quality	906	769	764	689
Drinking Water and Environmental Health	8,630	8,153	8,464	8,441
Materials Management	9,869	6,210	5,939	9,009
Oil, Gas, and Minerals	100	61	82	93
Water Resources	10,187	12,001	10,401	9,087
Total	29,692	27,194	25,650	27,319

Percentage of Permit Applications Received by Division in Fiscal Year 2022

EGLE has five divisions that issue permits and/or licenses.

- The Water Resources Division is responsible for keeping Michigan’s water resources clean and safe. Over the last year, the division has seen a record number of permit applications due to high-water levels and resulting erosion. Permits are issued to individual homeowners for things like seawall installation and other protective infrastructure. The division is responsible for ensuring homeowners’ actions do not negatively impact the environment and/or their neighbors.
- The Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division issues permits for new construction of drinking water systems as well as administering the state’s pools and campground programs.
- The Materials Management Division issues permits related to the proper disposal of waste.
- The Air Quality Division, along with the Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division, assure industrial practices are done safely and legally and maintain overall environmental quality and protection of public health.

413 staff support permitting efforts across the department.

