

# DNR's proposed rules achieve regulatory streamlining

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Lawmakers and waterfront property owners told DNR they wanted **quicker, more consistent decisions** on permits for waterway projects. **These rules do that.**

In 2004, under similar temporary rules:

- **50% of projects no longer needed a permit or received a decision in 30 days or less.**  
Previously, most projects required individual permits and longer reviews, now only half do.

Lawmakers and waterfront property owners told DNR they wanted **concrete, written standards and predictable decisions. These rules do that.**

- The proposed rules provide clear design, location and construction specifications for property owners, developers and builders.
- When specifications are followed, **many projects can be exempt from permitting and any contact with DNR** or can receive a general permit with a 30-day review.

The rules **streamline permitting without rolling back protections** for navigable lakes and rivers. Projects not needing a DNR permit or qualifying for general permit with a 30-day review must still meet standards for their design, location and construction. The standards are the same scientifically based standards DNR typically included in the past as the conditions the property owner had to meet for DNR to issue the permit for their project in the first place.

People are complying. Spot checks of 68 projects in July and another 54 projects in November found:

- 100 percent of projects exempt from permitting met permit conditions.
- 78 percent of projects inspected in July, and 80 percent inspected in November, that qualified for general permits met permit conditions.
- 73 percent of projects inspected in July, and 85 percent in November, that required individual permits met permit conditions.

**WITH these proposed rules in place:**

## ***Project applicants...***

- will have more certainty
- will get faster DNR decisions
- will see property values maintained because projects are done properly to safeguard fishing, clean water, natural beauty and boating

## ***The State of Wisconsin...***

- will give fast, efficient service and will uphold its constitutional responsibility to protect public waters and citizens' rights to enjoy and use these waters.

## ***All Wisconsin citizens...***

- will enjoy their constitutional right and birthright to clean water, scenic beauty, fishing, boating, hunting and other water-based recreation
- will benefit from a \$12 billion tourism industry based on clean water and scenic beauty