

Professional Assurance Initiative: Wetland Delineation Apply At Any Time

You may apply at any time to have your wetland delineation work reviewed for assurance by the Department of Natural Resources for purposes of state permit decisions and state-required shoreland-wetland zoning.

Please supply the following:

1. Resume including education, training and work experience, relevant to wetland delineation
2. Reports of six (6) wetland delineations completed within the last 24 months of which four are problem or atypical sites and for which you are shown on field data sheets as field investigator and report author

Submit materials to Ms. Roberta Lund, WT/4
 P.O. Box 7921
 101 S. Webster Street, Madison, WI 53707- 7921

Education, Experience & Performance Criteria

Materials must demonstrate that the individual has the following minimum educational, training and experience requirements as well as the performance parameters for wetland delineations:

A. Education

Wetland delineation is an applied science that requires education, training, and experience to accurately assess the presence or absence of three parameters – hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and wetland hydrology. Based on the three-parameter nature of wetland delineation, WDNR recognizes that Professionally Assured Wetland Delineators will likely have a broad range of technical specialties. In order to maintain the highest level of environmental protection, the integrity of the profession, and the integrity of the program in the eyes of the public the following minimum educational, training, and experience requirements will apply for those seeking professional assurance:

1. Completion of the educational requirements leading to a college or university degree of Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Arts, or equivalent or higher degree that includes sufficient emphasis on one or more of the wetland parameters. For example:
 - a. Biological Sciences (Ecology, Botany, Limnology, Wildlife Biology, Fisheries Biology, Conservation Biology, etc.);
 - b. Soil Science, Geology or other similar physical science;
 - c. Hydrology; or
 - d. Other similar programs which may include but not be limited to Natural Resource Management, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Engineering, Urban and Rural Planning and Landscape Architecture, provided the applicant submits documentation of coursework in botany, biology, soil science and/or hydrology. Documentation needs to include course titles, names of institutions, and years completed. Coursework includes introductory and mid-level or advanced courses.

2. Completion of a 40-hour wetland delineation training course that is based on the 1987 COE Manual and related guidance, e.g., “Reg IV” training or an equivalent course offered by a government agency or a reputable private firm, as long as the course focuses on Wisconsin wetlands. Due to the uniqueness of, and delineation challenges created by the Wisconsin landscape, the State of Wisconsin Basic and Advanced Wetland Training Workshops or Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory IV held in Wisconsin are strongly recommended.

B. Experience

Professional assurance requires a minimum of five (5) years of full-time professional experience during which the applicant’s primary focus was wetland science. Experience begins following conferral of the FIRST relevant degree at a baccalaureate or higher level. Full-time work experience is defined as a minimum 75% of daily/weekly/monthly duties devoted specifically to wetland science. Work experience below the 75% threshold will be credited on a pro-rated basis. Relevant experience must be gained within ten (10) years prior to applying for professional assurance.

C. Work Product

For work to be assured, delineations must demonstrate proficiency in applying the 1987 COE Manual and related guidance. Delineations will be evaluated as follows:

The individual who is applying must be shown as the primary individual who conducted the fieldwork and authored the report. Delineations must have been completed within the 24 months preceding the application. The sample delineations must include two of each of the following types of sites as defined by the 1987 COE Manual, and the sites chosen should reflect wetlands commonly found within the geographical range(s) where the delineator works.

- 1) Atypical Situations are areas where one or more field indicators of wetlands have been obscured by some recent change.
- 2) Problem Area wetlands are wetlands that are inherently difficult to identify because field indicators of one or more wetland parameters may be absent or misleading, at least at certain times of the year.

Field delineations must consistently demonstrate proper application of the 1987 COE Manual and related guidance documents. Reports must contain enough technical information to completely and accurately reflect field conditions and methodology used to interpret soils, hydrology and plant species information gathered as part of a boundary determination according to the 1987 COE Manual and related guidance documents. Significant mistakes or omissions, including missing wetlands on a particular site, will result in a decision not to assure wetland delineation work.

Delineation reports of individuals who meet the education, training and experience criteria, and who submit six delineation reports of the appropriate types, will be reviewed by a panel of state, federal or local agency experts in wetland delineation with a range of specialized expertise in botany, soils and hydrology. The panel may not include members who compete for clients with consultants. The panel follows specific written instructions to achieve consistent review.