



State of Wisconsin  
2011 - 2012 LEGISLATURE



LRB-3586/1  
RNK&MGG:cjs:rs

## 2011 ASSEMBLY BILL 421

December 7, 2011 – Introduced by Representative MURSAU, cosponsored by Senator KEDZIE. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1     **AN ACT** *to repeal* 30.12 (1k) (b) 1., 30.12 (1k) (b) 2., 30.12 (1k) (b) 3., 30.12 (1k)  
2           (c), 30.12 (1k) (d), 30.12 (3) (br), 30.123 (6) (a), 30.123 (7) (b), 30.1235, 30.19 (3r)  
3           (b), 30.20 (1t) (b), 30.206 (1g) and 30.206 (1m); **to renumber** 30.123 (7) (a) and  
4           30.19 (3r) (a); **to renumber and amend** 30.12 (1g) (f), 30.12 (1k) (b) (intro.),  
5           30.12 (3) (a) 6., 30.20 (1t) (a) and 30.208 (2); **to amend** 30.01 (1am) (c), 30.025  
6           (2), 30.10 (4) (a), 30.12 (1j) (c), 30.12 (1k) (cm) (intro.), 30.12 (1k) (cm) 1., 30.12  
7           (1k) (cm) 2., 30.12 (1k) (e) 2., 30.121 (3), 30.121 (3g), 30.121 (3r), 30.18 (4) (a),  
8           30.206 (1) (a), 30.2065 (3) (a) 1., 30.208 (3) (a), 30.208 (3) (b), 30.208 (3) (c),  
9           30.208 (3) (e), 30.208 (4) (a), 30.208 (5) (a) (intro.), 30.208 (5) (a) 1., 30.208 (5)  
10          (b) (intro.), 30.208 (5) (b) 4., 30.208 (5) (b) 5., 30.209 (2) (a), 30.209 (2) (b), 30.209  
11          (2) (c), 30.209 (2) (d) (intro.), 30.2095 (1) (b), 84.01 (23), 227.01 (13) (rt), 281.344  
12          (9) (b) 1. a., 281.346 (9) (b) 1. a., 283.39 (1) (a), 283.53 (1), 285.61 (5) (c), 285.62  
13          (3) (c), 285.76 (2) (a), 289.25 (3), 289.31 (4) (a), 289.41 (1m) (g) 1., 291.87 (3),  
14          291.87 (6) (a) and 292.31 (3) (f); **to repeal and recreate** 299.05; and **to create**

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1 30.102, 30.106, 30.11 (4m), 30.12 (1h), 30.12 (3) (a) 6. c., 30.12 (3) (a) 14., 30.12  
2 (3) (d), 30.121 (1), 30.121 (3c), 30.123 (7) (d), 30.19 (1m) (f), 30.19 (1m) (g), 30.20  
3 (1g) (b) 3., 30.20 (1t) (a) 2., 30.20 (1t) (a) 3., 30.206 (1) (am) and (ar), 30.206 (1)  
4 (b), 30.206 (1r), 30.206 (2b), 30.206 (2m), 30.208 (2) (d), 30.208 (3) (f), 30.208  
5 (4m), 30.209 (2) (e), 31.12 (5), 281.41 (5), 285.63 (11), 299.06 and 299.17 of the  
6 statutes; **relating to:** the issuance of, and exemptions from, certain individual  
7 permits, contracts, and general permits for structures, deposits, and other  
8 activities in or near navigable waters; areas of significant scientific value that  
9 are areas of special natural resource interest; repair and maintenance of  
10 boathouses and fixed houseboats; information required to be published on the  
11 Department of Natural Resources Internet Web site; expedited procedures for  
12 certain plan approvals; deadlines for action on certain approval applications;  
13 and granting rule-making authority.

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***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulates certain activities that occur in or near navigable waterways. DNR also administers environmental laws, including laws relating to air and water quality.

**REGULATION OF ACTIVITIES IN OR NEAR NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS**

In order for a person to conduct an activity in or near a navigable waterway, the person may be required to obtain one or more permits from DNR. Among the permits that DNR issues are permits to place structures or deposit material into navigable waters, and permits to remove material from the beds of navigable waters. Under current law, some activities are exempted from these permitting requirements, some activities require that the person be issued an individual permit for the activity, and some activities are authorized under general permits. Under current law, a person must seek authorization from DNR to proceed under a general permit. If DNR does not inform the person within a certain time frame that an individual permit is required, the person may conduct the activity pursuant to the general permit. DNR may also require that a person be issued an individual permit for an exempt activity or for an activity authorized under a general permit under certain circumstances.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 421*****Procedures in issuing individual permits***

In issuing an individual permit, DNR reviews the application, determines whether it is complete, and notifies the applicant within 30 days after receiving the application whether the application is complete (30-day review period). If the application is incomplete, the applicant may supplement the application, but DNR may not demand items of information that are not specified in the notice as a condition for determining whether the application is complete, with limited exceptions. Current law imposes no time limits on this process for determining whether an application is complete other than the 30-day review period.

Once DNR determines the application is complete, current law imposes time limits on the notice and public hearing procedures that apply to the application. Within 15 days, DNR must provide notice to the public that the application is complete (application notice). If the applicant has requested a public hearing as part of the application, a notice of public hearing must be included in the application notice.

If the application notice does not contain a notice of public hearing, any person may request a public hearing, or DNR may decide on its own to hold a public hearing if DNR determines that there is a significant public interest in holding a hearing. The public hearing request must be submitted by the interested person, or DNR's decision to hold a public hearing must occur, within 30 days after DNR provides the application notice. Within 15 days after the public hearing request is submitted by an interested person or DNR makes its decision, DNR must give notice of the public hearing (separate notice of hearing). DNR must hold the hearing within 30 days after the notice of public hearing is issued either as part of the application notice or as an independent separate notice of hearing.

Also, DNR must provide a period to receive public comments. This period lasts for 30 days after the date on which DNR provides notice to the public that the application is complete or for ten days after the date that a public hearing ends, if one is held. Within 30 days after the public hearing is held or, if no public hearing is held, within 30 days of the 30-day comment period, DNR must render a decision either to issue or not to issue the individual permit or contract.

Under the bill, the time limits for giving application notice and notice of public hearing are not totally dependent on the date that the application is determined by DNR to be complete. If, upon reviewing the application, DNR determines that the application is complete and that no additional information is needed, DNR must notify the applicant of that fact within the 30-day review period. The date on which this notice is sent triggers the time limits for the public hearing process and for receiving public comments.

If DNR determines that the application is not complete, it may make only one request for additional information during the 30-day review period. There is no time limit on the applicant for providing the additional information but once it is submitted, DNR must notify the applicant within ten days as to whether the application is complete. Even if the application is not complete, the date on which this second notice is sent triggers the time limits for the public hearing process and for receiving public comments. Under the bill, the term used for such a date that

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triggers the time limits is “date of closure.” DNR may ask for information to supplement the one-time request for information, but such a request may not affect the date of closure.

The bill shortens the 30-day time period for an interested party to request a public hearing or for DNR to make a decision on its own to hold a public hearing to 20 days.

Under the bill, if DNR fails to comply with 30-day and ten-day time limits relating to determining whether an application is complete, the date of closure shall be the last day of the 30-day or ten-day time period. If DNR fails to comply with the time limits relating to the public hearing and comment process, the application for the permit or contract shall be considered to have been approved.

***Procedures in issuing general permits***

Under current law, DNR is required to issue by rule statewide general permits authorizing placement of certain structures and deposits in navigable waters, the construction and maintenance of certain bridges, enlargement and connection of waterways, and removal of material from the beds of navigable waters. Current law allows DNR to issue general permits for certain other waterway activities.

Under this bill, DNR must reissue the four required statewide general permits for these waterway activities without using the rule-making process. The permits that were issued by rule will remain in effect until the new permits are issued. The bill also gives DNR authority to issue a general permit outside of the rule-making process for any other waterway activity for which an individual permit is issued.

