

Conservation, Education, Stewardship  
Since 1948

### Vision

The York County Conservation District is committed to the improvement and protection of our environment and the wise use of our County's diverse natural resources.

### Mission

To achieve that vision, the York County Conservation District will be proactive providing conservation education, technical services and financial assistance to enable the citizens of York County to be good stewards natural resources.

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## GENERAL PERMITS FOR WORK IN WATERWAYS, FLOODWAYS AND WETLANDS



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Most activities in Pennsylvania water courses, water bodies or wetlands require some type of authorization or permit from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to protect public health, safety and the environment. Activities that change, expand or diminish the course, current or cross section of a watercourse, floodway or waterbody are termed encroachments (obstructions in certain cases) and are regulated by Chapter 105 regulations. Many of these projects qualify for a simple general permit if they are designed and implemented in accordance with the criteria in the general permit.

The applicant needs to complete and submit a registration form and fee to DEP's south-central regional office listed below. The local municipality and county must be notified of the applicant's intent to use the general permit.

There are 12 different general permits, each corresponding to a particular activity. Prior to registration, an applicant must review the appropriate general permit and determine if the proposed project can be constructed in accordance with the conditions, restrictions and performance criteria identified for that specific permit. Most projects in Commonwealth waters and wetlands also require federal authorization that is usually granted in the form of a Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit (PASPGP-2). In most instances, PASPGP-2 is attached by the DEP along with a registered general permit. When applicable, PASPGP-2 eliminates the need for redundant federal reviews and processing for projects.

For more information, visit DEP's website at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us), Keyword: "DEP Wetlands)." Or, contact DEP's South-central regional office:



General permits are required for work in Pennsylvania's waterways, floodplains, and wetlands

Office of Water  
Bureau of Waterways, Engineering and Wetlands  
Southcentral Regional Office  
909 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
Telephone **717-787-7432**  
E-mail: [ra-epwater@pa.gov](mailto:ra-epwater@pa.gov)  
[www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us)

# General Permits

**A brief summary for each general permit is listed below:**

## **GP-1: Fish Habitat Enhancement**

**Structures:** Authorizes the installation, operation and maintenance of fish habitat enhancement structures in regulated waters of this Commonwealth. Not for use in wetlands. Prior approval from PA Fish and Boat Commission is required. Deflectors, elevated boulder structures and half logs are examples of enhancement structures.

## **GP-2: Small Docks and Boat Launching Ramps**

**Ramps:** Authorizes the installation, operation, modification and maintenance of small docks (750 square feet or less) and boat launching ramps in and along the regulated waters of this Commonwealth. Other size restrictions may apply.

**GP-3: Bank Rehabilitation, Bank Protection and Gravel Bar Removal:** Authorizes the installation, operation, modification and maintenance of bank rehabilitation and protection projects. It also authorizes the removal of gravel bars that are less than 500 linear feet in length in and along regulated waters of this Commonwealth. A gravel bar shall be removed only to a depth of 6 inches above the water level at the time of the project. Not for use in wetlands.

## **GP-4: Intake and Outfall Structures:**

Authorizes the construction, operation and maintenance of intake and outfall structures in, along, across or projecting into regulated waters of the Commonwealth. Not for use in wetlands.

## **GP-5: Utility Line Stream Crossings:**

Authorizes the installation, operation and maintenance of utility line stream crossings of the regulated waters of the Commonwealth. Can be used in wetlands less than 10 acres in size.

## **GP-6: Agricultural Crossings and Ramps:**

Authorizes the installation, operation and maintenance of agricultural crossings and ramps in regulated waters of the Commonwealth. Not for use in wetlands.

## **GP-7: Minor Road Crossings:**

Authorizes: (1) the construction, operation and maintenance of minor road crossings across wetlands which individually disturbs less than 0.1 acre of wetlands while cumulative impacts total less than 0.25 acres; (2) the construction, operation and maintenance of a minor road crossing across a stream where the watershed drainage area is 1.0 square mile or less; and (3) the removal of an existing minor road crossing across a stream where the drainage area is 1.0 square mile or less.

## **GP-8: Temporary Road Crossings:**

Authorizes the construction, operation and maintenance of temporary road crossings across regulated waters of this Commonwealth for one year, including wetland crossings less than 200 feet, where no practicable alternatives exist.

**GP-9: Agricultural Activities:** Authorizes the installation, operation, modification and maintenance of certain agricultural activities that encroach into streams and their floodways or bodies of water. These agricultural activities include: grassed or lined waterways, terraces, diversions, waste storage facilities and spring development. Minor drainage that supports these activities and is necessary for contour strips when engaged in as a part of an existing agricultural operation and implemented as part of a conservation plan consistent with the 25 PA Code Chapter 102 (relating to erosion control) and approved by the county conservation district is also included.

## **GP-10: Abandoned Mine Reclamation:**

Authorizes the construction, operation or maintenance of an encroachment or water obstruction for reclamation of an abandoned mining site, where the department has issued a notice of intent to forfeit the bond for a mining activity permitted after August 1977 and before July 1982.

## **GP-11: Maintenance, Testing, Repair, Rehabilitation, or Replacement of Water Obstructions and Encroachments:**

**Encroachments:** Authorizes the maintenance, testing, repair, rehabilitation and replacement of existing water obstructions and encroachments including currently serviceable bridges, culverts, utility lines, and docks. The applicant will be required to register the project by submitting written notice and all applicable information to the department.

## **GP-15: Private Residential Construction in Wetlands:**

Authorizes the placement and maintenance of fill in, or the excavation of, wetlands for the construction or expansion of a single family home for the personal residence of the permittee. This includes reasonable and necessary features, such as a driveway, storage shed and utilities on a residential lot purchased by the permittee prior to November 22, 1991, within established subdivisions approved by the local governing authority where such activities do not impact greater than 0.50 acre of wetlands. (PASPGP-2 does not apply.) Wetland fill cannot be used to construct or expand an on-lot septic system.