

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Agency Web sites

- [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#)
- [Public Waters Permit](#)
- [Ecological Resources](#)
- [Trails and Waterways](#)
- [Waters](#)
- [Wildlife](#)

MnDOT Contact

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Authority

[Minn. Rules 6115.0150 to 6115.0280](#). Public Waters
M.S. 103G.241-251 Work Affecting Public Waters
M.S. 103G.255-297 Water Diversion and Appropriation
M.S. 84.0895 Protection of Threatened and Endangered Species
M.S. 97B.701 Protected Birds
M.S. 103F.301-345 Minnesota Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
M.S. 85.32 Canoe and Boating Routes
Member agency of MEQB

Agency Roles

- Review and comment on environmental documents prepared on our projects.
- Early review and comment during project planning
- Permits for work in the beds of Public Waters
- Permits for appropriation of groundwater or surface water (construction dewatering, dust control, etc.)
- Cooperative efforts on projects such as boat access areas, blue bird nesting, deer reflectors, etc.

Agency Areas of Concern

- Bikeways & Pedestrians
- Construction Impacts
- Endangered Species, Federal
- Endangered Species, State
- Erosion Control
- Excess Materials
- Fish and Wildlife
- Floodplains
- Groundwater, Geotechnical and Earthborne Vibration
- Parks, Recreation Areas, Historic Sites, Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges
 - Section (4(f) and 6(f)
- Stream or Water Body Modification
- Vegetation (including Forests)
- Water Quality
- Wetlands
- Wild & Scenic Rivers

Agreements

- o [Memorandum of Understanding between MnDOT and DNR \(1999\)](#)
- o DNR Public Waters Work Permits
Permits are required for any activity affecting the course, current, or cross-section of public waters unless specifically exempted in the rules. (Minn. Rules [Chapter 6115](#))
- o [Statewide General Permit 2004-0001 for MnDOT](#)
- o Coordination of Public Waters, Fish and Wildlife issues through use of the MnDOT-DNR Questionnaire.

Procedures / Requirements

System Planning	Programs are sent to the DNR for review - they flag projects of interest.
Project Scoping and Preliminary Design/Impact Study	<p>Individual projects should include early coordination with DNR. DNR involvement is initiated when the MnDOT project manager submits the Early Notification Memorandum.</p> <p>Class I actions (EIS): DNR is formally notified of scoping activities through MEQB process. EIS scoping will identify Public Waters and other issues. DNR receives EISs for review and comment and may be requested, at the outset, to become a cooperating agency for preparation of documents through the Federal and Alternate Review Processes.</p> <p>- Class II Actions (Categorical Exclusions): For categorical exclusions, reports for projects "flagged" at the program stage, or those MnDOT believes may be of interest, are sent to the DNR for comment and/or information at an appropriate stage. Typically those involving wetlands are sent over. Agreement must be reached on appropriate mitigation.</p> <p>- Class III Actions (EA): The EA is sent to the DNR for review and comment. Early coordination prior to submittal may be appropriate to aid in determining the significance of any expected impacts. This has a bearing on whether an EIS is needed.</p>
Acquisition Detail Design & R/W	Reasonable impact mitigation measures are incorporated into construction plans and specifications. Permit conditions are defined and public water permits are applied for and normally granted. Public Waters Work Permits can be issued under the Statewide General Permit for MnDOT, or under individual permits. Linear projects may have multiple crossings combined into one permit.
Construction	Construction takes place in accordance with the Plans, Specifications, and Permit conditions. DNR Water Appropriation Permits required for certain construction activities (e.g. dewatering) are typically the responsibility of the Contractor. Project engineers must see that these have been obtained prior to commencement of water appropriation activities.