

COASTAL PERMIT PROGRAM RULES

CHAPTER 7

COASTAL PERMIT PROGRAM RULES

Authority

N.J.S.A. 12:5-3, 13:1D-9, 13:1D-29 et seq.,
13:9A-1 et seq. and 13:19-1 et seq.

Source and Effective Date

R.2000 d.428, effective September 22, 2000.
See: 32 N.J.R. 864(a), 32 N.J.R. 3784(b).

Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date

Chapter 7, Coastal Permit Program Rules, expires on September 22, 2005.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 7, Bureau of Marine Lands Management, Subchapter 1, Riparian Grants and Leases, was adopted and became effective prior to September 1, 1969.

Subchapter 1, Riparian Grants and Leases, was repealed by R.1980 d.433, effective October 7, 1980. See: 12 N.J.R. 454(b), 12 N.J.R. 643(a).

Subchapter 2, Waterfront Development Permits, was adopted as R.1980 d.375, effective September 26, 1980. See: 12 N.J.R. 252(a), 12 N.J.R. 576(a).

Subchapter 2, Waterfront Development Permits, was repealed and Chapter 7, Coastal Permit Program Rules, was adopted as new rules by R.1984 d.164, effective May 7, 1984. See: 16 N.J.R. 1073(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 7, Coastal Permit Program Rules, was readopted as R.1989 d.309, effective May 12, 1989, operative June 5, 1989. See: 21 N.J.R. 369(a), 21 N.J.R. 1526(a).

Public Notice: Notice of Routine Program Implementation. See: 25 N.J.R. 1010(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 7, Coastal Permit Program Rules, was readopted as R.1994 d.276, effective May 10, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 917(a), 26 N.J.R. 2413(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 7, Coastal permit Program Rules, was readopted as R.1994 d.378, effective June 24, 1994, and Subchapter 7, General Permits and Permits-By-Rule, was adopted by R.1994 d.378, effective July 18, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 918(a), 26 N.J.R. 1561(a), 26 N.J.R. 2934(a).

Subchapter 8, Enforcement, was adopted as R.1994 d.413, effective August 1, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 1745(a), 26 N.J.R. 3188(a).

Notice of Routine Program Change. See: 30 N.J.R. 2087(a), 30 N.J.R. 2780(b), 30 N.J.R. 4284(a).

The Executive Order No. 66(1978) expiration date for Chapter 7, Coastal Permit Program Rules, was extended by gubernatorial directive from June 24, 1999 to June 24, 2000. See: 31 N.J.R. 1923(a).

Subchapter 9, Sector Permit, was adopted as R.2000 d.45, effective February 7, 2000. See: 31 N.J.R. 2042(a), 32 N.J.R. 503(a).

The Executive Order No. 66(1978) expiration date for Chapter 7, Coastal Permit Program Rules, was extended by gubernatorial directive from June 24, 2000 to December 31, 2000. See: 32 N.J.R. 2591(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 7, Coastal Permit Program Rules, was readopted as R.2000 d.428, effective September 22, 2000. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

7:7-1.1 Purpose and scope

(a) This chapter establishes the procedures by which the Department of Environmental Protection will review permit applications and appeals from permit decisions under the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA, N.J.S.A. 13:19-1 et seq.), the Wetlands Act of 1970 (N.J.S.A. 13:9A-1 et seq.) and the Waterfront Development Law (N.J.S.A. 12:5-3). These procedures also govern the reviews of Federal Consistency Determinations issued pursuant to the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq., and Water Quality Certificates issued pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., when the approvals are sought in conjunction with any of the foregoing permit applications.

(b) The following types of activities are regulated under each of these laws:

1. **CAFRA:** The construction of any development defined in Section 3 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 13:19-3) or in N.J.A.C. 7:7-2.1, within the coastal area described in Section 4 of the Act (N.J.S.A. 13:19-4).

2. **Wetlands Act of 1970:** The draining, dredging, excavation, or deposition of material, and the erection of any structure, driving of pilings or placing of obstructions in any coastal wetlands which have been mapped or delineated pursuant to the Wetlands Act of 1970. A list of these maps and a full list of regulated activities appears in N.J.A.C. 7:7-2.2.

3. **Waterfront Development Law:** The filling or dredging of, or placement or construction of structures, pilings or other obstructions in any tidal waterway, or in certain upland areas adjacent to tidal waterways outside the area regulated under CAFRA. These requirements are fully explained in N.J.A.C. 7:7-2.3.

Amended by R.1994 d.378, effective July 18, 1994.
See: 26 N.J.R. 918(a), 26 N.J.R. 1561(a), 26 N.J.R. 2934(a).

Case Notes

Validity. In re Loveladies Harbor, Inc., 176 N.J.Super. 69, 422 A.2d 107 (App.Div.1980), certification denied 85 N.J. 501, 427 A.2d 588 (1981).

