



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
GOVERNMENT RECORDS REQUEST FORM



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please read this entire form carefully as it contains important information concerning the response to your record request, accessing records, disputing denials, and your rights concerning government records. For further information, access WWW.NJ.GOV/DEPIOPRA.

Requestor Information

First Name:	MI	Last Name	
Company:			
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	Email:
Business Telephone:		Extension	
Facsimile Telephone:			

State Use Only

Tracking #	
Received Date	
Access Method	
<p>All matters relating to the response and access of any records identified for this request should be directed to:</p> <p>NJDEP – Office of Record Access 401 East State Street PO Box 420 Mail Code 401-06Q Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420 Tele #: (609) 341-3121 Fax #: (609) 292-1177</p>	

Record Request Details: *Please be as specific as possible in describing the records being requested. Note that your preferred method of delivery will only be accommodated if the custodian has the technological means and the integrity of the records will not be jeopardized by such method of delivery.*

Disposition Notes	Record Request Response	
	In Progress	- Open
	Filled	- Closed
	Denied	- Closed
	Partial	- Closed
Addendum Disposition Notes:		
	Custodian Signature	Date

Required Certifications

1. I **HAVE** / **HAVE NOT** been convicted of any indictable offense under the laws of New Jersey or any other state of the United States?
(response under penalty of N.J.S.A. 2C:28-3):

2. I, or another person, **WILL** / **WILL NOT** use the requested records for a commercial purpose.

3. I **AM** / **AM NOT** seeking records in connection with a legal proceeding.

If you are, specify the legal proceeding (i.e., Case Caption, Docket Number): _____

Information Regarding the Requested Records

If your request is in reference to a single facility, please provide the name of the facility, and the name of the operator name of the facility:	Facility Name: Operator Name:	
Please provide the owner name the facility or parcel of land:	Owner Name:	
If your request is in reference to a specific parcel of land, please provide the street address, block, lot and property owner of the parcel of land: (Note: if the property in question is over multiple blocks and lots, please list all in the description field below)	Street Address 1: Street Address 2: Block: Lot:	
If your request is in reference to a facility, site or parcel of land, please provide the Municipality and County where the facility, site or parcel of land is located:	County: Municipality:	
If the request is in reference to a particular permit issued by NJDEP, please provide the type of permit and any identifying numbers such as permit, incident or case numbers. (i.e. Fishing, Hunting, Hazardous Waste, Solid Waste, Land Use, NJPDES, Pesticides, Stream Encroachment, TWA, UST, Water Allocation)	List Permit Type:	List ID Numbers:
If your request is in reference to an individual, please provide the individual's name and type, and if the individual is a DEP employee, your relationship with the individual:	Individual's name: Type of Individual: Relationship:	
If the an individual was specified above, the individual was DEP Licensed, please specify the license type the individual holds:	License Type:	

Revised Addendum Disposition Notes:

--

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has responded to your submitted Open Public Records Act (OPRA) record request. The following information will help you understand the response and your next available actions.

Tracking #: This is the Department's assigned Tracking # to your OPRA record request, which should be used in all corresponding matters.

Record Request Response:

- **In Progress** – Based on the nature of the request, the records sought, and/or the manner to which the records may exist, the Department requires additional time to investigate and respond to the request.
- **Filled** – Based on the information provided in your request, the Department was able to investigate and respond to your record request.
- **Denied** – Based on the nature of the request and/or the records sought, the Department has denied your request pursuant to a specific exemption(s) cited in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 seq.
- **Partial** – The Department has identified both responsive government records and records being denied based on the nature of the request and/or the records sought, that do not meet the definition of a government record pursuant to a specific exemption(s) cited in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 seq.

Disposition Notes: Provides detailed information concerning the Department's response to your request.

Accessing Records: Dependent on the volume of records and your interest, there are five (5) methods available to access the responsive government records:

- **File Review** – Schedule a file review with the Department to directly access the records and take notes or tag records of interest for copying. Copying can be performed by either the Department's onsite Copying Unit at State duplication fee costs or by the requester employing a Copy Vendor Service. If there are records stored in archives, a five-day processing period will be included prior to scheduling a review.
- **Copy Request** – All records of interest will be copied by the Department's onsite Copying Unit at State duplication fee costs unless a Copy Vendor Service is employed.
- **Electronic Records Request** – Dependent on the size & nature of the e-records, the Department will either email the records, provide them via a file sharing transfer site, or on a CD/DVD.
- **Fax Request** – Based on the number of pages, the Department faxes the responsive records.
- **Web Access** – The responsive records can be accessed directly through the Department's web site. Web address will be provided.

Fees: The fees for duplication of a government record are specified below. The Department will notify you of any special service charges or additional charges authorized by State law or regulation before processing your request. Payment shall be made either through an online portal or by check or money order payable to the "State of New Jersey" and mailed to the address specified on the invoice.

Hard Copies:

Letter & Legal Size = \$0.05 per page
Oversized Maps (B&W) = \$3.00 per map
Oversized Maps (Color) = \$5.00 per map

Electronic Records Media:

CD = \$0.55 per CD
DVD = \$0.55 per DVD

Resolution of Disputed Findings: If a requester does not agree with the Department's record response, the requester should:

No Records - Reexamined the request details to evaluate if all of the information was provided that could aid the Department in locating records. The Department's ability to identify records of interest is in direct correlation to matching the Department information with the information provided on the request. Such important identifiers are Facility/Site Name, Address, Case #, Permit #, Block/Lot.

