



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**

Information Session

General Aquatic Resource Alteration Permits for Wetland Impacts

Division of Water Resources – Natural Resources Unit
June 30, 2025

Introductions

- Moderator: Tara Pedraza, Director
Division of Stakeholder Engagement
- Presenter: Eddie Gordon, Manager
Division of Water Resources
Natural Resources Unit
- Virtual Host: Meghan Ploch, Regional Director of External Affairs
Division of Stakeholder Engagement
Office of External Affairs

Agenda

Informational Session

1:00—2:00 PM CDT

I. Informational Presentation

Eddie Gordon, Manager, Division of Water Resources Natural Resources Unit

Formal Public Hearing & Receiving of Comments

2:00 PM CDT

I. Procedural Overview

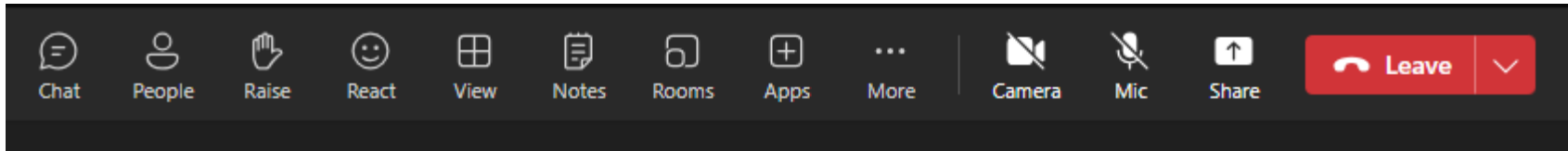
Tara Pedraza, Director, Division of Stakeholder Engagement

II. Public Comments Received

Both in-person and online participants may provide comments

III. Closing

Sign-in and MS Teams



- Virtual Participants may sign in by emailing your contact information to Meghan.Ploch@tn.gov
- Information on how to join the online meeting is available at tn.gov/environment
Public Participation < Water Resources Notices and Hearings
- You may also call into the meeting by dialing 629-209-4396
Conference ID: 801 651 242#
Callers can mute and un-mute by dialing *6
- For technical difficulties, call Meghan at 423-619-6743



Department of
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Issuance of GARAP011 Alterations to Non-Isolated Wetlands and GARAP020 Alterations to Isolated Wetlands

June 30, 2024

Eddie Gordon, Environmental Program Manager, Division of Water Resources

General Permit Re-Issuance

- Re-issuance of 19 General Permits
- Effective Date: 5/15/25
- Issuance Date: 5/15/25
- Expiration Date: 5/15/2030
- New Format
- Name Changes
- General Conditions
- Authorized Conditions
- General Limitations

Wetland Bill (HB0541/SB0670)

- Effective date July 1, 2025
- This amendment defines "**isolated wetland**" and how TDEC will permit them.
- GARAP011- Minor Alterations to Non-Isolated Wetlands
- GARAP020- Minor Alterations to Isolated Wetlands
- Currently on Public Notice
 - Comment Period Ends June 30, 2025
 - Public Hearing June 30, 2025

Wetland

- “Wetland” means:
- (A) An area that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions; and
- (B) A type of waters that are not wet weather conveyances, and generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas;" T.C.A. § 69-3-103

Artificial Wetland

“Artificial Isolated Wetland” is a wetland formed in an area that would otherwise be upland as a result of prior human alterations such as drainage, fill, cropping, ditching, tile drainage, excavation, tire ruts, silviculture, or impoundment for which sufficient proof exists providing evidence that a wetland did not exist five (5) years prior to the submission of a wetland resource inventory report; or (ii) A wetland that was intentionally constructed in an upland area for the purpose of wastewater treatment, stormwater management, or other engineered use, or was inadvertently created due to changes in surface hydrology from site development, and grading or as a result of a beaver dam within the five (5) years prior to the submission of a wetland resource inventory report; and Does not include wetlands that serve as fish spawning areas or wetlands created as a result of mitigation requirements

Isolated Wetland

“Isolated Wetland” is a wetland that does not have a continuous surface connection to a relatively permanent body of water that is connected to traditional interstate navigable waters and, as such, is distinguishable from that body of water.

Resource Value

- **“High- quality isolated wetland”** means a wetland that provides a high degree of ecologic, hydrologic, and biogeochemical functions as measured by the Department’s wetland resource assessment tool, the TRAM; a high-quality is a wetland with a TRAM score ranging from 75 and above.
- **“Moderate-quality isolated wetland”** means a wetland that provides a modest degree of ecologic, hydrologic, and biogeochemical functions, as measured by the Department’s wetland resource assessment tool, the TRAM; a moderate-quality wetland is a wetland with a TRAM score ranging from 45 to 74.
- **“Low-quality isolated wetland”** means an isolated wetland that provides a minimal degree of ecologic, hydrologic, and biogeochemical functions, as measured by the Department’s wetland resource assessment tool, the TRAM; a low-quality wetland is a wetland with a TRAM score ranging from 0 to 44.