Regulated activity without permit prior to promulgated order. Loveladies Prop. Owners Ass'n v. Raab, 137 N.J.Super. 179, 348 A.2d 540 (App.Div.1975).

Power of D.E.P. to regulate use of marshes and wetlands. Sands Point Harbor, Inc. v. Sullivan, 136 N.J.Super. 436, 346 A.2d 612 (App.Div.1975).

7:7-1.2 (Reserved)

Repealed, R.1987 d.217, effective May 18, 1987.
See: 18 N.J.R. 2156(a), 19 N.J.R. 861(b).

This section "Authority" was repealed.

7:7-1.3 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Amusement pier" means an elevated, pile-supported structure located on a beach and/or tidal water, seaward of a bulkhead or boardwalk, and perpendicular to the mean high water line, on which amusements are located. For purposes of this definition, "amusements" includes rides, games of skill or chance for prizes other than cash payoffs, vendors of toys and/or other merchandise. "Amusements" do not include games for cash payoffs, bars or restaurants.

"Beach" means a gently sloping area of sand or other unconsolidated material found on tidal shorelines, including ocean, inlet, bay and river shorelines, that extends landward from the mean high water line to either: the vegetation line; a man-made feature generally parallel to the ocean, inlet, bay or river waters such as a retaining structure, seawall, bulkhead, road or boardwalk, except that sandy areas that

extend fully under and landward of an elevated boardwalk are considered to be beach areas; or the seaward or bayward foot of dunes, whichever is closest to the ocean, inlet, bay or river water.

"Bulkhead" means a vertical shore protection structure installed to withstand the forces of waves and currents. A bulkhead is not a "revetment" or a "gabion" as defined elsewhere in this section.

"CAFRA" means the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (N.J.S.A. 13:19-1 et seq.).

"City of the fourth class" means a city as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:6-4d which borders on the Atlantic Ocean and which is a seaside or summer resort.

"Coastal bluff" means a steep slope (greater than 15 percent) of consolidated (rock) or unconsolidated (sand, gravel) sediment which is adjacent to the shoreline or which is demonstrably associated with shoreline processes. The waterward limit of a coastal bluff is a point 25 feet waterward of the toe of the bluff face, or the mean high water line, whichever is nearest the toe of the bluff. The landward limit of a coastal bluff is the landward limit of the area likely to be eroded within 50 years, or a point 25 feet landward of the crest of the bluff, whichever is farthest inland. Steep slopes are isolated areas with slopes greater than 15 percent. All steep slopes associated with shoreline processes or adjacent to the shoreline and associated wetlands, or contributing sediment to the system, will be considered coastal bluffs.

"Coastal Permit" or "permit" means an authorization or permit issued by the Department under this chapter pursuant to any of the following statutes: the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA), N.J.S.A. 13:19-1 et seq., the Wetlands Act of 1970, N.J.S.A. 13:9A-1 et seq., or the Waterfront Development Law, N.J.S.A. 12:5-3.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection or designated representative.

"Commercial development" means a development designed, constructed or intended to accommodate commercial or office uses. "Commercial development" shall include, but need not be limited to, any establishment used for the wholesale or retail sale of food, beverage or other merchandise, or any establishment used for providing professional, financial, or other commercial services.

"Conservation restriction" means a restriction, easement, covenant, or condition, in any deed, will or other instrument, other than a lease, executed by or on behalf of the owner of the land, appropriate to retaining land or water areas predominantly in their natural, scenic or open or wooded condition, or for conservation of soil or wildlife, or for outdoor recreation or park use, or as suitable habitat for fish or wildlife, to forbid or limit any or all:

1. Construction or placing of buildings, roads, signs, billboards or other advertising, or other structures on or above the ground;

2. Dumping or placing of soil or other substance or material as landfill, or dumping or placing of trash, waste or unsightly or offensive materials;

3. Removal or destruction of trees, shrubs or other vegetation;

4. Excavation, dredging or removal of loam, peat, gravel, soil, rock or other mineral substance;

5. Surface use except for the purposes permitting the land or water area to remain predominantly in its natural condition;

6. Activities detrimental to drainage, flood control, water conservation, erosion control or soil conservation, or fish and wildlife habitat preservation; and/or

7. Other acts or uses detrimental to the retention of land or water areas according to the purposes of this chapter.

“Deck” means a horizontal platform that is not enclosed by windows, walls, doors, or screens and is not covered by a roof.

“Department” means the Department of Environmental Protection.

“Development” means any activity for which a Wetlands Act of 1970 or Waterfront Development Permit is required, including site preparation and clearing. Development, for an application under CAFRA, means the construction, relocation, or enlargement of the footprint of development of any building or structure and all site preparation therefor, the grading, excavation or filling on beaches and dunes, and shall include residential development, commercial development, industrial development, and public development. Development under CAFRA and the Waterfront Development Law does not include repairs or maintenance such as replacing siding, windows or roofs, unless such repairs or maintenance are associated with enlargements which are not exempt under CAFRA pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:7-2.1(c)4 or the Waterfront Development Law pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:7-2.3(d). Development under CAFRA does not include debris removal or cleanup provided such activities do not involve excavation, grading, or filling on beaches and dunes.