Denial - If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the time permitted by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the Department to deny access. The Department denies access to records only when those records do not meet the definition of a government record and/or public access is not allowed pursuant to the law. At your option, you may either:

- a. Contact the Office of Record Access to re-visit the matter or provide further explanation.
- b. Institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey.
- c. File a complaint in writing with the Government Records Council (GRC). You may contact the GRC by toll-free telephone at 866-850-0511, by mail at 101 S. Broad Street, PO Box 819, Trenton, NJ 08625-0819, by email at Government.Records@dca.nj.gov, or at their website at www.nj.gov/grc. The GRC can also respond to other questions about the law.

1. All “government records” as defined in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1 are subject to public access under the Open Public Records Act (“OPRA”), unless specifically exempt.
2. A request for access to a government record under OPRA must be in writing, hand-delivered, mailed, transmitted electronically, or otherwise conveyed to the appropriate custodian. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g). In accordance with OPRA, custodians will generally have seven (7) business days to respond, unless:
 - The requestor seeks “immediate access” records as outlined in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(e); where the custodian must respond “immediately” disclosing responsive records not to exceed twenty-four (24) months old.
 - The requestor seeks information required to be disclosed by N.J.S.A. 47:1A-3(b), where the custodian must respond disclosing the information within twenty-four (24) hours or as a soon as practical;
 - The requestor is seeking records for a “commercial purpose” as defined in N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1, where the response time frame is fourteen (14) business days, but the custodian shall notify the requestor of the additional time within seven (7) business days. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i). However, the response time frame can be reduced to seven (7) business days upon payment of no more than two times the cost to produce the responsive records.
 - The requestor is seeking records requiring review for compliance with “Daniel’s Law” (N.J.S.A. 47:1B-1, *et seq.*), where the response time frame is fourteen (14) business days, but the custodian shall notify the requestor of the additional time within seven (7) business days. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i).
 - Fire district employing one or fewer full-time employees serving as custodians may add seven (7) business days to the seven (7) or fourteen (14) business day response time frames.

The applicable response time does not commence until the custodian receives the request form. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(h). If you submit the request form to any other officer or employee, the recipient must either forward the request to the appropriate custodian or direct you to the appropriate custodian. Id.

3. Requestors are not required to use this OPRA request form; however, a written equivalent not containing the form requirements of N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(f) and N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g) may be denied by a custodian.
4. Requestors may submit requests anonymously. A request submitted anonymously shall not be considered incomplete. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(f). If you elect not to identify yourself accurately or provide an accurate address, e-mail address, or telephone number, the custodian is not required to respond until you reappear before the custodian seeking a response to the original request. Further, anonymous requestors are prohibited from filing a complaint with either the GRC or the Courts. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-6.
5. The fees for duplication of a “government record” in printed form are listed on page 3 of this form. The custodian will notify you of any special service charges or other additional charges authorized by State law or regulation before processing your request. Payment shall be made by cash, check or money order payable to the responding agency.
6. You may be charged a prepayment or deposit when a request for copies exceeds \$5.00. The custodian will contact you and advise you of any deposit requirements. You agree to pay the balance due upon delivery of the records.
7. Under OPRA, a custodian must deny access to a person who has been convicted of an indictable offense in New Jersey, any other state, or the United States, and who is seeking government records containing personal information pertaining to the person’s victim or the victim’s family. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-2.2. This includes anonymous requests for said information.
8. By law, the responding agency must notify you that it grants or denies a request for access to government records within applicable response time frame after the custodian receives the request. If the record requested is in storage, the custodian will advise you within seven (7) or fourteen (14) business days after receipt of the request when the record can be made available and the estimated cost for reproduction within no more than twenty-one (21) business days from date of notification. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i).
9. You may be denied access to a government record if your request would substantially disrupt agency operations and the custodian is unable to reach a reasonable solution with you. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g).
10. If the custodian is unable to comply with your request for access to a government record, they will indicate the specific bases for denial on the request form or other written correspondence and send it to you.
11. Except as otherwise provided by law or by agreement with the requester, if the custodian fails to respond to you in writing within seven (7) or fourteen (14) business days of receiving a request, the failure to respond is a deemed denial of your request. N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(g); N.J.S.A. 47:1A-5(i).
12. If your request for access to a government record has been denied or unfilled within the seven (7) or fourteen (14) business days required by law, you have a right to challenge the decision by the responding agency to deny access. At your option, you may either: 1) institute a proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey; or 2) file a complaint with the Government Records Council (“GRC”) by completing the Denial of Access Complaint Form. All questions regarding complaints filed in Superior Court should be directed to the Court Clerk in your County. Questions regarding the GRC’s Denial of Access Complaint process can directed to the GRC toll-free telephone at 866-850-0511, by mail at PO Box 819, Trenton, NJ, 08625, by e-mail at Government.Records@dca.nj.gov, or at their web site at www.state.nj.us/grc. The Council can answer general inquiries about OPRA.
13. Information provided on this form may be subject to disclosure under the Open Public Records Act.