Tennessee Rapid Assessment Method (TRAM)

- **“Tennessee Rapid Assessment Method” or “TRAM”** is a set of procedures and models used by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (Department) for determining the quality of wetlands within the state of Tennessee.
- Currently off public notice being finalized before going to the Water Board to start being used by TDEC and the regulated community

GARAP011- Minor Alterations to Non-Isolated Wetlands

This permit does not authorize the following:

- a. Alterations to high-quality non-isolated wetlands;
- b. Alterations greater than 0.10 acres of a moderate-quality non-isolated wetland;
- c. The use of gravel, riprap, or other rock for construction of temporary equipment access or crossings.

GARAP011- Notification Required

- Low-quality non-isolated wetlands up to one-quarter (**0.25**) acre in size
- Moderate-quality non-isolated wetland up to tenth (**0.10**) acre in size

GARAP020- Minor Alterations to Isolated Wetlands

This permit does not authorize the following:

- a) Alterations to high-quality isolated wetlands;
- b) Alterations greater than 2 acres of a moderate-quality isolated wetland;
- c) Alterations greater than 2 acres of a low-quality isolated wetland; and
- d) The use of gravel, riprap, or other rock for construction of temporary equipment access or crossings.

GARAP020- No Notification Required

- Low-quality isolated wetlands up to one (1) acre in size
- Moderate-quality isolated wetland up to one-quarter (0.25) acre in size
- Artificial isolated wetland of any size

GARAP020- Notification Required

- Low-quality isolated wetlands up to one (1) to two (2) acre in size
- Moderate-quality isolated wetland up to one-quarter (0.25) to two (2) acre in size

GARAP020- Isolated Wetlands Specific Conditions

- Compensatory mitigation shall be provided for the permanent alteration of a **moderate-quality isolated wetland**:
 - For the acreage greater than one-quarter (**0.25**) acre up to one (**1**) acre in size at a **1:1 ratio**;
 - For the acreage greater than one (**1**) acre up to two (**2**) acres in size at a **2:1 ratio**;
- Compensatory mitigation shall be provided for permanent alteration of a **low-quality isolated wetland** for the acreage greater than one (**1**) acre up to two (**2**) acres in size at a **1:1 ratio**;
- Mitigation shall be provided in the form of **in-lieu fee credits or mitigation bank credits**. Evidence of credit purchase shall be provided to the Division prior to beginning the work authorized by this permit.

Q&A until 2:00 PM CDT

- During this time, staff can respond to questions
- In-person participants will be called on first.
- Use the raise hand icon to be called on to speak or enter your question in the chat box.
- If you have phoned-in to the meeting, raise your hand by dialing *5 and unmute your device by dialing *6 when recognized to speak.





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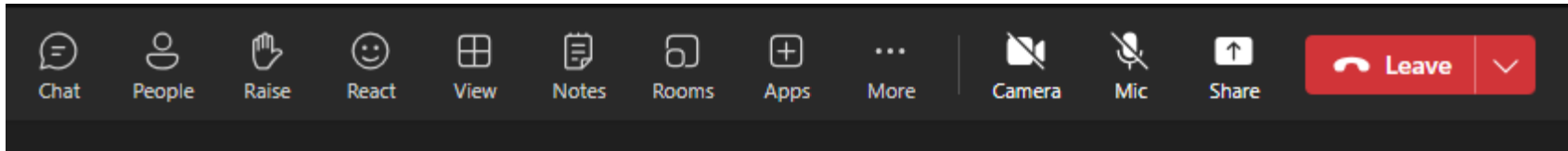
Public Hearing
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Procedural Overview

- If you do not wish to comment but you do want to be notified of the outcome, send a written request for this to one of the addresses below:
 - Written comments may be submitted until **June 30, 2025**
 - Email written comments to ARAP.permits@tn.gov
 - Mail written comments to Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, Davy Crockett Tower, 9th Floor, 500 James Robertson Pkwy., Nashville, Tennessee 37243
- To ensure everyone wanting to comment has a chance to do so this afternoon, each speaker will be limited to **5 minutes**.
 - Public comments and questions will be addressed through the Department's Notice of Determination.



Comments?

- Before sharing comments, please clearly state your name, and affiliation, if any.
- Please limit your verbal comments to **5 minutes**.
 1. First, in-person commenters.
 2. Next, virtual hands or the names typed into the chatbox.
 3. Finally, phone-in users will also have an opportunity to comment and can raise their hands by pressing *5, and mute/unmute by pressing *6



Additional Comments?

- If you have written comments that you wish to have entered into the hearing record by **June 30, 2025**, submit them by email to ARAP.permits@tn.gov or mail to:

Division of Water Resources
Attn: Eddie Gordon
Davy Crockett Tower, 9th Floor
500 James Robertson Pkwy.
Nashville, TN 37243

- These instructions are also available in the public notice.

The logo features a red square with the white letters "TN" inside. Below the square is a thin blue horizontal bar, and to the right of the bar is a small registered trademark symbol (®).

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Thank you!

TDEC appreciates your participation.