“Dune” means a wind- or wave-deposited or man-made formation of sand that lies generally parallel to and landward of the beach, and between the upland limit of the beach and the foot of the most inland slope of the dune. Dune includes the foredune, secondary and tertiary dune ridges, as well as man-made dunes, where they exist. A small mound of loose, windblown sand found in a street or on part of a structure as a result of storm activity is not considered to be a dune.

“Dwelling unit” means a house, townhouse, apartment, cooperative, condominium, cabana, hotel or motel room, a patient/client room in a hospital, nursing home or other residential institution, mobile home, campsite for a tent or recreational vehicle, floating home, or any other habitable structure of similar size and potential environmental impact, except that dwelling unit shall not mean a vessel as defined in section 2 of P.L. 1962, c.73 (N.J.S.A. 12:7-34.37).

“Educational facility” means an elementary or secondary school.

“Excavation” means the extraction of sand, gravel, earth or any other material.

“Filling” means the depositing of sand, gravel, earth or any other material.

“Floating home” means any waterborne structure designed and intended primarily as a permanent or seasonal dwelling, not for use as a recreational vessel, which will remain stationary for more than 10 days.

“Footprint of development” means the vertical projection to the horizontal plane of the exterior of all exterior walls of a structure.

“Gabion” means a shore protection structure that is comprised of wire mesh basket(s) or mattress(es) filled with rock and used in multiples as a structural unit installed to withstand the forces of waves and currents. A gabion is not a “bulkhead” or a “revetment” as defined elsewhere in this section.

“Governmental agency” means the Government of the United States, the State of New Jersey, or any other state, or a political subdivision, authority, agency or instrumentality thereof, and shall include any interstate agency or authority.

“Grading” means leveling off to a smooth horizontal or sloping surface.

“Habitable structure” means a structure that is able to receive a certificate of occupancy from the municipal construction code official, or is demonstrated to have been legally occupied as a dwelling unit for the most recent five year period.

“Industrial development” means a development that involves a manufacturing or industrial process, and shall include, but is not limited to, electric power production, food and food by-product processing, paper production, agricultural production, chemical processes, storage facilities, metallurgical processes, mining and excavation processes, and processes using mineral products.

"Linear development" means a development with the basic function of connecting two points, such as a road, drive, public walkway, railroad, sewerage pipe, stormwater management pipe, gas pipeline, water pipeline, or electric, telephone or other transmission lines.

"LURP (Land Use Regulation Program) application form" means an application form used when applying for a permit or exemption pursuant to the Coastal Area Facility Review Act, Waterfront Development Law, Wetlands Act of 1970, Flood Hazard Area Control Act, or Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, or when applying for Water Quality Certification and Federal Consistency Determinations. This form includes blocks for information regarding the permit application type, project description, project site location, property owner certification and names and addresses of the applicant and the applicant's agent.

"Man-made lagoon" means an artificially created linear waterway sometimes branched, ending in a dead end with no significant upland drainage. Lagoons have been created through dredging and filling of wetlands, bay bottom and other estuarine water areas for the purpose of creating waterfront lots for residential development adjacent to the lagoon. A natural waterway which is altered by activities including, but not limited to, filling, channelizing, or bulkheading shall not be considered a man-made lagoon, nor shall a bulkheaded boatslip be considered a lagoon.

"Mean high water" (MHW) is a tidal datum that is the arithmetic mean of the high water heights observed over a specific 19-year Metonic cycle (the National Tidal Datum Epoch). For the New Jersey shore, the two high waters of each tidal day are included in the mean. This datum is available from the Department's Bureau of Tidelands.

"Mean high water line" (MHWL) is the intersection of the land with the water surface at the elevation of mean high water. The elevation of mean high water varies along the ocean front and the tidal bays and streams in the coastal zone.

(Note: For the above two definitions, for practical purposes, the mean high water line is often referred to as the "ordinary" high water line, which is typically identified in the field as the limit of wet sand or the debris line on a beach, or by a stain line on a bulkhead or piling. However, for the purpose of establishing regulatory jurisdiction pursuant to the Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) and the Waterfront Development Act, the surveyed mean high water elevation will be utilized.)

"Person" means any corporation, company, association, society, firm, partnership, individual, government agency, or joint stock company.

"Pesticide" means any substance defined as a pesticide pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 7:30.

"Porch" means a covered or uncovered entrance, directly connected to a residential dwelling.

"Program" means the Land Use Regulation Program in the Department of Environmental Protection.

"Public development" means a solid waste facility, including incinerators and landfills, wastewater treatment plant, public highway, airport including single or multi-air strips, an above or underground pipeline designed to transport petroleum, natural gas, or sanitary sewage, and a public facility, and shall not mean a seasonal or temporary structure related to the tourism industry, an educational facility or power lines. "Public development" does not have to be publicly funded or operated.