The bill requires DNR to circulate a public notice of its intention to issue a general permit. This includes a procedure for circulating the notice, for receiving comments, and holding a public hearing. These procedures are in lieu of those that occur under the rule-making process. Under the procedures, DNR must provide up to 30 days after the date of the public notice for interested persons to submit written comments on the proposed general permit and must hold a public hearing if a request for a public hearing is received within 30 days of the circulation of the notice and DNR determines that there is significant public interest in holding a public hearing.

***Piers and wharves***

This bill modifies current law under which a waterfront property owner (riparian owner) may obtain an exemption to the general permit requirement for placing a pier or wharf on the bed of a navigable water. Under current law, in order for the permit exemption to apply, the pier or wharf may not be in an area of special natural resource interest, may not extend beyond a specified point, may not interfere with the riparian rights of other riparian owners, and may only have a specified number of boat slips. Current law also specifies that for the exemption to apply, the pier or wharf must comply with width limitations except that the pier may have an area as a loading platform that exceeds these limitations if the platform meets certain other size and configuration requirements.

The bill changes the size and configuration requirements for loading platforms on piers. Under the bill, a loading platform meets the exemption requirements, regardless of its configuration, as long as the surface area of the platform does not exceed 200 square feet. The bill also provides that a riparian owner may secure a

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specified number of personal watercraft to a pier without affecting the riparian owner's eligibility for the exemption.

Current law also grants an exemption to a riparian owner of a pier or wharf that was placed on the bed of a navigable water on or before February 6, 2004, if the pier or wharf meets certain size and configuration requirements and does not interfere with the riparian rights of other riparian owners and the riparian owner registers the pier or wharf with DNR no later than April 1, 2011 (grandfathering exemption).

This bill changes the grandfathering exemption so that any pier or wharf that was placed on the bed of a navigable water before the effective date of this bill is exempt from the permit requirement if the pier or wharf does not interfere with the riparian rights of other riparian owners. The bill eliminates the requirement that the pier or wharf be registered to be eligible for the grandfathering exemption.

Current law also prohibits DNR from taking any enforcement action against a riparian owner (enforcement exemption) for the placement of a pier, wharf, boat shelter, boat hoist, or boat lift (structure) on the bed of a navigable water before February 6, 2004, if DNR issued a permit or written authorization for the structure before that date and the structure is in compliance with the permit or authorization. This bill provides that the enforcement exemption applies regardless of the date on which DNR issued the permit or written authorization for the structure provided that the structure is in compliance with the permit or authorization.

Current law also requires DNR to issue statewide general permits that allow a riparian owner to conduct certain activities on the bed of a navigable water. This bill requires DNR to issue a statewide general permit to allow a riparian owner to place a pier or wharf on the bed of a navigable water that is in, or that would directly affect, an area of special natural resource interest if the pier or wharf meets the requirements for an exemption for the placement of a pier by a riparian owner. The bill also specifies that DNR may impose conditions relating to a pier or wharf that is placed under the authority of a general permit but may not prohibit placement if the pier or wharf meets the requirements of the general permit.

***Placement of fill or structures within a bulkhead line***

Generally, under current law, no person may, without a permit, deposit any material or place any structure on the bed of a navigable water beyond a lawfully established bulkhead line. A bulkhead line is a shoreline established by a municipality by ordinance. Current law does not require a riparian owner to obtain an approval from DNR to deposit material or place a structure on the bed of a navigable water if the deposit or placement is made within a bulkhead line. This bill provides that a riparian owner may place additional fill or a structure on the filled portion of a bed of a navigable water within a bulkhead line for any purpose without obtaining an approval from DNR if the filled portion was filled before the effective date of this bill. The bill also provides that if the bed of a navigable water within a bulkhead line was not filled before the effective date of the bill, a riparian owner may place fill or a structure on the bed of the navigable water without obtaining an approval from DNR if the riparian owner places the fill or structure for a public purpose.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 421*****Land grading activities and removal of materials***

Current law prohibits, with certain exceptions, a person from engaging in construction, dredging, or enlargement activities with regard to certain artificial water bodies and navigable waterways without a permit. This bill creates an additional permit exemption. The bill allows a person to engage in land grading activity that is authorized under a stormwater discharge permit or under a permit issued by a county under a shoreland zoning ordinance.

Current law also requires, with certain exceptions, a person to have a permit in order to remove any material from the bed of a lake or navigable stream. This bill creates an additional exemption to the permit requirement for a removal of no more than a specified amount of material if the removal is necessary to allow access to place or remove a pier or wharf. The bill also requires the department to issue a general permit for the removal of a specified amount of material by a riparian owner for the purpose of placing or maintaining a boat lift and for the removal of not more than a specified amount of plant or animal deposits that impede navigation or access to a stream, inland lake, or outlying water.

***Bridges and culverts***

Under current law, a city, village, town, or county is exempt from the individual and general permitting requirements for the construction or reconstruction of a highway bridge. This bill repeals this exemption. Instead, DNR must issue a general permit authorizing the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of bridges and culverts that are part of a transportation project that is carried out under the direction and supervision of a city, village, town, or county

***Areas of special natural resource interest***

Under current law, certain exemptions for waterway activities do not apply in areas of special natural resource interest (ASNRI). Current law defines, for purposes of exempting certain waterway activities from the individual and permitting requirements, an ASNRI to be a state natural area, a trout stream or other surface water that is identified by DNR as being an outstanding or exceptional resource water, or an area that has significant scientific value as identified by DNR. DNR has identified by rule various areas as having significant scientific value, including wild rice waters, waters that contain endangered or threatened species, and coastal wetlands. This bill incorporates into the statutes most of these areas designated by rule as having significant scientific value and prohibits DNR from identifying waters other than the ones specified in the statutes.

**OTHER CHANGES*****Deadlines for action on certain approvals***

This bill makes various changes to procedures that DNR is required to follow in issuing certain licenses, permits, registrations, and other approvals (approvals).

Under current law, DNR is required to promulgate rules to establish periods within which it intends to approve or disapprove applications for most environmental approvals. Current law provides that if DNR fails to make a determination on an application within the specified period, DNR must refund the fees paid by the applicant for the approval.

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This bill specifies that for certain environmental approvals for which DNR establishes approval periods by rule, and for certain other environmental approvals for which a specific approval period is established in the bill, DNR must provide the applicant with written notice that the department has approved or disapproved the application, including the specific facts upon which any disapproval is based. The bill requires DNR to provide this notice before the expiration of the relevant approval period. The bill specifies that if DNR fails to provide this notice, DNR must refund the fees paid by the applicant and the applicant may seek administrative review of the application as if the application had been denied. The bill provides that for certain other approval applications, the failure to meet the deadline for approval or disapproval of an application constitutes approval of the application.

***Expedited procedures***

Under current law, a person to whom DNR issues a permit to construct a dam must submit specified documents and information to DNR including detailed plans and specifications for the proposed dam. Current law establishes a procedure under which DNR must examine this information and determine whether it is satisfactory or whether modifications are required before DNR approves the plans and specifications. Current law also establishes a procedure for the approval by DNR of plans for water and sewerage systems and sewage and refuse disposal plants (water and sewage plants). This bill requires DNR to establish an expedited procedure for the approval of plans for low hazard dams and for the approval of plans for water and sewerage plants.

***Internet publication***

Current law requires DNR to publish a newspaper notice containing specified information relating to certain laws that it administers. The types of notices that DNR must publish include notices of scheduled hearings, of the opportunity to submit a written comment, and of the opportunity to request a public hearing and notices that provide certain other information to the public. This bill allows DNR, instead of publishing these notices in the newspaper, to publish these notices on its Internet Web site.

