

DNR PERMIT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY FY 2015

DNR completes an annual Environmental Permit Performance Report at the end of each fiscal year. Some highlights from their 8/1/15 report (for fiscal year 2015) are summarized below.

- DNR manages several permit programs; the # of permits received in FY 2015 by category were:
 - 5,094 - Aquatic Plant Management (this permit program will be migrated to the MN Permitting & Reporting System in 2016 & 2017)
 - 1,454 - Water Appropriations
 - 1,101 - Public Waters Work
 - 34 - Endangered Species Takings
 - 7 - Mine (iron ore & taconite)
 - 0 - Mine (non-ferrous metallic minerals)
 - 1 - Mine (peat)
- DNR's goal is to approve or deny permit applications within 150 days of receiving an initial application.
- DNR is in the processing of determining which of its permit categories may be placed in a category subject to a 90 day permitting goal.
- For fiscal year 2015, DNR:
 - Had 961 permits in progress as of 1/1/14
 - Received 7,691 new applications
 - Approved or denied 7,583 applications
 - Had 327 applications withdrawn
 - Carried over 708 "in progress" permits after 6/30/15
 - 95% (of 7,173 permits) were approved or denied within 150 days of receiving an initial application
 - 98% (of 7,481 permits) were approved or denied within 150 days of receiving a complete application
 - 122 permits (<2%) took longer than 150 days to issue from a complete application
 - The median days to make a permit decision on new applications ranged from 18 to 33, depending on the type of permit
 - The median days to make a permit decision on permit modifications ranged from 5 to 14 days, with the exception of taconite/iron ore permits, which averaged 206 days
- Reasons why permits, across all categories, were not approved or denied within 150 days *of a completed application*, in order of frequency (more than 1 cause could apply per application):
 - Lack of staff
 - Scientific/technical disagreement
 - Other (lack of cooperation from previous/adjacent landowners, coordination amongst multiple staff members/agencies, management decision was needed prior to authorization, summer site visit needed, significant additional review & applicant meetings, at the request of the applicant, after-the-fact authorization, added time needed to verify resource impacts, evaluated impacts of infested waters, work couldn't be authorized until after fisheries exclusion date, had to wait on environmental review decision, or application received after 8/14 deadline for 2015 approval)
 - Responsiveness of the proposer

- Level of public engagement
- Outcome of permits, across all categories, that were not approved or denied within 150 days *of a completed application*, in order of frequency:
 - Issued (79%)
 - Amended (16%)
 - Transferred (4%)
 - Withdrawn (1%)

To review the full report, visit:

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/legislative/2015-permitting-efficiency-rpt.pdf>