"Public highway" means a "public highway" as defined in section 3 of P.L. 1984, c.73 (N.J.S.A. 27:1B-3), namely public roads, streets, expressways, freeways, parkways, motorways and boulevards, including bridges, tunnels, overpasses, underpasses, interchanges, rest areas, express bus roadways, bus pullouts and turnarounds, park-ride facilities, traffic circles, grade separations, traffic control devices, the elimination or improvement of crossings of railroads and highways, whether at grade or not at grade, and any facilities, equipment, property, rights-of-way, easements and interests therein needed for the construction, improvement and maintenance of highways.

"Qualifying municipality" means a municipality that qualifies under N.J.S.A. 52:27D-178 et seq. to receive State aid for the purpose of enabling such municipalities to maintain and upgrade municipal services and offset local property taxes. Under N.J.S.A. 52:27D-178 et seq., the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) establishes a list of qualifying municipalities for each State fiscal year. DCA's list of qualifying municipalities may be obtained on request from the Department's Land Use Regulation Program, PO Box 439, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, (609)292-0060.

"Regulated activity" or "activity" means any activity for which a permit is required under CAFRA, the Wetlands Act of 1970 or Waterfront Development Law, and shall also include the terms "project" and "development".

"Regulated wetland" means any wetland which has been mapped and the map promulgated pursuant to the Wetlands Act of 1970.

"Residential development" means a development that provides one or more dwelling units.

"Revetment" means a sloped shore protection structure consisting of a facing made of stone, placed on a bank, bluff, or shoreline to withstand the forces of waves and currents. A revetment is not a "gabion" or "bulkhead" as defined elsewhere in this section.

“Seasonal or temporary structures related to the tourism industry” means lifeguard stands and associated temporary equipment storage containers, picnic tables, benches and canopies, beach badge sheds, wooden walkways, stage platforms, and portable restrooms, which remain in place only during the period from May 1 through September 30, and provided that the placement of such structures does not involve the excavation, grading or filling of a beach or dune.

“Site” means the lot or lots upon which a proposed development is to be constructed.

“Site preparation” means physical activity which is an integral part of a continuous process of land development or redevelopment for a particular development which must occur before actual construction of that development may commence. It does not include the taking of soil borings, performing percolation tests, or driving of less than three test pilings.

“Structure” means any assembly of materials above, on or below the surface of the land or water, including but not limited to buildings, fences, dams, pilings, footings, breakwaters, culverts, pipes, pipelines, piers, roads, railroads, bridges, and includes floating structures.

“Tidelands instrument” means a written document conveying, leasing or licensing lands owned or claimed to be owned as present or formerly flowed tidelands by the State of New Jersey to public entities or private interests pursuant to N.J.S.A. 12:3-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 13:1B-13 et seq. Tidelands instruments include licenses, long-term leases, conveyances (often called grants), and management agreements. These documents are recorded in the office of the clerk of the county or registrar of deeds and mortgages of the county in which the property is located.

“Waterward side of development” means the area of the site located between a tidal water body and a line(s) drawn through point(s) of the footprint of the building closest to the water, and parallel to the water body, which line extends to the property boundaries. (see Appendix A, herein incorporated by reference).

Amended by R.1987 d.217, effective May 18, 1987.
See: 18 N.J.R. 2156(a), 19 N.J.R. 861(b).

Amended Division and Permit; added pesticide.
Amended by R.1994 d.378, effective July 18, 1994.
See: 26 N.J.R. 918(a), 26 N.J.R. 1561(a), 26 N.J.R. 2934(a).
Amended by R.1995 d.550, effective October 16, 1995.
See: 27 N.J.R. 1005(a), 27 N.J.R. 3976(a).
Amended by R.2000 d.428, effective October 16, 2000.
See: 32 N.J.R. 864(a), 32 N.J.R. 3784(b).

Rewrote the section.

7:7-1.4 Standards for evaluating permit applications

(a) All applications for coastal permits (as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:7-1.3), water quality certificates, and Federal consistency determinations shall be approved, conditionally approved or denied pursuant to the Department's Rules on Coastal Zone Management, N.J.A.C. 7:7E. In addition, applications for water quality certificates will be reviewed on the basis of other applicable State laws, including the State water quality standards.

(b) The Department shall not issue a permit under CAFRA unless the application complies with all of the policy and substantive standards of N.J.S.A. 13:19-2 and 13:19-10 as expressed in the Coastal Zone Management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:7E.

Amended by R.1987 d.217, effective May 18, 1987.
See: 18 N.J.R. 2156(a), 19 N.J.R. 861(b).