This bill also requires DNR to publish on its Internet Web site any determination that it makes that a waterway is navigable or not navigable, any determination that it makes that identifies the ordinary high-water mark of a navigable water, and, to the greatest extent possible, the current status of any application filed with DNR for a permit, license, or other approval relating to navigable waters or the environment.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

1           **SECTION 1.** 30.01 (1am) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           30.01 (**1am**) (c) An area that possesses significant scientific value, as identified  
2 by the department under s. 30.106.

3           **SECTION 2.** 30.025 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

4           30.025 (**2**) HEARING. Once the applicant meets the requirements of sub. (1s) (a),  
5 the department may schedule the matter for a public hearing. Notice of the hearing  
6 shall be given to the applicant and shall be published as a class 1 notice under ch.  
7 985 or as a notice on the department's Internet Web site. The department may give  
8 such further notice as it deems proper, and shall give notice to persons requesting  
9 same. One copy of the application shall be available for public inspection at the office  
10 of the department, at least one copy in the regional office of the department, and at  
11 least one copy at the main public library, of the area affected. Notwithstanding s.  
12 227.42, the hearing shall be an informational hearing and may not be treated as a  
13 contested case hearing nor converted to a contested case hearing.

14           **SECTION 3.** 30.10 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

15           30.10 (**4**) (a) This section does not impair the powers granted by law ~~under s.~~  
16 ~~30.1235 or by other law~~ to municipalities to construct highway bridges, arches, or  
17 culverts over streams.

18           **SECTION 4.** 30.102 of the statutes is created to read:

19           **30.102 Web site information. (1) NAVIGABILITY DETERMINATION AND ORDINARY**  
20 **HIGH-WATER MARK IDENTIFICATION.** If the department makes a determination that a  
21 waterway is navigable or is not navigable or identifies the ordinary high-water mark  
22 of a navigable waterway, the department shall publish that information on the  
23 department's Internet Web site. Any person may rely on the information posted  
24 under this section as accurate. This section does not restrict the ability of a person  
25 to challenge the accuracy of the information posted under this section.



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1           **(2) APPLICATION STATUS.** To the greatest extent possible, the department shall  
2 publish on the department's Internet Web site the current status of any application  
3 filed with the department for a permit, license, or other approval under ch. 30. The  
4 information shall include notice of any hearing scheduled by the department with  
5 regard to the application.

6           **SECTION 5.** 30.106 of the statutes is created to read:

7           **30.106 Areas of significant scientific value.** In identifying areas that  
8 possess significant scientific value, the department may include only the following:

9           **(1)** Specific portions of waters that contain critical habitat for endangered or  
10 threatened species.

11           **(2)** Specific portions of waters that are immediately adjacent to an area that  
12 contains critical habitat for endangered or threatened species and that directly affect  
13 that habitat.

14           **(3)** Wild rice waters as identified in a written agreement between the  
15 department and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

16           **(4)** Waters in ecologically significant coastal wetlands along Lakes Michigan  
17 and Superior as identified in the most recent assessment conducted by the  
18 department.

19           **(5)** Rivers that are included in the national wild and scenic rivers system and  
20 rivers that are designated as wild rivers under s. 30.26.

21           **SECTION 6.** 30.11 (4m) of the statutes is created to read:

22           **30.11 (4m) PLACEMENT OF FILL AND STRUCTURES.** (a) A riparian owner may place  
23 additional fill or a structure on the filled portion of a bed of a navigable water within  
24 an established bulkhead line for any purpose without obtaining an approval under  
25 this chapter if the filled portion of the bed of the navigable water was filled before

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1 the effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], and the filled portion was  
2 not subject to a lease under s. 24.39 before the effective date of this paragraph ....  
3 [LRB inserts date].

4 (b) If the bed, or portion of a bed, of a navigable water within an established  
5 bulkhead line was not filled before the effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB  
6 inserts date], a riparian owner may place fill or a structure on the bed of that  
7 navigable water without obtaining an approval under this chapter if the riparian  
8 owner places the fill or the structure in a portion of the bed of the navigable water  
9 that was not subject to a lease under s. 24.39 before the effective date of this  
10 paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], and places the fill or structure for a public purpose.

11 **SECTION 7.** 30.12 (1g) (f) of the statutes is renumbered 30.12 (1g) (f) 1. (intro.)  
12 and amended to read:

13 30.12 (1g) (f) 1. (intro.) A pier or wharf ~~that is no~~ to which all of the following  
14 apply:

15 a. It is no more than 6 feet wide, ~~that extends,~~

16 b. It extends no further than to a point where the water is 3 feet at its maximum  
17 depth as measured at summer low levels, or to the point where there is adequate  
18 depth for mooring a boat or using a boat hoist or boat lift, whichever is farther from  
19 the shoreline, ~~and that has,~~

20 c. It has no more than 2 boat slips for the first 50 feet of the riparian owner's  
21 shoreline footage and no more than one additional boat slip for each additional 50  
22 feet of the riparian owner's shoreline footage.

23 2. Notwithstanding the width limitation in ~~this paragraph~~ subd. 1., a pier may  
24 have an area as a loading platform that is more than 6 feet wide if the surface area  
25 of the platform is not more than 8 feet wide, it extends perpendicular to one or both

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1 sides of the pier, and it is located at the lakeward end of the pier or at the end of the  
2 pier that extends into a stream does not exceed 200 square feet.

3 **SECTION 8.** 30.12 (1h) of the statutes is created to read:

4 30.12 **(1h)** PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SECURED TO PIERS ALLOWED. A riparian owner  
5 may secure to a pier or wharf up to 2 personal watercraft for the first 50 feet of the  
6 riparian owner's shoreline footage and one additional personal watercraft for each  
7 additional 50 feet of the riparian owner's shoreline footage without affecting the  
8 riparian owner's eligibility for an exemption under sub. (1g) (f). For the purpose of  
9 this subsection, "personal watercraft" has the meaning given in s. 30.50 (9d).

10 **SECTION 9.** 30.12 (1j) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 30.12 **(1j)** (c) If the riparian owner or owners of a property described in par. (a)  
12 are eligible and propose to place a pier or wharf with the number of boat slips  
13 specified in par. (a), the riparian owner or owners shall apply to the department for  
14 an individual permit under s. 30.208 authorizing the configuration of the pier or  
15 wharf unless the configuration is authorized by the department under a general  
16 permit under s. 30.206 ~~(1g)~~. The department may not deny the permit on the basis  
17 of the number of slips proposed by the riparian owner or owners if the number of slips  
18 proposed does not exceed the number allowed under par. (a). A riparian owner or  
19 owners who apply for a permit under this paragraph shall be presumed to be entitled  
20 to the number of slips allowed under par. (a).

21 **SECTION 10.** 30.12 (1k) (b) (intro.) of the statutes is renumbered 30.12 (1k) (b)  
22 and amended to read:

23 30.12 **(1k)** (b) In addition to the exemptions under sub. (1g), a riparian owner  
24 of a pier or wharf that was placed on the bed of a navigable water ~~on or~~ before  
25 ~~February 6, 2004~~ the effective date of this paragraph .... [LRB inserts date], is exempt

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1 from the permit requirements under this section if all of the following apply: the pier  
2 or wharf does not interfere with the riparian rights of other riparian owners.

3 **SECTION 11.** 30.12 (1k) (b) 1. of the statutes is repealed.

4 **SECTION 12.** 30.12 (1k) (b) 2. of the statutes is repealed.

5 **SECTION 13.** 30.12 (1k) (b) 3. of the statutes, as affected by 2011 Wisconsin Act  
6 25, is repealed.

7 **SECTION 14.** 30.12 (1k) (c) of the statutes is repealed.

8 **SECTION 15.** 30.12 (1k) (cm) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 30.12 **(1k)** (cm) (intro.) ~~Except as provided in par. (d), the~~ The department may  
10 not take any enforcement action under this chapter against a riparian owner for the  
11 placement of any of the following:

12 **SECTION 16.** 30.12 (1k) (cm) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

13 30.12 **(1k)** (cm) 1. A structure for which the department has issued a permit  
14 under this section ~~on or before February 6, 2004~~, if the structure is in compliance with  
15 that permit.

