
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 487 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY VOGEL, MCGARRIGLE, YAW, RESCHENTHALER, FOLMER,
HUTCHINSON, MENSCH, WHITE, RAFFERTY, YUDICHAK, WARD,
VULAKOVICH, BARTOLOTTA, STEFANO AND SCARNATI, MARCH 6, 2017

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MARCH 6, 2017

AN ACT

1 Imposing a duty on the Department of Environmental Protection to
2 maintain a system for applicants to track the status of
3 certain permit applications; and providing for permit
4 notifications.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Pennsylvania
9 Permit Tracking and Notification Law.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Applicant." An individual, partnership, association,
15 company, corporation, municipality, municipal authority,
16 political subdivision or an agency of Federal or State
17 government that submits an application for a permit to conduct
18 an activity authorized by the department.

1 "Application manager." The specific department staff member
2 who is responsible for the processing of an application and is
3 the primary contact for the project review.

4 "Complete and technically adequate application." An
5 application package that includes all necessary documents and
6 information and is provided in sufficient detail to perform a
7 technical review.

8 "Completeness review." A process by which department staff
9 review applications to determine if the applications are
10 complete and technically adequate and comply with applicable
11 regulatory and statutory requirements.

12 "Department." The Department of Environmental Protection of
13 the Commonwealth.

14 "Permit." Authorization issued by the department or under a
15 delegated agreement by the department giving approval to perform
16 a regulated activity. The term includes a permit, plan approval
17 and registration under a general permit. The definition does not
18 include a certification or license.

19 "Processing time." The total number of business days
20 allowed, whether by statute, regulation or department policy,
21 beginning with the acceptance of a complete and technically
22 adequate application and ending with the final action by the
23 department. The length of time does not begin until the
24 application passes completeness review and the application is
25 determined to be complete and technically adequate.

26 "Project." A permit required by the department for any of
27 the following:

28 (1) Construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural
29 alteration, relocation or enlargement of a building or other
30 structure.

1 (2) Site preparation, including grading, earth moving
2 activities, clearance, soil removal or movement, timber
3 harvesting relocation, excavation, landfill and moving,
4 depositing or storing soil, rock or earth materials.

5 (3) Use or change in the use of a building or other
6 structure or change in land use.

7 (4) Land development, as defined in section 107 of the
8 act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the
9 Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, or land use.

10 (5) Demolition, moving or removing a building or other
11 structure.

12 "Technical review." A review of the technical aspects of a
13 permit application to determine if the permit application meets
14 regulatory and statutory requirements for permit issuance.

15 Section 3. Permit tracking.

16 The department shall maintain a secure system available to
17 applicants for tracking the status of permit applications on the
18 department's publicly accessible Internet website. The system
19 shall include:

20 (1) The processing time provided for each permit and a
21 citation of relevant statutory, regulatory or department
22 policy establishing the processing time.

23 (2) The dates associated with receipt, completeness
24 review, technical review, elevated review process, if
25 necessary, and final permit decision.

26 (3) An estimate of time remaining for each incomplete
27 phase of the approval process.

28 (4) Identification of the application manager and
29 appropriate contact information for department staff assigned
30 to answer relevant applicant questions.

1 Section 4. Permit notifications.

2 The department shall provide electronic notifications to
3 permit holders 60 days before the permit's expiration date and
4 when there are changes in:

5 (1) Statutes or regulations that impact the permit.

6 (2) Permit fees that affect the renewal of a permit.

7 Section 5. Prior permits.

8 A project permit issued prior to the effective date of a
9 statute or regulation altering the requirements for the same
10 project permit shall remain valid under the provisions by which
11 the permit was granted until the project is completed.

12 Section 6. Effective date.

13 This act shall take effect in 60 days.