Deleted Policies from text.
Amended by R.1994 d.378, effective July 18, 1994.
See: 26 N.J.R. 918(a), 26 N.J.R. 1561(a), 26 N.J.R. 2934(a).
Amended by R.2001 d.81, effective March 5, 2001.
See: 32 N.J.R. 352(a), 32 N.J.R. 682(a), 33 N.J.R. 843(a).
Added designation to first paragraph and added (b).

Case Notes

Implementing rules propounded by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), with respect to Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA), did not incorporate, expressly or impliedly, requirement that DEP make specific findings required by statute. In the Matter of the Protest of Coastal Permit Program Rules, 807 A.2d 198, 354 N.J.Super. 293.

Conditional approval of construction permit for large scale development, permitting no construction until statutory standards satisfied, improper as not authorized by enabling legislation and as being a decision deficient in essential findings (citing former N.J.A.C. 7:7D-2.3). *Crema v. Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 182 N.J.Super. 445, 442 A.2d 630 (App.Div.1982), affirmed as modified 94 N.J. 286, 463 A.2d 910 (1983).

Application for waterfront development permit; failure to comply with rules for coastal zone management. *Haldone v. DEPE*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (EPE) 2.

7:7-1.5 Permits and permit conditions

(a) No person shall undertake or cause, suffer, allow or permit any regulated activity without a permit issued by the Department in accordance with this chapter.

(b) The following conditions shall apply to all coastal permits. Failure to comply with any of the following shall constitute a violation.

1. A permittee shall notify the Department in writing, at least three working days prior to the beginning of construction on the site or site preparation.
2. A permittee shall notify the Department in writing within five working days prior to commencement of operation of a CAFRA development. At this time, the permittee shall also certify that all conditions of the permit that must be met prior to operation of the development have been met.
3. The issuance of a permit shall in no way expose the State of New Jersey or the Department to liability for the sufficiency or correctness of the design of any construction, structure or structures. Neither the State nor the Department shall, in any way, be liable for the loss of life or property which may occur by virtue of the activity or development resulting from any permit.

4. A permittee shall allow the authorized representatives of the Department free access to the site at all times when construction activity is taking place, and at other

times upon notice to the permittee. The permittee shall provide free of charge to the Department all of its equipment reasonably necessary for inspection of the site.



5. No change in plans or specifications upon which a permit is issued shall be made except with the prior written permission of the Department, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:7-4.10.

6. The notice of authorization shall be posted prominently at the site during construction and a copy of the permit and approved plans shall be kept on the construction site and shall be exhibited upon request to any person.

7. The permittee shall immediately inform the Department of any unanticipated adverse effects on the environment not described in the application or in the conditions of the permit. The Department may, upon discovery of such unanticipated adverse effects, and upon the failure of the permittee to submit a report thereon, notify the permittee of its intent to suspend the permit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:7-4.11.

8. Plans and specifications in the application and conditions imposed by a permit shall remain in full force and effect so long as the proposed development or any portion thereof is in existence, unless modified pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:7-4.10.

9. If any condition or a permit is determined to be legally unenforceable, modifications and additional conditions may be imposed by the Department as necessary to protect the public interest.

10. A permit is subject to suspension or revocation for violations of its terms and conditions. A permittee shall, upon receipt of a notice of suspension or revocation, comply with the terms of such notice and shall, if required, cease such construction.

11. The Department may issue a modified permit in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:7-4.10.

12. If a permit condition requires the dedication of land to a political subdivision for open space and/or recreational or other uses, the permittee shall, within 45 days of the political subdivision's decision whether or not to accept the land, furnish proof to the Department of the political subdivision's decision with respect to such dedication, or the permit may be revoked as provided in N.J.A.C. 7:7-4.11.

13. In the event of rental, lease, sale or other conveyance of the site by the permittee, the permit shall be continued in force and shall apply to the new tenant, lessee, owner or assignee so long as there is no change in the site, proposed construction or proposed use of the development, as described in the original application. No such change shall be implemented unless an application for a permit modification is filed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:7-4.10.

14. If a permit contains a condition that must be satisfied prior to the commencement of construction, the permittee must comply with such condition(s) within the time required by the permit or, if no time specific require-

ment is imposed, then within six months of the effective date of the permit, or provide evidence satisfactory to the Department that such condition(s) cannot be satisfied.

15. If required by the Department as a permit condition, the permit shall be filed with the clerk of the county court in which the project site is located as notice to prospective purchasers.

16. A permittee shall employ appropriate measures to minimize noise where necessary during construction, as specified in N.J.S.A. 13:1G-1 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 7:29 (Noise control).

17. Development which requires soil disturbance, the creation of drainage structures, or changes in natural contours shall conduct operations in accordance with the latest revised version of "Standards for Soil Erosion Sediment Control in New Jersey," promulgated by the New Jersey State Soil Conservation Committee, pursuant to the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act of 1975, N.J.S.A. 4:24-42 et seq. and N.J.A.C. 2:90-1.3 through 1.14. These standards are hereby incorporated by reference.