16 **SECTION 17.** 30.12 (1k) (cm) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

17 30.12 **(1k)** (cm) 2. A structure for which the department has issued a written  
18 authorization ~~on or before February 6, 2004~~, if the structure is in compliance with  
19 that written authorization.

20 **SECTION 18.** 30.12 (1k) (d) of the statutes is repealed.

21 **SECTION 19.** 30.12 (1k) (e) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

22 30.12 **(1k)** (e) 2. If the exempt structure is a pier or wharf, relocate or  
23 reconfigure the pier or wharf if the riparian owner does not enlarge the pier or wharf,  
24 ~~the riparian owner registered the pier or wharf with the department under par. (b)~~  
25 ~~3. and, before relocating or reconfiguring the pier or wharf, the riparian owner~~

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1 registers the reconfigured or relocated pier or wharf with the department under this  
2 subdivision.

3 **SECTION 20.** 30.12 (3) (a) 6. of the statutes is renumbered 30.12 (3) (a) 6. (intro.)  
4 and amended to read:

5 30.12 (3) (a) 6. (intro.) Place a permanent boat shelter adjacent to the owner's  
6 property for the purpose of storing or protecting watercraft and associated materials,  
7 except that no general or individual permit may be issued for a permanent boat  
8 shelter that is constructed after May 3, 1988, if ~~the~~ any of the following apply:

9 a. The property on which the permanent boat shelter is to be located also  
10 contains a boathouse within 75 feet of the ordinary high-water mark ~~or if there,~~

11 b. There is a boathouse over navigable waters adjacent to the owner's property.

12 **SECTION 21.** 30.12 (3) (a) 6. c. of the statutes is created to read:

13 30.12 (3) (a) 6. c. The permanent boat shelter extends beyond the waterward  
14 end of the owner's pier or the waterward side of the owner's wharf.

15 **SECTION 22.** 30.12 (3) (a) 14. of the statutes is created to read:

16 30.12 (3) (a) 14. Place a pier or wharf on the bed of a navigable water that is  
17 in, or that would directly affect, an area of special natural resource interest and that  
18 is adjacent to the owner's property if the pier or wharf meets the requirements of sub.  
19 (1g) (f).

20 **SECTION 23.** 30.12 (3) (br) of the statutes is repealed.

21 **SECTION 24.** 30.12 (3) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

22 30.12 (3) (d) The department may impose conditions relating to the location,  
23 design, construction, and installation of a pier or wharf placed under the authority  
24 of a general permit issued under par. (a) 14., but may not prohibit a riparian owner  
25 from placing a pier or wharf that meets the requirement of the general permit.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 421****SECTION 25**

1           **SECTION 25.** 30.121 (1) of the statutes is created to read:

2           30.121 (1) DEFINITION. In this section, the terms “maintain” and “repair”  
3 include replacing structural elements, including roofs, doors, walls, windows,  
4 beams, porches, and floors.

5           **SECTION 26.** 30.121 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

6           30.121 (3) MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR. The riparian owner of any boathouse or  
7 fixed houseboat extending beyond the ordinary high-water mark of any navigable  
8 waterway may repair ~~and~~ or maintain the boathouse or fixed houseboat if the cost  
9 ~~of the repair or maintenance~~ to repair or maintain the boathouse or fixed houseboat  
10 does not exceed 50% of the equalized assessed value of the boathouse or fixed  
11 houseboat. If the boathouse or fixed houseboat is not subject to assessment, the  
12 owner may ~~make repairs~~ repair or maintain the boathouse or the fixed houseboat if  
13 the cost of the repair or maintenance does not exceed 50% of the current fair market  
14 value of the boathouse or fixed houseboat.

15           **SECTION 27.** 30.121 (3c) of the statutes is created to read:

16           30.121 (3c) EXCEPTION; CERTAIN BOATHOUSES. Subsection (3) does not apply to  
17 repairing or maintaining a boathouse if the boathouse was in existence on December  
18 16, 1979, and the repairing or maintaining does not affect the size, location, or  
19 configuration of the boathouse and does not result in the boathouse being converted  
20 into living quarters.

21           **SECTION 28.** 30.121 (3g) of the statutes is amended to read:

22           30.121 (3g) EXCEPTION; HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL VALUE. Subsection (3) does not  
23 apply to ~~the repair or maintenance of~~ repairing or maintaining a boathouse or a fixed  
24 houseboat if the boathouse or fixed houseboat has a historic or cultural value, as

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1 determined by the state historical society or a local or county historical society  
2 established under s. 44.03.

3 **SECTION 29.** 30.121 (3r) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 30.121 (3r) EXCEPTION; DAMAGES AFTER JANUARY 1, 1984. Subsections (2) and (3)  
5 do not apply to ~~the repair or reconstruction of~~ repairing or reconstructing a damaged  
6 boathouse if the boathouse was damaged by violent wind, vandalism or fire and if the  
7 damage occurs after January 1, 1984.

8 **SECTION 30.** 30.123 (6) (a) of the statutes is repealed.

9 **SECTION 31.** 30.123 (7) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 30.123 (7).

10 **SECTION 32.** 30.123 (7) (b) of the statutes is repealed.

11 **SECTION 33.** 30.123 (7) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

12 30.123 (7) (d) Construct, reconstruct, and maintain bridges and culverts that  
13 are part of a transportation project that is carried out under the direction and  
14 supervision of a municipality.

15 **SECTION 34.** 30.1235 of the statutes is repealed.

16 **SECTION 35.** 30.18 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 30.18 (4) (a) ~~Upon receipt of a complete application, the department shall~~  
18 ~~follow the notice and hearing procedures under s. 30.208 (3) to (5)~~ The notice and  
19 hearing provisions of s. 30.208 (3) to (5) shall apply to an application under sub. (3).

20 In addition to providing notice as required under s. 30.208 (3) to (5), the department  
21 shall mail a copy of the notice to every person upon whose land any part of the canal  
22 or any other structure will be located, to the clerk of the next town downstream, to  
23 the clerk of any village or city in which the lake or stream is located and which is  
24 adjacent to any municipality in which the withdrawal will take place and to each  
25 person specified in s. 281.35 (5) (b) or (6) (f), if applicable.

**ASSEMBLY BILL 421****SECTION 36**

1           **SECTION 36.** 30.19 (1m) (f) of the statutes is created to read:

2           30.19 **(1m)** (f) Any land grading activity authorized under a stormwater  
3 discharge permit issued under s. 283.33.

4           **SECTION 37.** 30.19 (1m) (g) of the statutes is created to read:

5           30.19 **(1m)** (g) Any land grading activity authorized by a permit issued by a  
6 county under a shoreland zoning ordinance enacted under s. 59.692.

7           **SECTION 38.** 30.19 (3r) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 30.19 (3r).

8           **SECTION 39.** 30.19 (3r) (b) of the statutes is repealed.

9           **SECTION 40.** 30.20 (1g) (b) 3. of the statutes is created to read:

10           30.20 **(1g)** (b) 3. The amount of material removed is less than 10 cubic yards,  
11 the removal is necessary to allow access to place or remove a pier or wharf, and the  
12 removal occurs not more than once per year.

13           **SECTION 41.** 30.20 (1t) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 30.20 (1t) (a) (intro.)  
14 and amended to read:

15           30.20 **(1t)** (a) (intro.) The department shall issue statewide general permits  
16 under s. 30.206 that authorize ~~any~~ all of the following:

17           1. Any person to remove material for maintenance purposes from an area from  
18 which material has been previously removed.

19           **SECTION 42.** 30.20 (1t) (a) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

20           30.20 **(1t)** (a) 2. Any riparian owner to remove 50 cubic yards or less of material  
21 from a lake or stream adjacent to the riparian owner's property, by means other than  
22 blasting, for the purpose of placing or maintaining a boatlift on a pier or wharf.

