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GOVERNOR


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



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

VIA EMAIL

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

FROM: Phillip D. Roos, Director 

DATE: December 18, 2023

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 2023 PA 119, attached is the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) report on permitting and licensing for fiscal year 2023.

If you need further information, please contact Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, at 517-284-6709 or KeatleyA@Michigan.gov; or you may contact me at 517-614-6873.

Attachment

cc/att: Kathryn Summers, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency
Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency
Jennifer Flood, Director, State Budget Office
Patti Tremblay, Director of Legislative Affairs, Governor's Office
Marc Rehmann, Policy Director, Governor's Office
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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

Legislative Report

Permitting and Licensing Report

**Report Period:
Fiscal Year 2023**

**Authority:
MCL 324.1311 and
Section 238 of Article 4, Part 2, of 2023 PA 119**

If you need this information in an alternate format, contact EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov or call 800-662-9278.

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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 ensuring 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 2023 PA 119, require EGLE to report information on individual permitting and licensing programs annually.

***EGLE approved over
22,700 permits in fiscal
year 2023***

In fiscal year 2023, 24,155 applications were received for EGLE’s 63 permit and license categories. Nearly 95 percent of permit actions were approved. Below is a complete summary of fiscal year 2023 actions. Additional details regarding EGLE’s various permits and licenses are attached.

Action Taken*	Number of Permit Application Actions Taken	Percentage
Approved	22,777	94.92%
Withdrawn	857	3.57%
Denied	363	1.51%
Total	23,997	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. Denials of permits occur when the application does not meet regulatory standards for approval or when insufficient information is 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	2020	2021	2022	2023
Air Quality	769	764	689	638
Drinking Water and Environmental Health	8,153	8,464	8,441	8,856
Materials Management*	6,210	5,939	9,009	5,885
Oil, Gas, and Minerals	61	82	93	78
Water Resources	12,001	10,401	9,087	8,698
Total	27,194	25,650	27,319	24,155

*Division numbers vary from year to year as Medical Waste Program registrations are on a three-year cycle and include hundreds of facilities.

Percentage of Permit Applications Received by Division in Fiscal Year 2023

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. 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 EGLE’s pools and campground programs.
- The Materials Management Division issues permits related to the proper disposal of waste.
- The Air Quality Division and Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division assure industrial practices are done safely and legally and maintain overall environmental quality and protection of public health.

435 staff support permitting efforts across the department.

