

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES - Groundwater and Freshwater Wetlands Protection FRESHWATER WETLANDS PROGRAM

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WETLAND EDGE DELINEATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Pursuant to § 3.9.3(E) of the <u>Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act (Rules) [250-RICR-150-15-3]</u>, applicants must complete, and provide to RIDEM, documentation which describes the reasoning used to delineate wetland edges whenever requesting verification of a wetland edge. For this purpose, the applicant must complete the attached Wetland Edge Delineation Forms. These forms (see attached) are not meant to provide quantitative plot data, but rather to provide RIDEM with an outline of the reasoning used to delineate a particular **wetland edge**. While the vegetative community may change abruptly in some circumstances, other plant communities may transition very gradually to upland. In these cases, other hydrologic indicators, such as soil redoximorphic features, often must be considered in determining existing hydrological conditions. Completion of these data forms will provide RIDEM biologists with a clearer understanding of all the factors considered by an applicant or their consultant in delineating the boundary of a given wetland area.

At a minimum, one set of data forms (upland and wetland) must be completed for each wetland on the site. More than one set should be provided wherever changes in vegetative community composition, soil characteristics, topography, or other factor(s) might cause a change in reasoning for determination of the wetland edge. For example, if the edge of wetland "X" is located at the base of a steep slope with a clear vegetative break in one area (Flag Nos 1-27), but within a broad, transitional zone dominated by facultative vegetation in another area (Flag Nos. 28-56), at least two sets of data forms should be filled out for that wetland, since the reasoning behind the delineation (changes in vegetative species, topography and/or soil characteristics) is different in the two areas. If only one set of data forms is provided for a given wetland, it will be assumed that the same reasoning was used for determination of the entire wetland edge and the wetland flagging will be reviewed accordingly.

Properly completed forms which support an accurate edge only increase the speed by which RIDEM's verification can be completed. This in turn will get a quicker, less troublesome answer back to the applicant. Substantial inaccuracies can often be attributed to a lack of supporting data used to locate the wetland edge. In turn, these inaccuracies only increase delays and problems with verifying the wetland edge.

All wetland edge delineations are to be accomplished in accordance with § 3.21 of the Rules.

Wetland Edge Delineation Data Form (UPLAND)

Applicant:			Wetland No		
Project Name:					
City/Town:			Delineation Date	2:	
Vegetation: List the	three dominant spe	cies in each vegetati	ve strata along with t	their NWI status:	
Tree	In	dicator Status	Herbs Indicator St		dicator Status
Saplings/Shr	ubs In	dicator Status	Woody Vine	es Ind	dicator Status
Soil: SCS Soil Sur On Hydric S	vey Mapping Unit: _ oils List?	□NO	determination of the		
Horizon	Depth	Matrix Color	Mottling	Depth to	Depth to
	·		Description	Saturation	Free Water
features, lack of oxid Landscape position:	dized rhizospheres,	etc.):	(e.g. absence of wat		
Altered/atypical situ	ıation? (describe): _				
Comments:					

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Wetland Edge Delineation Data Form (WETLAND)

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