18. If the Department determines that a conservation restriction, as defined at N.J.A.C. 7:7-1.3, is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, or to protect wildlife and/or fisheries, or to otherwise preserve, protect, and enhance the natural environment, the permittee shall, prior to site preparation, submit to the Department proof that such a conservation restriction has been recorded in the office of the clerk of the county or the registrar of deeds and mortgages of the county in which the development site is located. The conservation restriction shall be in the form and terms appropriate to the property as specified and approved by the Department, and shall run with the property and be binding upon the property owner and the successors in interest in the property or in any part thereof;

(c) A permit shall be valid authority to commence construction of a development for a period of five years from its date of issuance. Where construction has commenced within this five year period, the permit, with the exception of permits issued for activities located below the mean high water line, shall upon written authorization of the Department be valid, as long as construction continues, until the project is completed subject to the provisions of (c)1 and 2 below.

1. If construction continues beyond the five year period, and then, prior to completion of the project, stops for a cumulative period of one year or longer the permit shall expire, except for projects of unusual size or scope or for projects which are delayed due to circumstances beyond the permittee's control (such as a delay in the financing of a public works project), in which case, upon the request of the applicant prior to the expiration of the original permit, the permit may be extended for a total of 10 years from the original effective date.

2. All requests for authorization to continue construction beyond the expiration of a permit shall be submitted to the Department no later than 20 business days prior to the expiration date of the permit.

3. All permits issued of activities occurring below the mean high water line shall be effective for a fixed term not to exceed five years.

4. All water quality certificates and Federal consistency determinations issued in conjunction with a State permit will be in effect for the lifetime of the associated State permit.

5. A water quality certificate not issued in conjunction with other State permits shall be effective for five years or for the original duration of the underlying Federal permit (without renewals), whichever is shorter.

(d) The duration of validity for coastal general permits is found at N.J.A.C. 7:7-7.3(k).

(e) The Department may, after public notice, issue a general permit for activities which are substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal individual and cumulative environmental impacts. The process for issuance of General Permits and the process for authorizing various activities under the issued General Permits is detailed at N.J.A.C. 7:7-7.

Amended by R.1987 d.217, effective May 18, 1987.

See: 18 N.J.R. 2156(a), 19 N.J.R. 861(b).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1994 d.378, effective July 18, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 918(a), 26 N.J.R. 1561(a), 26 N.J.R. 2934(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.428, effective October 16, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 864(a), 32 N.J.R. 3784(b).

Rewrote the section.

Case Notes

Expiration of construction permit issued by (DEP) did not preclude application of permit condition requiring Department approval for connection to borough sewer system. *Mutschler v. Envir. Protection*, 337 N.J.Super. 1 (A.D.2001).

Permit granted while permit application was still pending was invalid. In re Waterfront Development Permit No. WD88-0443-1, Lincoln Harbor Final Development, Weehawken, Hudson County, 244 N.J.Super. 426, 582 A.2d 1018 (A.D.1990) certification denied 126 N.J. 320, 598 A.2d 880.

Conditional approval of construction permit for large scale development, permitting no construction until statutory standards satisfied, improper. (citing former N.J.A.C. 7:7D-2.5). *Crema v. Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 182 N.J.Super. 445, 442 A.2d 630 (App.Div. 1982), affirmed as modified 94 N.J. 286, 463 A.2d 910 (1983).

7:7-1.6 Provisional permits

(a) The Department may issue a provisional permit if it finds that the beginning of construction prior to the completion of the full permit review process is necessary to meet the regulatory or funding requirements of a Federal or State agency.

(b) The issuance of a provisional permit shall not exempt the permittee from any of the requirements of this chapter. A permit application must be submitted before a provisional permit can be issued, and all permit review procedures shall be complied with following issuance of the provisional permit.

Amended by R.1994 d.378, effective July 18, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 918(a), 26 N.J.R. 1561(a), 26 N.J.R. 2934(a).

7:7-1.7 Emergency permit authorization

(a) The Department may issue an emergency permit authorization if it determines that there is an imminent threat to lives or property if regulated construction activities are not immediately commenced. Potential for severe environmental degradation will also constitute a basis for issuing an emergency permit authorization. The procedure for obtaining an emergency permit authorization is as follows:

1. The requesting party shall notify the Department's Bureau of Coastal and Land Use Enforcement by telephone of any situation which may constitute an imminent threat to lives, property or the environment. In response to this notification, the Bureau of Coastal and Land Use Enforcement will inspect the subject site whenever feasible to determine the condition of the property, and the extent of the imminent threat. The determination of imminent threat will be made solely by the Department, based on the condition of the property at the time of inspection. The findings of the inspection will be provided to the Land Use Regulation Program, together with a recommendation regarding the request for emergency permit authorization.

