



State of Vermont  
**PERMIT AND LICENSE INFORMATION**

**SHORELAND ENCROACHMENT PERMITS**

**SUMMARY  
DESCRIPTION  
OF PERMIT**

Any project that involves the placement of material or a structure beyond the shoreline of lakes and ponds which are public waters, or which alters the land underlying such lakes and ponds, requires a permit. The 2010 Vermont Legislature passed Act 117 extending the jurisdiction of the Shoreland Encroachment Permits for docks and piers only on the boatable tributaries of Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog up to the first barrier to navigation and the Connecticut River impoundments and boatable tributaries of such impounds upstream to the first barrier to navigation. The statutory exemption for small non-commercial docks in public waters also applies.

**EXAMPLE OF  
REGULATED  
ACTIVITY**

Common activities requiring a permit under this program include retaining walls or riprap to control shoreland erosion, commercial docks, large docks or docks involving concrete. Any dredging or filling activity requires a permit. Some repairs to existing encroachments also require a permit, as does the replacement of existing encroachments. Certain small projects or activities are exempt from the permit requirements.

The public status of a lake or pond is determined by the VT DEC. Public access is not a prerequisite. The shoreline is defined as the mean water level of the lake or pond during the period between June 1 and September 15.

**INFORMATION  
REQUIRED**

A completed application form is required, accompanied by the fee, a location map, site plan, cross-sections, and construction drawings and specifications. The scope and detail of the information required depends on the specific nature of the project being proposed. The Shoreland Encroachment Program should be contacted if there are questions regarding the level of detail required for a specific project.

**WEB ADDRESS**

[http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/permits/htm/pm\\_encroachment.htm](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/permits/htm/pm_encroachment.htm)

**FEES**

Fee for non-structural erosion control projects \$155; Fee for structural erosion control \$250; Fee for other projects \$300 plus 0.01 times the project cost.

**APPLICATION  
TIME FRAME**

The established performance standard for processing a completed application is 90 days.

**ADMINISTERING  
AGENCY**

<b>AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION WATER QUALITY DIVISION</b>	
CONTACT:	Shoreland Encroachment Program Environmental Engineer Steven Hanna <a href="mailto:steven.hanna@state.vt.us">steven.hanna@state.vt.us</a>
	Phone: 802-241-3791      Fax: 802-241-3287
ADDRESS:	103 South Main Street Building 10 North, 1st Floor Waterbury, VT 05671-0408

**AUTHORITY**

29 VSA Chapter 11: Management of Lakes and Ponds

**APPEAL  
PROCESS**

Effective January 31, 2005, within 30 days of the date of an act or decision, any person aggrieved by an act or decision of the secretary, or any party by right, may appeal to the environmental court in accordance with the provisions of [10 VSA Chapter 220](#).

**OTHER PERMITS  
AND APPROVALS**

Some projects may also require approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A Wetlands Conditional Use Determination may be required from the Water Quality Division if wetlands or their buffers are involved.

Contact a [Permit Specialist](#) for a Project Review Sheet.  
<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/ead/pa/index.htm>