23           **SECTION 43.** 30.20 (1t) (a) 3. of the statutes is created to read:

24           30.20 **(1t)** (a) 3. Any person to annually remove not more than 500 cubic yards  
25 of plant or animal nuisance deposits from a stream, inland lake, or outlying waters



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1 if the plant or animal nuisance deposits impede navigation or access to the stream,  
2 inland lake, or outlying waters.

3 **SECTION 44.** 30.20 (1t) (b) of the statutes is repealed.

4 **SECTION 45.** 30.206 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 30.206 (1) (a) The department shall issue the statewide general permits as  
6 ~~rules promulgated under ch. 227 required under ss. 30.12 (3) (a), 30.123 (7) (a), 30.19~~  
7 ~~(3r), and 30.20 (1t) (a). The statewide general permits required under ss. 30.12 (3)~~  
8 ~~(a), 30.123 (7) (a), and 30.20 (1t) (a) shall be promulgated within 540 days after~~  
9 ~~February 6, 2004. The department shall submit in proposed form the rule containing~~  
10 ~~the statewide general permit under s. 30.19 (3r) (a) and the rule under s. 30.19 (1d)~~  
11 ~~to the legislative council staff under s. 227.15 (1) no later than August 1, 2004.~~  
12 ~~General permits issued under s. 30.206, 2001 stats., shall remain valid until the date~~  
13 ~~upon which the rules issuing these statewide general permits are promulgated~~  
14 ~~under this paragraph.~~

15 **SECTION 46.** 30.206 (1) (am) and (ar) of the statutes are created to read:

16 30.206 (1) (am) Upon compliance with the requirements under subs. (2b) and  
17 (2m) and in addition to the general permits required under par. (a), the department  
18 may issue a general permit authorizing an activity for which an individual permit  
19 is issued, or a contract is entered into, under this subchapter.

20 (ar) A permit issued under par. (a) or (am) is in lieu of any permit or contract  
21 that would otherwise be required for that activity under this subchapter.

22 **SECTION 47.** 30.206 (1) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

23 30.206 (1) (b) A general permit issued under par. (a) or (am) is valid for a period  
24 of 5 years, and an activity that the department determines is authorized by a general  
25 permit remains authorized under the general permit until the activity is completed

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1 regardless of whether the general permit expired before the activity is completed.  
2 The department may renew or modify, or revoke a general permit issued under par.  
3 (a) or (am) upon compliance with the requirements under subs. (2b) and (2m); and  
4 until such renewal, modification, or revocation, the general permit shall remain in  
5 effect.

6 **SECTION 48.** 30.206 (1g) of the statutes is repealed.

7 **SECTION 49.** 30.206 (1m) of the statutes is repealed.

8 **SECTION 50.** 30.206 (1r) of the statutes is created to read:

9 30.206 (1r) TRANSITIONS BETWEEN PERMITS. Any general permit issued under  
10 this subchapter that is valid on the effective date of this subsection ... [LRB inserts  
11 date], shall remain valid until the date upon which a general permit issued under  
12 sub. (1) (a) or (am) that authorizes the same activity becomes effective.

13 **SECTION 51.** 30.206 (2b) of the statutes is created to read:

14 30.206 (2b) PUBLIC NOTICE. (a) The department shall circulate to interested  
15 and potentially interested members of the public notices of its intention to issue a  
16 general permit under sub. (1) (a) or (am). Procedures for circulating public notices  
17 shall include all of the following:

18 1. A procedure for publishing a class 1 notice under ch. 985 or publishing a  
19 notice on the department's Internet Web site.

20 2. A procedure under which a copy of the notice is provided to any person or  
21 group upon request of the person or group.

22 (b) The department shall provide a period of not less than 30 days after the date  
23 of the public notice during which time interested persons may submit their written  
24 comments on the department's intention to issue a general permit under sub. (1) (a)

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1 or (am). All written comments submitted during the period for comment shall be  
2 retained by the department and considered in the issuance of the general permit.

3 (c) Every notice issued by the department of the department's intention to issue  
4 a general permit under sub. (1) (a) or (am) shall include a description of the activities  
5 proposed to be authorized under the general permit.

6 **SECTION 52.** 30.206 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:

7 30.206 (2m) PUBLIC HEARING. (a) 1. The department shall provide an  
8 opportunity for any interested state agency or federal agency or person or group of  
9 persons to request a public hearing with respect to the department's intention to  
10 issue a general permit under sub. (1) (a) or (am). Such request for a public hearing  
11 shall be filed with the department within 30 days after the circulation of the public  
12 notice under sub. (2b) and shall indicate the interest of the party filing the request  
13 and the reasons why a hearing is warranted.

14 2. The department shall hold a public hearing upon a request under subd. 1.  
15 if the department determines that there is a significant public interest in holding  
16 such a hearing. Hearings held under this section are not contested cases under s.  
17 227.01 (3).

18 (b) Public notice of any hearing held under this subsection shall be circulated  
19 in accordance with the requirements under sub. (2b).

20 **SECTION 53.** 30.2065 (3) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

21 30.2065 (3) (a) 1. Publication of the notice as a class 1 notice under ch. 985 or  
22 as a notice on the department's Internet Web site.

23 **SECTION 54.** 30.208 (2) of the statutes is renumbered 30.208 (2) (a) and  
24 amended to read:

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1           30.208 (2) (a) Review; no additional information required. In issuing  
2 individual permits or entering contracts under this subchapter, the department shall  
3 ~~initially determine whether a complete application for the permit or contract has~~  
4 ~~been submitted and, no later than~~ review an application, and within 30 days after  
5 the application is submitted, the department shall determine that either the  
6 application is complete or that additional information is needed. If the department  
7 determines that the application is complete, the department shall notify the  
8 applicant in writing about the ~~initial determination of completeness of that fact~~  
9 within the 30-day period, and the date on which the notice under this paragraph is  
10 sent shall be considered the date of closure for purposes of sub. (3) (a).

11           (b) Additional information requested. If the department determines that the  
12 application is incomplete, the department shall notify the applicant in writing and  
13 may make only one request for additional information during the 30-day period  
14 specified in par. (a). Within 10 days after receiving all of the requested information  
15 from the applicant, the department shall notify the applicant in writing as to  
16 whether the application is complete. The date on which the 2nd notice under this  
17 paragraph is sent shall be set as the date of closure for purposes of sub. (3) (a). The  
18 department may request additional information from the applicant to supplement  
19 the application, but the department may not request items of information that are  
20 outside the scope of the original request unless the applicant and the department  
21 both agree. A request for any such additional information may not affect the date  
22 of closure.

23           (c) Specificity of notice; limits on information. Any notice stating that an  
24 application has been determined to be incomplete or any other request for  
25 information that is sent under par. (b) shall state the reason for the determination

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1 ~~or request and the specific items of information necessary to make the application~~  
2 ~~complete. An applicant may supplement and resubmit an application that the~~  
3 ~~department has determined to be incomplete. There is no limit on the number of~~  
4 ~~times that an applicant may resubmit an application that the department has~~  
5 ~~determined to be incomplete under this section. The department may not demand~~  
6 ~~items of information that are not specified in the notice as a condition for determining~~  
7 ~~whether the application is complete unless both the department and the applicant~~  
8 ~~agree or unless the applicant makes material additions or alterations to the activity~~  
9 ~~or project for which the application has been submitted. The rules promulgated~~  
10 ~~under s. 299.05 apply only to applications for individual permits or contracts under~~  
11 ~~this subchapter that the department has determined to be complete that are still~~  
12 ~~needed.~~

13 **SECTION 55.** 30.208 (2) (d) of the statutes is created to read:

14 30.208 (2) (d) *Failure to meet time limits.* If the department fails to meet the  
15 30-day time limit under par. (a) or 10-day time limit under par. (b), the application  
16 shall be considered to have a date of closure that is the last day of that 30-day or  
17 10-day time period for purposes of sub. (3) (a).

