

Bureau of Water Allocation & Well Permitting Construction Related Dewatering Guidance

Various permits and approvals may be required for construction related dewatering activities from the Well Permitting and Water Allocation Permitting sections in the Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting. Permits required are site and project specific.

Well Permitting

An approved Well Permit is required for dewatering wells or dewatering well points which are 25 feet or more in total depth or are 6 inches or more in borehole diameter. All drilling activity shall be performed and completed by a New Jersey licensed well driller of the proper class. N.J.A.C. 7:9D – 1.11(g) 5.

Water Allocation

If construction related water use (including horizontal directional drilling, well and/or trench dewatering) is required at rates exceeding 70 gallons per minute pumping capacity from a single source or combination of sources in the same municipality, then that activity would be regulated. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:19-1.4(c) and N.J.A.C. 7:19-1.6(f), potential regulatory mechanisms include **only one** of the following:

Diversion of more than 100,000 gallons of water per day for less than 31 days in a consecutive 365-day period- Short Term Water Use Permit-by-Rule (BWA-003) /Short Term Water Use Report (BWA-004), N.J.A.C. 7:19 – 2.17(a). **Be advised that this form cannot be utilized to initiate a dewatering project that is awaiting or requires approval of a Temporary Dewatering Permit (Permit). If dewatering exceeds 30 days, the diversion must cease until a Permit is obtained.**

Diversion of more than 100,000 gallons of water per day from a confined area/space (all sidewalls closed) or coffer dam – Dewatering Permit-by-Rule (BWA-005), N.J.A.C. 7:19 – 2.17(b).

Diversion of more than 100,000 gallons of water per day for more than 30 days in a consecutive 365 day period – Temporary Dewatering Permit (BWA-002), N.J.A.C. 7:19 – 2.3.

Diversion of less than or equal to 100,000 gallons of water per day at pumping rates exceeding 70 gpm – Water Use Registration (DWR-188), N.J.A.C. 7:19 – 2.18.

In addition –

Pipeline pressure testing – water used for pressure testing pipeline segments has historically been done under a Short Term Water Use Permit-by-Rule (BWA-003)/Short Term Water Use Report (BWA-004), N.J.A.C. 7:19 –2.17(a).

Applicability – If the project is located in close proximity to a salt water body (ocean, bay, coastal river, salt water marsh) the native ground water and water in the adjacent water body should be checked for: chlorides and salinity. Water Allocation Permitting does not apply to diversions of salt water except where the Department determines that the diversion and the resultant usage may affect utilization of fresh water in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:19 –1.4(a)2. Salt water is defined as water containing a chloride concentration in excess of 10,000 mg/L. N.J.A.C. 7:19-1.3

For additional information see – www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply

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