

---

# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet

---



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

---

CO-28

2014

## **Process for Expedited Evaluation of Permit Applications Under Extraordinary Circumstances**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) seeks to provide timely and efficient review and evaluation of all permit applications received by its various programs. However, under certain limited and extraordinary circumstances, some applications may warrant an expedited evaluation. This fact sheet is intended to describe that option to potential applicants. The decision to expedite the processing of an application is made by the NHDES Commissioner, in consultation with the appropriate Division Director and program staff, in the exercise of the department's management functions and responsibilities.

Every decision to expedite permits is made based upon the following criteria. The project must:

- Further an important public interest, including but not limited to, protecting public safety, promoting economic development or improving environmental conditions; or
- Avoid significant hardship; or
- Demonstrate other good cause; and
- Not unreasonably disadvantage other applicants already in the queue.

To request an expedited review of an application, the applicant should send the request directly to the attention of the NHDES Commissioner, and should submit a copy of the request letter as the cover page when the full application is submitted to the appropriate NHDES permitting authority. The request letter should specifically address in detail the applicability of the first three criteria listed above. The request letter should be submitted concurrently with the delivery of the application and not in advance of the application's submittal.

All decisions rendered by the NHDES Commissioner will be provided in writing to the applicant, and a copy will also be given to the applicant's agent(s). To the extent practicable, the decision will be issued within five business days following receipt of the written request from the applicant. All such decisions are non-appealable.

This process does not, as a general matter, apply to emergency situations arising due to natural or man-made disasters. Special procedures for addressing emergency permitting approvals in the event of disasters are described at:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/storm/index.htm#cleanup>.

If there are questions concerning eligibility or submittal requirements, please contact Timothy Drew, Administrator, Public Information and Permitting Unit, at (603) 271-3306 or by email at [Timothy.Drew@des.nh.gov](mailto:Timothy.Drew@des.nh.gov).