18 **SECTION 56.** 30.208 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 30.208 (3) (a) ~~Upon determination by the department under sub. (2), that an~~  
20 ~~application submitted under sub. (1) is complete Within 15 days after the date of~~  
21 ~~closure, as determined under sub. (2) (a) or (b), the department shall provide notice~~  
22 ~~of complete pending application to interested and potentially interested members of~~  
23 ~~the public, as determined by the department. The department shall provide the~~  
24 ~~notice within 15 days after the determination that the application is complete. If the~~

**ASSEMBLY BILL 421****SECTION 56**

1 applicant has requested a public hearing as part of the submitted application, a  
2 notice of public hearing shall be part of the notice of ~~complete~~ pending application.

3 **SECTION 57.** 30.208 (3) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 30.208 (3) (b) If the notice of ~~complete~~ pending application does not contain a  
5 notice of public hearing, any person may request a public hearing in writing or the  
6 department may decide to hold a public hearing with or without a request being  
7 submitted if the department determines that there is a significant public interest in  
8 holding a hearing.

9 **SECTION 58.** 30.208 (3) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 30.208 (3) (c) A request for a public hearing under par. (b) must be submitted  
11 to the department or the department's decision to hold a public hearing must occur  
12 within ~~30~~ 20 days after the department ~~completes providing~~ provides the notice of  
13 ~~complete~~ pending application. The department shall provide notice of public hearing  
14 within 15 days after the request for public hearing is submitted or the department  
15 makes its ~~determination~~ decision to hold a public hearing.

16 **SECTION 59.** 30.208 (3) (e) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 30.208 (3) (e) Within ~~30~~ 20 days after the ~~public hearing is held~~ period for public  
18 comment under sub. (4) (b) has ended or if no public hearing is held, within 30 days  
19 of the 30-day comment period under sub. (4) (a), the department shall render a  
20 decision, issuing, denying, or modifying the permit or approving or disapproving the  
21 contract that is the subject of the application submitted under sub. (1).

22 **SECTION 60.** 30.208 (3) (f) of the statutes is created to read:

23 30.208 (3) (f) If the department fails to comply with the time periods under par.  
24 (e), a decision issuing the permit, modifying the permit, or approving the contract  
25 shall be considered to be rendered. The permit that is issued or is modified, or the

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1 contract that is approved, shall authorize the activity as proposed by the applicant,  
2 but the department may impose terms and conditions on the permit or contract that  
3 are consistent with the applicant's basic proposal.

4 **SECTION 61.** 30.208 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 30.208 (4) (a) The department shall provide a period for public comment after  
6 the department has provided a notice of ~~complete~~ pending application under sub. (3)  
7 (a), during which time any person may submit written comments with respect to the  
8 application for the permit or contract. The department shall retain all of the written  
9 comments submitted during this period and shall consider all of the comments in the  
10 formulation of the final decision on the application. The period for public comment  
11 shall end on the 30th day following the date on which the department completes  
12 providing the notice of ~~complete~~ pending application, except as provided in par. (b).

13 **SECTION 62.** 30.208 (4m) of the statutes is created to read:

14 30.208 (4m) DENIALS. If a decision is issued by the department under this  
15 section that denies a permit or a modification of a permit or disapproves a contract,  
16 the notice of denial or disapproval shall set forth the specific reasons as to how the  
17 applicable provisions of this subchapter were not met. The notice of denial or  
18 disapproval may not be based on a determination that the application for the permit  
19 or contract was incomplete.

20 **SECTION 63.** 30.208 (5) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 30.208 (5) (a) (intro.) The department shall, by rule, establish procedures for  
22 providing notices of ~~complete~~ pending applications and notices of public hearings to  
23 be provided under sub. (3), and notices of administrative hearings to be provided  
24 under s. 30.209 (1m). The procedures shall require all of the following:

25 **SECTION 64.** 30.208 (5) (a) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 421****SECTION 64**

1           30.208 (5) (a) 1. That the notice be published as a class 1 notice under ch. 985  
2           or as a notice on the department's Internet Web site.

3           **SECTION 65.** 30.208 (5) (b) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

4           30.208 (5) (b) (intro.) The department shall, by rule, prescribe the form and  
5           content of notices of ~~complete~~ pending applications and notices of public hearings to  
6           be provided under sub. (3), and notices of administrative hearings to be provided  
7           under s. 30.209 (1m). Each notice shall include all of the following information:

8           **SECTION 66.** 30.208 (5) (b) 4. of the statutes is amended to read:

9           30.208 (5) (b) 4. For a notice of ~~complete~~ pending application and a notice of  
10          public hearing under sub. (3), a statement of the tentative determination to issue,  
11          modify, or deny a permit for the activity or project described in the application.

12          **SECTION 67.** 30.208 (5) (b) 5. of the statutes is amended to read:

13          30.208 (5) (b) 5. For a notice of ~~complete~~ pending application and a notice of  
14          public hearing under sub. (3), a brief description of the procedures for the  
15          formulation of final determinations, including a description of the comment period  
16          required under sub. (4).

17          **SECTION 68.** 30.209 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

18          30.209 (2) (a) An administrative hearing under this subsection section shall be  
19          treated as a contested case under ch. 227.

20          **SECTION 69.** 30.209 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

21          30.209 (2) (b) If a stay under sub. (1m) (c) is in effect, the hearing examiner  
22          shall, within 30 days after receipt of the referral under sub. (1m) (g), determine  
23          whether continuation of the stay is necessary to prevent significant adverse impacts  
24          or irreversible harm to the environment pending completion of the administrative  
25          hearing. The hearing examiner shall make the determination based on the request



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1 under sub. (1m) (c), any response from the applicant under sub. (1m) (e), and any  
2 testimony at a public hearing or any public comments. The determination shall be  
3 made without a hearing.

4 **SECTION 70.** 30.209 (2) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 30.209 (2) (c) ~~A~~ An administrative hearing under this section shall be  
6 completed within 90 days after receipt of the referral of the petition under sub. (1m)  
7 (g), unless all parties agree to an extension of that period. In addition, a hearing  
8 examiner may grant a one-time extension for the completion of the hearing of up to  
9 60 days on the motion of any party and a showing of good cause demonstrating  
10 extraordinary circumstances justifying an extension.

11 **SECTION 71.** 30.209 (2) (d) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 30.209 (2) (d) (intro.) Notwithstanding s. 227.44 (1), the department shall  
13 provide a notice of the administrative hearing at least 30 days before the date of the  
14 hearing to all of the following:

15 **SECTION 72.** 30.209 (2) (e) of the statutes is created to read:

16 30.209 (2) (e) In an administrative hearing under this section, the petitioner  
17 shall proceed first with the presentation of evidence and shall have the burden of  
18 proof.

19 **SECTION 73.** 30.2095 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 30.2095 (1) (b) The department may specify a time limit of less than 3 years  
21 for ~~a~~ an individual permit or contract issued under ss. 30.01 to 30.29. ~~For good cause,~~  
22 ~~the~~ The department may shall extend the time limit for ~~a~~ an individual permit or  
23 contract issued under ss. 30.01 to 30.29 for no longer than ~~2~~ an additional 5 years if  
24 the grantee requests an extension prior to expiration of the initial time limit.

25 **SECTION 74.** 31.12 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

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1           31.12 (5) The department shall establish an expedited procedure for approval  
2 of plans for low hazard dams, as defined in s. 31.19 (1g) (b), under this section. The  
3 expedited procedure shall apply, in lieu of the procedure under this section, if all of  
4 the following are satisfied:

5           (a) The plan design is of a common construction and size or is for a minor  
6 addition to an existing dam.

7           (b) The plan design is submitted by a registered professional engineer.

8           (c) The plan design is submitted by a person who has designed similar dams  
9 and none of those similar dams has caused adverse impacts to the environment.

10          (d) The plan design contains no unusual siting requirements or other unique  
11 design features.

