

Chapter 18. Expedited Permit Processing Program

§1801. Scope

A. This Chapter establishes a program to expedite the processing of permits, modifications, licenses, registrations, or variances for environmental permit applicants who may request such services. Expedited processing of an application for a permit, modification, license, registration, or variance is an exercise of the discretion of the administrative authority and is subject to the availability of resources needed in order to process the permit, modification, license, registration, or variance. Permit actions approved for expedited permit processing must meet all regulatory requirements, including required public comment periods and any required review by other agencies.

B. Eligibility

1. An application for an initial permit or permit modification necessary for new construction as required by the Environmental Quality Act or regulation is eligible for expedited permit processing.

2. An application for permit modification that does not result in new permanent jobs is eligible for expedited processing pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter if it is associated with new construction; includes increases in production that benefit the national, state, or local economy; or provides a direct benefit to the environment.

3. Applications for permit renewal and/or reconciliation will be considered for expedited processing pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter on a case-by-case basis.

4. A request for expedited permit processing submitted prior to submittal of the associated permit application will not be considered.

5. Requests for exemptions, letters of no objection, and other miscellaneous letters of response are not eligible for expedited permit processing.

C. To the extent practicable, requests proposing new construction and requests that will result in the creation of new permanent jobs will be given highest consideration.

D. Approval of a request for expedited permit processing in no way guarantees issuance of the permit action or issuance of the permit action by the date requested.

E. The department may deny a request for expedited permit processing for any reason, including but not limited to the following:

1. the applicant's failure to pay outstanding fees or penalties;
2. compliance history concerns regarding the applicant;
3. an infeasible date requested for permit action;
4. an insufficient maximum amount the applicant is willing to pay; or
5. insufficient workforce resources available to assign to the task or a request not in line with department priorities.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30:2014.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 33:1013 (June 2007), amended LR 38:1232 (May 2012).

§1803. Procedures

A. Requests for expedited permit processing shall be submitted using the approved form. The approved form is available on the official website for the department. Hard copies may be obtained from the Office of Environmental Services.

B. Within 10 working days after receipt of a request for expedited processing of any permit, modification, license, registration, or variance, the administrative authority shall issue a decision to grant or deny the expedited processing request.

C. Permit Applications. The following are additional permit application requirements for facilities requesting expedited permit processing.

1. If requested by the department, the applicant shall submit permit application information electronically using the Air Permit Data Upload (APDU) system or any other electronic data submittal program provided by the department.

2. Prior to submittal of a permit application for a new major source, a new synthetic minor source, or a major modification of an existing source, a technical meeting with a representative of the department is recommended to review and discuss the proposed application.

D. Requests for Additional Information

1. If at any time during the review process of an application the administrative authority determines that additional information is necessary, the administrative authority shall notify the applicant and require a response from the applicant within a specified time.

2. The applicant shall respond to the request for additional information within the time specified by the administrative authority. Such a response shall contain all information required by the administrative authority.

3. The administrative authority may cease expedited processing of an application for a permit, modification, license, registration, or variance in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter if the applicant fails to supply the requested additional information by the specified time.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30: 2014.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 33:1014 (June 2007), amended LR 33:2079 (October 2007).

§1805. Fees

A. In addition to the fees charged pursuant to R.S. 30:2014, a fee shall be charged for each application for a permit, modification, license, registration, or variance that is processed on an expedited basis in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

1. An appropriate fee shall be computed based on the maximum per hour overtime salary, including associated related benefits, of the civil service employee of the department who performs the work.

2. The fee shall be computed by multiplying the salary figure from Paragraph A.1 of this Section by every overtime hour or portion thereof that a department employee or contractor works on expedited processing of the application for a permit, modification, license, registration, or variance.

3. The applicant may request that the expedited permit processing fee not exceed a maximum amount. If such a maximum amount is established, the number of overtime hours a department employee or contractor works processing the application for a permit, modification, license, registration, or variance shall be limited accordingly. If further processing of the application is required, the department's continued review will not follow the provisions of this Chapter, and the request will no longer be handled on an expedited basis, unless the applicant agrees in writing to pay the expedited fees required to complete the expedited processing of the permit action.

B. In the event that the administrative authority ceases processing an application for a permit, modification, license, registration, or variance in accordance with LAC 33:I.1803.D.3 or Paragraph A.3 of this Section, a fee will be charged for every overtime hour or portion thereof that a department employee or contractor worked on expedited processing of the subject application for a permit, modification, license, registration, or variance.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30: 2014.5 and 6.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 33:1014 (June 2007).

§1807. Invoicing and Failure to Pay

A. An invoice for the expedited permit processing fee shall be transmitted to the applicant after the administrative authority has made a decision to grant or deny the permit, modification, license, registration, or variance.

B. If the administrative authority has ceased processing the permit application in accordance with LAC 33:I.1803.D.3 or 1805.A.3, an invoice for the appropriate expedited permit processing fee shall be transmitted to the applicant.

C. Failure to pay the expedited permit processing fee by the due date specified on the invoice constitutes a violation of these regulations and shall subject the applicant to relevant enforcement action under the Louisiana Environmental Quality Act including, but not limited to, revocation or suspension of the permit, modification, license, registration, or variance.

D. A permit appeal, whether by the applicant or a third party, shall not stay the requirement to pay the expedited permit processing fee.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30: 2014.5 and 6.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 33:1015 (June 2007).

§1809. Public Notice and Availability of Records

A. Requirement to Provide Public Notice. The department shall provide notice of each request for expedited processing of an application for a permit, modification, license, registration, or variance that is processed pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter.

1. The notice of expedited permit processing shall be provided on the official website for the department.

2. For draft or proposed permit actions subject to public notice requirements under other regulations or program requirements, such public notice shall indicate that the draft or proposed permit was processed under the expedited permit processing provisions of this Chapter.

B. Contents of the Notice

1. The notice on the official website for the department shall contain the name of the applicant/permittee, the agency interest number, the parish in which the facility is physically located, the environmental medium involved, the date the request for expedited processing was received, and the date of the decision to approve or deny the request for expedited processing.

2. For draft or proposed permit actions subject to public notice requirements under other regulations or program requirements, in addition to such requirements, the public notice shall contain a statement that the draft or proposed permit was processed under the expedited permit processing provisions of this Chapter.

C. Availability of Records. All recorded information concerning a request for expedited processing (completed permit application form, fact sheet or statement of basis, draft and proposed permits, or any other public document) not classified as confidential information under R.S. 30:2030(A) or 30:2074(D) or not designated confidential in accordance with applicable regulations shall be made available to the public for inspection and copying in accordance with the Public Records Act, R.S. 44:1 et seq.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 30: 2014.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Secretary, Legal Affairs Division, LR 33:1015 (June 2007)