

404/401 Water Quality Certification and Removal-Fill Permit Multi-Agency Wetlands and Waterways Pre-Application Meetings



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a multi-agency wetlands and waterways pre-application meeting?

This is a formal meeting specifically for applicants who are proposing projects that will impact wetlands and/or waterways in the State of Oregon, and thus need to obtain a removal fill permit, a 404 permit, and 401 Water Quality Certification. This meeting is held once a month with staff from all relevant state and federal agencies who will review your draft or conceptual project information before you submit a Joint Permit Application. The meeting gives you an opportunity to talk directly with permit staff and receive feedback before applying for permits.

Participating agencies include:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Portland District
- Oregon Department of State Lands
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- U.S. EPA – Region 10 Oregon Operations Office
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

How do I know if I should attend a pre-application meeting?

The pre-application meeting is intended for non-routine permit evaluations that may be complex or controversial in nature. A how-to guide has been developed and will help you decide if your project is a good match for the pre-application meeting process. For a link to



Oregon Department of State Lands

775 Summer St. NE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-1279
(503) 986-5200 | www.oregonstatelands.us



US Army Corps of Engineers

333 SW First Ave.
Portland, OR 97208-2946
(503) 808-4510 | www.nwp.usace.army.mil

this guide, go to the DSL website: www.oregonstatelands.us. The link for the pre-application meetings is under Current Information on the homepage.

In the project development process, when is the right time for a pre-application meeting?

The best time for a meeting is when you have draft or conceptual plans, but have not committed to any specific designs. This timing allows the agencies to review an overview of your plans, and gives you the flexibility to change plans and designs based on feedback. The intent of the meeting is to provide meaningful comment and feedback to a prospective applicant's project early in the permitting process to inform the preparation of a permit application.

What are the benefits of pre-application meetings?

1. You will hear feedback from multiple agencies at one time, instead of scheduling a series of individual meetings.
2. You will be given a clear indication of what parts of your project plan might be lacking detail or information, and have an opportunity to correct these deficiencies before submitting the Joint Permit Application. This should save both time and money.
3. You will be told if parts of your project, as presented, are not eligible for permitting, and may be given suggestions on alternatives that could make the project more feasible.

Will having a pre-application meeting mean I will get my permit quicker and cheaper?

Not necessarily. The intent of the pre-application meeting is to get more complete information for projects and eliminate repeated requests for more information after you've submitted a Joint Permit Application to the Department of State Lands and the Corps of Engineers. Reducing the number of times you have to submit additional information is one goal of the pre-meeting, which could make the process quicker, but it's not a guarantee.

By having a pre-application meeting where you have enough information to discuss the project, including review of any conceptual plans or drawings, you could spend less time and money making revisions and corrections to designs or construction later in the project timeline.

What can I expect at the pre-application meeting?

A group of state and federal agencies involved in the permit process will meet with you for one hour. The agencies will discuss the information you've provided through a set of input questions, and provide feedback on discussion topic questions. They will review any maps, drawings or other materials you've provided, and offer feedback on the regulatory feasibility of your proposed project.

Agency representatives will not be able to tell you exactly how long the permit process will take, if you are guaranteed to get a permit, or other specific project details. This level of detail is beyond the scope of the pre-application meeting and process.