12          (e) The plan design is for a dam that is located entirely on land that the permit  
13 grantee owns or that is located entirely on land for which the permit grantee has  
14 acquired an easement.

15          **SECTION 75.** 84.01 (23) of the statutes is amended to read:

16          84.01 (23) BRIDGE STANDARDS. The department shall adopt standards and  
17 specifications for the design and construction of county, town, village, and city  
18 bridges, arches or culverts. The standards and specifications shall be developed after  
19 consultation with the department of natural resources, and shall be directed at  
20 preventing undue impairment of public rights in navigable waters. All highway  
21 bridges, arches, and culverts constructed or reconstructed by a county, town, village,  
22 or city shall be done in accordance with these standards and specifications.

23          **SECTION 76.** 227.01 (13) (rt) of the statutes is amended to read:

24          227.01 (13) (rt) Is a general permit issued under s. 30.206 or 30.2065.

25          **SECTION 77.** 281.344 (9) (b) 1. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           281.344 (9) (b) 1. a. Publication of the notice as a class 1 notice under ch. 985  
2           or as a notice on its Internet Web site.

3           **SECTION 78.** 281.346 (9) (b) 1. a. of the statutes is amended to read:

4           281.346 (9) (b) 1. a. Publication of the notice as a class 1 notice under ch. 985  
5           or as a notice on its Internet Web site.

6           **SECTION 79.** 281.41 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

7           281.41 (5) The department shall establish an expedited procedure for approval  
8           of plans under this section. The expedited procedure shall apply, in lieu of the  
9           procedure under sub. (1) (b) if all of the following are satisfied:

10          (a) The plan design is of a common construction and size or is for a minor  
11          addition to an existing facility.

12          (b) The plan design is submitted by a registered professional engineer.

13          (c) The plan design is submitted by a person who has designed similar facilities  
14          and none of those similar facilities has caused adverse impacts to the environment.

15          (d) The plan design contains no unusual siting requirements or other unique  
16          design features.

17          **SECTION 80.** 283.39 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

18          283.39 (1) (a) Publication of the notice as a class 1 notice under ch. 985 or as  
19          a notice on its Internet Web site;

20          **SECTION 81.** 283.53 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

21          283.53 (1) No permit issued by the department under s. 283.31 or 283.33 shall  
22          have a an initial term for more than 5 years. Upon the request of a permit holder,  
23          the department may renew the permit. There is a no limit on the number of times  
24          that a permit may be renewed.

25          **SECTION 82.** 285.61 (5) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1           285.61 (5) (c) *Newspaper notice.* The department shall publish a class 1 notice  
2 under ch. 985, or shall publish notice on its Internet Web site, announcing the  
3 opportunity for written public comment and the opportunity to request a public  
4 hearing on the analysis and preliminary determination.

5           **SECTION 83.** 285.62 (3) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

6           285.62 (3) (c) The department shall publish the notice prepared under par. (a)  
7 as a class 1 notice under ch. 985 in a newspaper published in the area that may be  
8 affected by emissions from the stationary source, or shall publish the notice on its  
9 Internet Web site.

10          **SECTION 84.** 285.63 (11) of the statutes is created to read:

11          285.63 (11) MODELING. The department is not required to use air dispersion  
12 modeling as a basis for making its findings under subs. (1) to (3).

13          **SECTION 85.** 285.76 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

14          285.76 (2) (a) Publish a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, of the proposed  
15 redesignation and request for consultation with the state in a newspaper of general  
16 circulation in the area that would be affected by the redesignation, as determined  
17 using standards established by the federal environmental protection agency, or  
18 publish a notice on the department's Internet Web site; and publish a class 1 notice,  
19 under ch. 985, in the official state newspaper; and provide a written statement  
20 concerning the proposed redesignation to ~~those newspapers~~ each newspaper in  
21 which it publishes a class 1 notice under this subsection.

22          **SECTION 86.** 289.25 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

23          289.25 (3) NOTIFICATION ON FEASIBILITY REPORT AND PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL  
24 IMPACT STATEMENT DECISIONS. Immediately after the department issues a preliminary  
25 determination that an environmental impact statement is not required or, if it is

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1 required, immediately after the department issues the environmental impact  
2 statement, the department shall publish a class 1 notice under ch. 985 in the official  
3 newspaper designated under s. 985.04 or 985.05 or, if none exists, in a newspaper  
4 likely to give notice in the area of the proposed facility, or shall publish a notice on  
5 its Internet Web site. The notice shall include a statement that the feasibility report  
6 and the environmental impact statement process are complete. The notice shall  
7 invite the submission of written comments by any person within 30 days after the  
8 notice for a solid waste disposal facility or within 45 days after the notice for a  
9 hazardous waste facility is published. The notice shall describe the methods by  
10 which a hearing may be requested under ss. 289.26 (1) and 289.27 (1). The  
11 department shall distribute copies of the notice to the persons specified under s.  
12 289.32.

13 **SECTION 87.** 289.31 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

14 289.31 (4) (a) Publishing a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, in a newspaper likely  
15 to give notice in the area where the facility is located or publishing a notice on its  
16 Internet Web site.

17 **SECTION 88.** 289.41 (1m) (g) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

18 289.41 (1m) (g) 1. The owner of an approved mining facility may apply, at any  
19 time at least 40 years after the closing of the facility, to the department for  
20 termination of the owner's obligation to maintain proof of financial responsibility for  
21 long-term care of the facility. Upon receipt of an application under this subdivision,  
22 the department shall publish a class 1 notice under ch. 985 in the official newspaper  
23 designated under s. 985.04 or 985.05 or, if none exists, in a newspaper likely to give  
24 notice in the area of the facility, or shall publish a notice on its Internet Web site. The  
25 notice shall include a statement that the owner has applied to terminate the owner's

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1 obligation to maintain proof of financial responsibility for the long-term care of the  
2 facility. The notice shall invite the submission of written comments by any person  
3 within 30 days after the notice is published. The notice shall describe the methods  
4 by which a hearing may be requested under subds. 2. and 3. The department shall  
5 distribute a copy of the notice to the owner of the facility. In any hearing on the  
6 matter, the burden is on the owner to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that  
7 continuation of the requirement to provide proof of financial responsibility for  
8 long-term care is not necessary for adequate protection of human health or the  
9 environment. Within 120 days after the publication of the notice or within 60 days  
10 after any hearing is adjourned, whichever is later, the department shall determine  
11 whether proof of financial responsibility for long-term care of the facility continues  
12 to be required. A determination that proof of financial responsibility for long-term  
13 care is no longer required terminates the owner's obligation to maintain proof of  
14 financial responsibility for long-term care. The owner may not submit another  
15 application under this subdivision until at least 5 years after the previous  
16 application has been rejected by the department.

17 **SECTION 89.** 291.87 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 291.87 (3) If the licensee requests a hearing within 45 days after receiving the  
19 notice under sub. (2), the department shall schedule a hearing and give notice of the  
20 hearing by publishing a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, or by publishing a notice on its  
21 Internet Web site, at least 45 days prior to the date scheduled for the hearing. If the  
22 licensee requests a contested case hearing and if the conditions specified under s.  
23 227.42 (1) (a) to (d) are satisfied, the department shall conduct the hearing as a  
24 contested case; otherwise, the department shall conduct the hearing as an  
25 informational hearing. There is no statutory right to any hearing concerning the

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1 denial, suspension or revocation of a license for the reasons stated under sub. (1m)  
2 (b) to (f) except as provided under this subsection.

3 **SECTION 90.** 291.87 (6) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 291.87 (6) (a) Publishing a class 1 notice, under ch. 985, in a newspaper likely  
5 to give notice in the area where the facility is located or publishing a notice on its  
6 Internet Web site.

