

## Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

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# Act 150 & the Environmental Notice Bulletin - Version 2

In May 2016 the Vermont State Legislature adopted Act 150, a law that requires the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to standardize public notice and comment procedures for permits that it issues. The law consolidated dozens of different notice and comment processes to five standard processes. While not all DEC permits fall under Act 150, the majority of DEC's permits, corrective action plans, dam safety orders, and registrations will fall into one of the standardized notice and comment types established by the law. Consolidating notice and comment permit procedures across DEC programs offers a clear, predictable and consistent permit process. This is a benefit to the permit applicant and all interested parties including members of the public.

## What's different?

For DEC to comply with Act 150, two major tasks were completed. One of which was to identify and assign over 80 different permits to one of the five newly defined permit types under the law. The second action was to redesign and enhance the DEC's existing Electronic Notice Bulletin that will be launched under a new user-friendly platform we're calling ENB2. Eventually replacing the current Environmental Notice Bulletin, ENB2 offers a public-facing, interactive website that increases transparency, facilitates public engagement, and provides clarity and certainty to the permit review process across all the DEC. Permit applicants and interested parties can expect standard:

- Noticing for key steps in the review process,
- Mechanism to easily request notices,
- Length of comment periods, and
- Permit review documentation

Most permit types include three key steps of review. These steps include 1) Notice of an Administratively Complete Application, 2) Draft Decision/Public Comment, and 3) Final Decision. After the public comment period has closed, a Final Decision will be issued, and an Appeal Period of 30 days will follow. This will provide consistency and transparency to the entire permit process for both the applicant and any interested parties from the general public.



## What are the benefits?

By consolidating DEC permits into five standard types of noticing, applicants and interested parties can:

- Engage directly with permits issued in your town;
- Follow development projects that interest you;
- Follow how permitting protects natural resources;
- Track the Public Notice Process across DEC programs;
- Receive email notifications based on location or category;
- Provide comments on a permit;
- Request a public meeting; and
- Follow the activity step-by-step throughout review process.

				Project/A	Activity Description			Pittsburg	
ENE	BID PN17.000378	3			st renew discharge permit for hydro	Map S	Satellite		
Activity T	ype Wastewater D	)ischarge Individ	lual Permit		c facility		4363	10 C 1 2	
Perr	mit# 3-1523.1703	3-1523.1703							
Activity Na	ame Ampersand G	Ampersand Gilman Hydro, LP					Greensboro		
Addr	ess 2 Riverside Av	2 Riverside Ave				To be init			
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#### When did permits start to follow Act 150?

Act 150 standard notice and comment procedures and the launch of the new ENB began on **January 1, 2018**. Permit applications deemed administratively complete after that date are covered by Act 150 and will follow the new notice and comment procedures.

**Please visit our websites:** <u>http://dec.vermont.gov/permits/enb</u> for additional information and <u>enb.vermont.gov</u> to search the ENB.