2. The requesting party shall notify the Administrator of the Land Use Regulation Program, in writing, of the imminent threat, including details of the condition of existing structures, the vulnerability of people and/or property, or the imminent threat to the environment, and the proposed construction activities for which the emergency permit authorization is being sought. This written notification shall concurrently be provided to the Department's Bureau of Coastal and Land Use Enforcement.

3. The Land Use Regulation Program will make the final determination on the issuance of an emergency permit authorization. The emergency permit authorization may be oral or in writing. If oral authorization is given, the Department shall issue a subsequent written authorization within five working days. In the event that the construction activities deviate from those which have been approved by the oral or written emergency permit authorization, prior authorization of those deviations must be obtained from the Land Use Regulation Program. Any unauthorized deviation in construction from that which has been authorized will constitute a violation of this section, and may be cause for suspension and revocation of the authorization, and/or other enforcement actions.

4. Within 10 working days of the issuance of an emergency permit authorization, the property owner shall submit a complete coastal permit application to the Land Use Regulation Program. This application must include the LURP application form, appropriate permit fee, construction plans, compliance statement, and public notice, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:7-4.2. Upon receipt and review of the permit application in accordance with these rules and the Coastal Zone Management rules, N.J.A.C. 7:7E, the Land Use Regulation Program shall issue a coastal permit, or permits, for the activities covered by the emergency permit authorization. This permit may contain conditions that must be satisfied by the permittee in accordance with the time frames established in the permit.

New Rule, R.1994 d.378, effective July 18, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 918(a), 26 N.J.R. 1561(a), 26 N.J.R. 2934(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.428, effective October 16, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 864(a), 32 N.J.R. 3784(b).

In (a)4, substituted "LURP application" for "standard application (CP-1)" in the second sentence.

7:7-1.8 Procedure where more than one permit is required

(a) When a proposed development or project requires more than one coastal permit, the Department will require only one application, but that application must comply with the requirements of each applicable permit program. This does not preclude an applicant from submitting separate applications if the timing or magnitude of a project requires it.

(b) The Department shall assess a single permit fee for a project which requires more than one of the following permits, if the permit applications are submitted and processed simultaneously: CAFRA permits; waterfront development permits; coastal wetlands permits; stream encroachment permits; or freshwater wetlands permits (including individuals permits, general permits, and transition area waivers) issued under N.J.A.C. 7:7A. The permit fee for the project shall be calculated in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:1C-1.5(c).

Amended by R.1993 d.111, effective March 1, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2768(a), 25 N.J.R. 924(a).

Deleted "... the highest of any ..." and added "calculated in accordance with ...".

Recodified from 7:7-1.7 and amended R.1994 d.378, effective July 18, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 918(a), 26 N.J.R. 1561(a), 26 N.J.R. 2934(a).

7:7-1.9 Permit fees

Permit fees are established by the Department pursuant to the 90 Day Construction Permit Law (N.J.S.A. 13:1D-29 et seq.) and are published at N.J.A.C. 7:1C-1.5. The Department will maintain a printed fee schedule for public use.

Amended by R.1987 d.217, effective May 18, 1987.

See: 18 N.J.R. 2056(a), 19 N.J.R. 861(b).

Added text "(N.J.S.A. 13:1D-29 et seq.)".

Recodified from 7:7-1.8 and amended by R.1994 d.378, effective July 18, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 918(a), 26 N.J.R. 1561(a), 26 N.J.R. 2934(a).

7:7-1.10 Construction and relaxation of procedures or standards

(a) This chapter shall be liberally construed to effectuate the purpose of the Acts under which it was adopted.

(b) The Department may, in its discretion and if consistent with statutory requirements, relax the application of any of the procedures in this chapter when necessary and in the public interest.

(c) In making any permit decision under this chapter, the Department may relax the application of one or more of the substantive standards in the rules on Coastal Zone Management at N.J.A.C. 7:7E. The Department may relax the application of the standards in N.J.A.C. 7:7E only if the applicant demonstrates that an extraordinary hardship exists. An extraordinary hardship is deemed to exist only if the applicant demonstrates to the Department's satisfaction that:

1. The strict application of any standard(s) in N.J.A.C. 7:7E would prevent a property owner from realizing a minimum beneficial use of his or her property as a whole, in accordance with constitutional standards, and this does not result from an action or inaction of that property owner or an entity controlled by that property owner. For the purposes of this paragraph, the property as a whole is all property that was assembled as one investment or to further one development plan, and may include more than one municipal tax lot. The property as a whole may also include lots that were previously sold or developed, if those lots were part of one investment or one development plan;
2. The proposed use minimizes impacts to the Special Areas described at N.J.A.C. 7:7E-3 to the maximum extent practicable;
3. The proposed use will not jeopardize a threatened or endangered species;
4. The property has been offered for sale as required under (e)4 below;
5. The proposed use will not substantially impair coastal resources;
6. The proposed use is the minimum relief necessary to enable the property owner to realize a minimum beneficial use of the property as a whole, consistent with constitutional standards; and;
7. Any part of the subject property that the Department does not allow to be developed through relaxation of the substantive standards of N.J.A.C. 7:7E under this subsection shall be protected from any future development by a recorded conservation restriction to prohibit its use in the future for regulated activities.

