Fact Sheet

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Environmental Protection

GRAVEL BAR REMOVAL

INTRODUCTION

DEP has issued a statewide general permit entitled "General Permit BDWW-GP-3, Bank Rehabilitation, Bank Protection and Gravel Bar Removal", commonly referred to as "GP-3". This fact sheet only addresses the gravel bar removal portion of GP-3. Persons wishing to remove a gravel bar must obtain authorization from DEP and also the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) prior to starting work. YOU MAY NOT BEGIN WORK UNTIL YOU RECEIVE BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION.

WHAT IS A GRAVEL BAR?

A gravel bar is an alluvial deposit in the stream channel, or in simple terms, an accumulation of clay, gravel, sand, silt, sediment, glacial till or similar material which can obstruct the stream channel and redirect the flow of water.

PROJECT QUALIFICATIONS

The proposed user of a GP-3 should carefully review all of its requirements to determine if the project can qualify for authorization. If the location or scope of your project exceeds the criteria of the GP-3 conditions, you should contact DEP about other permitting options. Some activities or areas where the general permit does not apply:

- Channel relocation, realignment or placement of fill to construct berms or levees;
- Work which is greater in length than 500 linear feet along a continuous reach of stream;
- Removing gravel to a level less than six inches above the water level at the time of construction;
- Removing gravel bars that have a vegetated covering greater than 50 percent of the total surface area;
- Waterways designated as exceptional value waters or area within 100 feet of a waterway classified as wild in the state scenic river system;
- Impacts to wetlands;
- Areas where impacts would threaten or endanger species of special concern; and/or
- Areas designated historical, cultural, archaeological or natural landmarks.

REGISTRATION PROCESS

Although there is no registration fee, there are some associated costs such as U.S. Geologic Survey topographic maps, color photographs, preparation of the erosion and sedimentation control plan, xerox copies, postage, etc. Follow the registration procedure contained in the GP-3. Register your GP-3 with your DEP regional office or county conservation district. DEP or the county conservation district will then notify the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) who will contact you directly regarding the need for a separate federal permit for your project. Also, send a copy of the "General Permit Registration" form to your municipality and county. YOU MAY NOT BEGIN WORK UNTIL YOU RECEIVE BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

Proper planning and preparation is the key to any successful project. The person who registers the GP-3 is the person responsible for adhering to all terms and conditions of the permit. Before you begin your gravel bar removal project, have you:

- Received acknowledgment of the GP-3 from the DEP regional office or the county conservation district?
- Received federal authorization from the Corps?
- Received an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan approval from the county conservation district?
- Notified the Pa. Fish & Boat Commission and the county conservation district 10 days prior to the start of construction?
- Informed your contractor or equipment operator of the terms and conditions of the permit, including the requirement of the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan?

Property owners must be aware that gravel bar removal may have limited long-term benefits. Because these areas are constantly changing, the gravel bar may reform at the same spot. Removal of future accumulations will require that you again register to use this General Permit. If you would like more information or technical assistance, contact your DEP regional office or your local county conservation district.

For more information, visit DEP's Web site at www.depweb.state.pa.us, Keyword: "DEP Wetlands."

or contact:

PERMITTING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES SECTION	COUNTY RESPONSIBILITY	PERMITTING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES SECTION	COUNTY RESPONSIBILITY
Northcentral Regional Office 208 W. Third St., Suite 101 Williamsport, PA 17701 570-327-3574	Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Tioga and Union	Southcentral Regional Office 909 Elmerton Ave. Harrisburg, PA 17110 717-705-4700	Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry and York
Northeast Regional Office 2 Public Square Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790 570-826-2511	Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Wayne and Wyoming	Southeast Regional Office 2 East Main Street Norristown, PA 19401 484-250-5970	Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia
Northwest Regional Office 230 Chestnut St. Meadville, PA 16335 814-332-6984	Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Venango and Warren	Southwest Regional Office 400 Waterfront Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745 412-442-4000	Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington and Westmoreland

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Delaware River Basin
Philadelphia District Corps of Engineers
Wanamaker Bldg.
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: 215-656-6725
Fax: 215-656-6724

Susquehanna River Basin
Baltimore District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715
Phone: 410-962-5673
Fax: 410-962-6024

or

Baltimore District Corps of Engineers
Pennsylvania Field Office
1631 South Atherton Street
State College, PA 16801
Phone: 814-235-0570
Fax: 814-235-0576

Ohio River Basin
Pittsburgh District Corps of Engineers
Room 1817 Federal Bldg.
1000 Liberty Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Phone: 412-395-7152
Fax: 412-644-4211

DEP CENTRAL OFFICE

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