

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Water Quality Certification

Application Instructions and Required Enclosures

INSTRUCTIONS

1. All applicable sections of the application form must be completed and signed.
2. The application form must be submitted with all supporting documents, studies, reports or additional information where required and applicable.

REQUIRED ENCLOSURES FOR WQC APPLICATIONS:

1. Site plan (one copy) which includes the overall project proposed.
2. A project narrative describing the scope of work and the anticipated water quality impacts resulting from the project as a whole.
3. A list of abutting property owners including current mailing addresses (if applicable).
4. Any additional items outlined below.

Site Plan Requirements

1. All site plans must be drawn to scale.
2. All site plans must be at least 8-1/2" x 11" in size.
3. All site plans must have all markings permanently fixed.
4. All site plans must depict the following:
 - (a) Street abutting site with fixed reference point (e.g. utility poles and numbers, house numbers or similar structures).
 - (b) Magnetic north arrow.
 - (c) Entire property boundary outline and dimension (scale drawing not required).
 - (d) Insert map showing site location in the community (locus plan).
 - (e) Graphic and numeric scale.
 - (f) Legend which explains all markings and symbols.
 - (g) Wetland edge, perimeter wetlands, rivers, streams, coastal feature(s).
 - (h) The name of any flowing water body where applicable.
 - (i) Existing and proposed contour lines at two foot intervals.
 - (j) Proposed limits of disturbance.
 - (k) All temporary and permanent erosion and sediment controls.
 - (l) All temporary and permanent stormwater and water quality management controls and all best management practices (where applicable).
5. All site plans must be prepared by a licensed or registered professional and must contain the stamp affixed to each sheet along with the date and the signature of the professional.
6. All site plans containing more than one sheet must be numbered consecutively.

Additional Requirements
Dredge Projects (see dredging guidance)

1. Site plans must include the following:
 - (a) The area to be dredged with the existing and proposed contours of the dredging area.
 - (b) Cross sectional views of the area to be dredged showing the existing and proposed contours of the dredging area.
 - (c) The location of the disposal area with the existing and proposed contours of the disposal area.
 - (d) The location of the dewatering area including the existing and proposed contours of the dewatering area.
 - (e) Mean high and mean low water elevations.
 - (f) The datum used to reference all grades and depths.
2. A letter requesting the time frame for dredging if work is proposed anytime other than November 1 – December 31.
3. A narrative report including the following:
 - (a) The proposed dredging method and an estimate of the length of time to conduct the dredging project.
 - (b) Calculations verifying the estimated volume of dredge material.
 - (c) Aquatic resources in the area such as shellfish beds, eel grass beds, migratory pathways, habitat for finfish, etc.
 - (d) Information on past dredging events, historical spills, past sediment test data taken in or near proposed dredge area, and the presence of outfalls for both the dredging and surrounding areas.
 - (e) The method of transport to the disposal area.
 - (f) Calculations verifying the capacity of the dewatering area and the disposal area.
 - (g) A letter from the property owner of the dewatering and the disposal areas indicating approval for the estimated volume of dredge material to be dewatered and/or disposed of on their property.
4. A proposed sampling plan must be submitted for review and approval prior to samples being taken. The required sampling will depend on the proposed disposal option for the dredged material. At a minimum, for upland disposal, grain size analysis and bulk sediment analysis must be conducted. TCLP testing is recommended to determine if the material is considered hazardous.
5. Approval letters from the solid waste landfill and/or the RIDEM – Office of Waste Management may be required for upland disposal at a solid waste landfill.
6. A species inventory addressing community structure may be required. The scope of work must be approved by the OWR prior to performing the inventory.
7. Disposal in open water requires a narrative discussing the alternatives to open water disposal that were considered and why these alternatives were not chosen. The OWR will coordinate with the ACOE and the EPA in developing a sampling plan for open water disposal.

Marinas

1. Existing and proposed dock arrangement.
2. Location of pumpout facility.
3. Maximum number of boats to be kept at the marina at both the slips and the mooring fields.
4. CRMC marina perimeter and mooring field perimeter.
5. Project narrative explaining maintenance and servicing activities to be performed at the marina and the Best Management Practices proposed to prevent impacts to water quality.
6. A species inventory addressing aquatic resources and community structure may be required. The scope of work must be approved by the OWR prior to performing the inventory.
7. Assessment of need to expand Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS).

Harbor Management Plan

1. Provide existing water quality classification of waters.
2. Identify all marinas, anchorages and mooring areas including the existing boat counts and maximum boat counts for each area.
3. Reference state laws pertinent to discharge of sewage.
4. Reference state laws providing enforcement capabilities of the harbormaster for discharges of sewage.
5. Address goals and recommendations to improve water quality where necessary or desired.

Flow Alterations

1. All calculations must be performed by a qualified professional including:
 - (a) Volume and rate of water withdrawal or alteration.
 - (b) The existing aquatic base flow values for summer, spring, fall and winter.
 - (c) Hydrologic and hydrogeologic studies quantifying and qualifying the groundwater flows.
 - (d) Maximum, minimum and average demand expected from the withdrawal or alteration.
2. A species inventory addressing aquatic resources and community structure may be required for the project area; scope of work must be approved by the OWR.
3. A comprehensive description of proposed methodology of irrigation and pesticide/herbicide application.
4. A narrative describing impacts to all state waters associated with the project and surrounding area.

Filling of Waters of the State

1. Site plans must include the following:
 - (a) The existing and proposed physical site conditions.
 - (b) Mean high and mean low water elevations.
 - (c) The datum used to reference all grades and depths.
2. A species inventory addressing aquatic resources and community structure. The scope of work must be approved by the OWR prior to performing the inventory.
3. A narrative report including:
 - (a) Analysis of the existing uses of the area and discussion of any changes that will result due to the project.
 - (b) A description of the need for the filling and a discussion of the alternatives to filling that were investigated.
4. Proposed mitigation to filling and resulting impacts.
5. Calculations showing the proposed volume of fill.

Site Disturbances

1. Calculations for the stormwater management system verifying the proposed system provides a minimum removal rate of 80% of total suspended solids (TSS).
2. All proposed sediment and erosion control measures.
3. Stormwater management plan consistent with the requirements of the RI Stormwater Design and Installation Manual.
4. A maintenance plan and schedule for the stormwater system.
5. A commitment to long-term maintenance of the system to be signed by person or persons responsible for the long-term maintenance.
6. An approved sewage treatment or disposal method (ISDS or sewer tie-in approval).
7. A Pollutant Loading Analysis may be required for projects discharging stormwater.

NOTE

Additional information may be requested on a site and project specific basis. The information listed above are minimum requirements for project review.