(d) An applicant may request a relaxation of a substantive standard(s) in N.J.A.C. 7:7E under (c) above either:

1. At the same time that the applicant submits a permit application. However, the Department will not make a decision on the request until after the Department renders a decision on the permit application; or

2. After receiving notice of a Department decision on a permit application. Unless the Department grants an extension of time for submitting such a request, the applicant shall submit a request for relaxation of N.J.A.C. 7:7E standards within the time frame set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:7-5.1(a) for an adjudicatory hearing request.

(e) A request for the relaxation of N.J.A.C. 7:7E standards under (c) above shall include the following:

1. Development plans showing the project that is proposed in order to provide a minimum beneficial use;

2. Document(s) showing when the property as a whole was acquired and the purchase price of the property as a whole and the amount and nature of any other expenditures made to maintain and/or develop the property as a whole;

3. The language of a proposed conservation restriction that meets the requirements of (c)7 above;

4. Documentation that the property has been offered for sale, in a letter provided by the Department, via certified mail, at a fair market value, to all owners of real property within 200 feet of the property, and to the land conservancies, environmental organizations, and governmental agencies on a list supplied by the Department. The applicant shall submit any response it receives to the offer for sale to the Department within 15 days of receipt by the applicant. The written offer of sale shall:

i. Indicate that the offer is open for a period of at least 180 calendar days;

ii. Include a copy of a fair market value appraisal, performed by a State-licensed appraiser, that assumes that a minimum beneficial use of the property would be allowed;

iii. If applicable, include full disclosure that the property is comprised of any of the Special Areas described at N.J.A.C. 7:7E-3; and

iv. Indicate that a relaxation of N.J.A.C. 7:7E standards to avoid extraordinary hardship and allow development of the property has been requested under this section; and

5. Document(s) and a detailed narrative demonstrating compliance with (c) above.

Recodified from 7:7-1.9 and amended by R.1994 d.378, effective July 18, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 918(a), 26 N.J.R. 1561(a), 26 N.J.R. 2934(a).

Amended by R.2000 d.45, effective February 7, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2042(a), 32 N.J.R. 503(a).

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2000 d.428, effective October 16, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 864(a), 32 N.J.R. 3784(b).

In (e)4, substituted "15 days of receipt by the applicant" for "the time frame specified at (e)4i below" in the second sentence of the introductory paragraph.

Case Notes

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) rule listing responsibilities of certified sector permit municipalities did not govern standards for granting variances and waivers to requirements of Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) rules under Sector Permit Program, or permit municipalities to approve variances and waivers under less stringent provision of Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL). In the Matter of the Protest of Coastal Permit Program Rules, 807 A.2d 198, 354 N.J.Super. 293.

Even if a sector permit municipality grants a variance or waiver to requirements of Coastal Area Facility Review Act (CAFRA) rules based upon its own municipal ordinances, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is still required, notwithstanding the waiver or variance, to ensure that the developments continue to comply individually and collectively with the Coastal Zone Management rules, which include the waiver requirements. In the Matter of the Protest of Coastal Permit Program Rules, 807 A.2d 198, 354 N.J.Super. 293.

Regulation authorizing relaxation of application of rules when necessary and in public interest allowed only waiver of procedural rules for Coastal Area Facility Review Act development permits and did not authorize Department of Environmental Protection to waive bay island corridor preservation policy incorporated into separate chapter. In re CAFRA Permit No. 87-0959-5 Issued to Gateway Associates, 290 N.J.Super. 498, 676 A.2d 161 (A.D.1996).

7:7-1.11 Severability

If any section, subsection, provision, clause or portion of this chapter is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this chapter shall not be affected thereby.

Recodified from 7:7-1.10 by R.1994 d.378, effective July 18, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 918(a), 26 N.J.R. 1561(a), 26 N.J.R. 2934(a).

SUBCHAPTER 2. ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH A PERMIT IS REQUIRED

7:7-2.1 CAFRA

(a) Subject to the interpretation and definition of certain statutory terms as provided at (b) below and subject to the exemptions identified at (c) below, a CAFRA permit shall be required for:

1. Any development located on a beach or dune;

2. A development located in the CAFRA area between the mean high water line of any tidal waters, or the landward limit of a beach or dune, whichever is most landward, and a point 150 feet landward of the mean high water line of any tidal waters or the landward limit of a beach or dune, whichever is most landward, that would result either solely or in conjunction with a previous development, in:

i. A development if there is no intervening development that is either completed or under active construction as of July 19, 1994 between the proposed site of the development and the mean high water line of any tidal waters;

ii. A residential development having three or more dwelling units if there is an intervening development that is either completed or under active construction as of July 19, 1994 between the proposed site of the development and the mean high water line of any tidal waters;