

**CLARIFICATION****DNR DISPOSAL SITE USE PERMIT ACQUISITION PROTOCOL**

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**INTRODUCTION**

To dispose of dredged material at a PSDDA open-water disposal site, a dredging proponent needs to obtain a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) disposal site use permit. This land use authorization is a contractual agreement between the permittee and the State which identifies, among other things, the disposal site, the period of authorized use, positioning and reporting requirements, and disposal site use fees and payment schedules. From the time that an applicant submits a site use permit application and the \$2000.00 non-refundable permit fee, the Department requires four to six weeks to process and execute the permit.

**PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION**

Since PSDDA implementation, numerous dredgers (and their agents) have submitted applications to obtain DNR disposal site use permits within a week or two of their target dredging date. DNR has been responsive in these instances, but this practice cannot continue, especially given the increasing number of permit applications received each dredging year. One objective of this clarification is to remind the regulated community that DNR requires a minimum of four weeks to process a site use permit.

**PROPOSED ACTION/MODIFICATION**

To help effect a more timely submittal of DNR permit applications, DNR will modify its fee payment requirements beginning in June 1993 (Dredging Year 1994). The \$2000.00 non-refundable fee will no longer need to be submitted with the permit application. Instead, DNR will accept disposal site permit applications without the initial fee anytime following documentation of the required PSDDA suitability decision. DNR will completely process the permits minus the Department's final signature. Then, upon receipt of the \$2000.00 non-refundable fee, the document will be executed. It is hoped that this procedural change will allow proponents to apply for disposal site use permits well in advance of their anticipated dredging/disposal dates without risking the initial permit fee.

This modification will be detailed in a revised DNR site use permit application form which will be available in May 1993.