7 **SECTION 91.** 292.31 (3) (f) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 292.31 (3) (f) *Notice; hearing.* The department shall publish a class 1 notice,  
9 under ch. 985 or shall publish a notice on its Internet Web site, prior to taking  
10 remedial action under this subsection and subs. (1) and (7), which describes the  
11 proposed remedial action and the amount and purpose of any proposed expenditure.  
12 Except as provided under par. (d), the department shall provide a hearing to any  
13 person who demands a hearing within 30 days after the notice is published for the  
14 purpose of determining whether the proposed remedial action and any expenditure  
15 is within the scope of this section and is reasonable in relation to the cost of obtaining  
16 similar materials and services. The department is not required to conduct more than  
17 one hearing for the remedial action proposed at a single site or facility.  
18 Notwithstanding s. 227.42, the hearing shall not be conducted as a contested case.  
19 The decision of the department to take remedial action under this section is a final  
20 decision of the agency subject to judicial review under ch. 227.

21 **SECTION 92.** 299.05 of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

22 **299.05 Deadlines for action on certain applications. (1) DEFINITION.** In  
23 this section, “approval” means a license, registration, or certification specified in sub.  
24 (2).

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1           **(2) DEADLINES.** (a) The department, by rule, shall establish periods within  
2           which the department intends to approve or disapprove an application for any of the  
3           following:

4           1. A well driller or pump installer registration under s. 280.15.

5           2. A water system or septage servicing vehicle operator certification under s.  
6           281.17 (3).

7           3. A license for servicing septic tanks and similar facilities under s. 281.48 (3).

8           4. A solid waste incinerator operator certification under s. 285.51 (2).

9           5. A laboratory certification or registration under s. 299.11.

10          (b) The department shall approve or disapprove an application for any of the  
11          following within 30 days from the date on which the department receives the  
12          application:

13          1. A solid waste disposal facility operator certification under s. 289.42 (1).

14          2. A hazardous waste transportation license under s. 291.23.

15          3. A medical waste transportation license under s. 299.51 (3) (c).

16          (c) The department shall approve or disapprove an application for an oil or gas  
17          exploration license under s. 295.33 (1) within 60 days from the date on which the  
18          department receives the application.

19          **(2m) FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE.** (a) Subject to sub. (4), the department shall  
20          refund fees paid by the applicant for an approval if the department fails to provide  
21          the applicant with written notice that the department has approved or disapproved  
22          the application for the approval, including the specific facts upon which any  
23          disapproval is based, before the expiration of the period established under sub. (2)  
24          for the approval.



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1           (b) Subject to sub. (4), if the department fails to provide the applicant for an  
2 approval with written notice that the department has approved or disapproved the  
3 application before the expiration of the period established under sub. (2) for the  
4 approval, the applicant may choose to proceed under ch. 227 as though the  
5 department had disapproved the application by providing the department with  
6 written notice of that choice no later than 45 days after the expiration of the period  
7 established under sub. (2).

8           (c) The department may not disapprove an application for an approval solely  
9 because the department is unable to complete its review of the application within the  
10 period established under sub. (2).

11           **(3) NOTICE OF DEADLINE.** Upon receiving an application for an approval, the  
12 department shall inform the applicant of the period established under sub. (2) for the  
13 license or other approval.

14           **(4) PERMITTED EXTENSION OF DEADLINE.** The department may extend the period  
15 established under sub. (2) because an application is incomplete if all of the following  
16 apply:

17           (a) Within 14 days after receiving the application, the department provides  
18 written notice to the applicant describing specifically the information that must be  
19 provided to complete the application.

20           (b) The information under par. (a) is directly related to eligibility for the license  
21 or other approval or to terms or conditions of the license or other approval.

22           (c) The information under par. (a) is necessary to determine whether to approve  
23 the application or is necessary to determine the terms or conditions of the license or  
24 other approval.

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1 (d) The extension is not longer than the period equal to the number of days from  
2 the day on which the department provides the notice under par. (a) to the day on  
3 which the department receives the information.

4 **SECTION 93.** 299.06 of the statutes is created to read:

5 **299.06 Automatic approval of certain applications. (1) DEFINITION.** In  
6 this section, “approval” means a permit, license, or approval specified in sub. (1m).

7 **(1m) DEADLINES.** The department, by rule, shall establish periods within which  
8 the department intends to approve or disapprove an application for any of the  
9 following:

10 (a) A high-capacity well approval under s. 281.34 (2).

11 (b) A prospecting permit under s. 293.45.

12 (c) An oil or gas production license under s. 295.33 (2).

13 **(2) FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE.** (a) Subject to subs. (4) (b) and (5), failure by the  
14 department to provide the applicant for an approval with written notice that the  
15 department has approved or disapproved the application for the approval, including  
16 the specific facts upon which any disapproval is based, before the expiration of the  
17 period established under sub. (1m) for the approval constitutes approval of the  
18 application. An approval approved under this paragraph is subject to any terms or  
19 conditions specified by statute or rule for the approval and the department may  
20 suspend, limit, revoke, or withdraw the approval for substantial failure to comply  
21 with those terms or conditions. The department may not make the approval subject  
22 to any term or condition that is not specified by statute or rule. Within 30 days after  
23 the expiration of the period established under sub. (1m) for the approval, the  
24 department shall provide the applicant with a statement showing that the approval  
25 is approved and specifying any terms and conditions that apply to that approval.

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1           (b) The department may not disapprove an application for an approval solely  
2 because the department is unable to complete its review of the application within the  
3 period established under sub. (1m).

4           **(3) NOTICE OF DEADLINE.** Upon receiving an application for an approval the  
5 department shall inform the applicant of the period established under sub. (1m) for  
6 the approval.

7           **(4) OPTIONAL PROVISIONS OF RULES.** The department may include any of the  
8 following in the rules required under sub. (1m):

9           (a) A longer period under sub. (1m) for an application for an approval for which  
10 an environmental impact statement is required under s. 1.11 than for other  
11 applications.

12           (b) Extensions of the period established under sub. (1m) because the applicant  
13 makes a material modification to the application if the department notifies the  
14 applicant in writing of the extension within 30 days after the applicant makes the  
15 modification.

16           (c) Deadlines for the department to complete intermediate steps in the process  
17 of completing its review of an application.

18           **(5) EXTENSIONS AUTHORIZED.** (a) During the period established under sub. (1m),  
19 the department and the applicant may jointly agree to a different period for acting  
20 on an application for an approval. The department may not require an applicant to  
21 agree to a different period as a condition of approving an application.

22           (b) The department may extend a period established under sub. (1m) (a) to (c)  
23 because an application is incomplete if all of the following apply:

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1           1. Within 14 days after receiving the application, the department provides  
2 written notice to the applicant describing specifically the information that must be  
3 provided to complete the application.

4           2. The information under subd. 1. is directly related to eligibility for the  
5 approval or to terms or conditions of the approval.

6           3. The information under subd. 1. is necessary to determine whether to approve  
7 the application or is necessary to determine the terms or conditions of the approval.

8           4. The extension is not longer than the period equal to the number of days from  
9 the day on which the department provides the notice under subd. 1. to the day on  
10 which the department receives the information.

11           (c) The department may extend a period established under sub. (1m) (a) to (c)  
12 for an application by not more than 30 days if, within the period established under  
13 sub. (1m) (a) to (c), the department finds that there is a substantial likelihood that  
14 the activity proposed to be conducted under the application would result in  
15 substantial harm to human health or human safety and that the department cannot  
16 adequately review the application within the period established under sub. (1m) (a)  
17 to (c) and, upon making those findings, provides written notice to the applicant that  
18 states with particularity the facts on which those findings are based.

19           **SECTION 94.** 299.17 of the statutes is created to read:

20           **299.17 Web site information.** To the greatest extent possible, the  
21 department shall publish on the department's Internet Web site the current status  
22 of any application filed with the department for a permit, license, or other approval  
23 under chs. 281 to 285 or 289 to 299. The information shall include notice of any  
24 hearing scheduled by the department with regard to the application.

25           **SECTION 95. Initial applicability.**

