

Wetlands Permitting

Section 404 Permitting

- **Nationwide Permit**

A Nationwide Permit (NWP) authorizes a category of activities throughout the nation that have been determined to have minor impacts.

- **Individual Permit**

Individual permits are required for discharges that are not either exempt or covered by a NWP or RGP. The individual permit process involves a full public interest review.

Section 401 Permitting

- **Virginia Water Protection General Permits**

Certain activities that are considered to have minimal impacts to human health and the environment may be covered under one of these VWP general permit regulations.

- **Virginia Water Protection Individual Permits**

Activities that cause significant alteration or degradation of existing wetland acreage or functions. Most times in this situation a Section 404 permit is also required. In this case a joint permit from both Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Army Corps of Engineers is required.

- **Virginia Water Protection Construction Monitoring and Reporting**

The Impact areas that are covered under the permits are generally required to have either a monthly or quarterly monitoring report submitted to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to ensure that only the permitted areas are being impacted.

About Greenway Engineering

Greenway Engineering has provided Civil Engineering and Land Surveying services to the Valley's counties, cities, and towns since the firm's founding in 1971. A complete range of services – from feasibility studies through construction stake-out – enables Greenway Engineering to assist in the development of a project from the first step through the last.

At Greenway, client communication is a priority. We will listen to your needs and provide you with the highest quality of service, keeping you informed of the progress of your project every step of the way.

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Wetlands Delineation and Permitting

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Wetlands Delineation



What are Wetlands?

Wetlands are defined as areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands typically have hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and wetland hydrology. Wetlands are an important part of any ecosystem and have many functions and values such as: commercial and recreational uses, wildlife habitats, water quality maintenance, and erosion and flooding control.

Congress recognized the value of wetlands and created the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Clean Water Acts objective is to “maintain and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the United States.” Section 404 of the CWA authorizes the Secretary of the Army working with Chief of Engineers to issue permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into wetlands. Greenway Engineering is pleased to provide a wide range of environmental services ranging from Pre-development wetlands delineation and permitting.

What is Wetlands Delineation?

Wetland Delineation is a process that determines the boundary between a wetland and an upland. Wetland delineation is performed when a planned activity will involve placing fill material in a potential wetland area. Common activities that involve placing fill include grading and leveling, the construction of malls, housing development, golf courses and roads. Project planners need to know where the wetlands are and how big they are so they can comply with federal and state laws governing work in wetlands.



The result of a delineator’s efforts is a wetland delineation report which consists of a map of the wetlands, supporting data sheets, written descriptions, and photographs. The delineation report is submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for review and approval.

Wetland delineators use their skills and experience in field botany, soil science, hydrology, and sampling procedures, as well as the federally approved wetland delineation methods, to determine and document where the wetland edge is located.

Experience, Resources, Integrity

Greenway Engineering provides Wetland Delineation as outlined in the 1987 Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. The Environmental Department of Greenway Engineering will review the National Wetlands Inventory Maps, the Soil Survey, and any available aerial photographs and topographic maps to determine the potential wetland areas.

A field inspection is undertaken to confirm the presence and extent of wetland areas.

Soils will be examined, dominant plant species will be inventoried, and hydrologic conditions will be noted. Data sheets will also be completed in accordance with the wetland delineation manual.

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