



Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Flood Plain Management Program

FPID# _____

Determining if a Flood Plain Permit is Required – Channel Changes

This form has been developed to help you determine if a flood plain permit will be required from the Iowa DNR for a project on or near a river or stream. You must also obtain approval from the Iowa DNR Sovereign Lands Program (515) 725-8464, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (309) 794-5371, and your local flood plain manager (if applicable) before beginning construction. You are legally responsible if you proceed with a project without obtaining all required permits.

What is a Channel Change?

A channel change means either (a) the alteration of the location of a channel of a stream or (b) a substantial modification of the size, slope, or flow characteristics of a channel of a stream for a purpose related to the use of the stream’s flood plain surface rather than for the purpose of actually using the water itself, or putting the water to a new use. Increasing the cross-sectional area of a channel by less than 10 percent is not considered a substantial modification of the size, slope, or flow characteristics of a channel of a stream. Overflow, relief, or pilot channel projects are usually considered channel changes. (NOTE: Some excavations within the channel may not be determined by the department to be channel changes, but may still be subject to the permit requirements for excavations and for miscellaneous obstructions.)

When is a DNR Flood Plain Permit Required?

- In rural areas, any channel change not otherwise associated with a road project in or on the floodway of any stream draining more than 10 square miles at the location of the channel change.
- In rural areas, any channel change associated with a road project in or on the floodway of any stream draining more than 10 square miles at the location of the channel change whereby either (i) more than a 500-foot length of the existing channel is being altered or (ii) the length of existing channel being altered is reduced by more than 25 percent.
- In urban areas, any channel change on any stream draining more than 2 square miles at the location of the channel change.
- Channel changes at any location on any stream designated as a protected stream in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 72.50(455B).

The following information must be completed to make the determination:

Location (in Quarter-Section-Tier-Range format):		Qtr.	Sec.	T	N	R
County:		Stream(s):				
Is the project location on a protected stream reach? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
Note: The list of specific protected stream reaches can be obtained online within http://www.legis.state.ia.us/IAC/html or by calling (866) 849-0321.						
Located within a corporate limit? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No						
If Yes, provide street address:						
Drainage Area: _____ square miles			How was the drainage area determined?			
Note: A drainage area determination can be made by calling the Iowa DNR at (866) 849-0321 . Alternately, the County Engineer or the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service may also be able to make this determination for you.						
Is the channel change in a rural area and associated with a road project draining more than 10 square miles at the location of the channel change whereby either (i) more than a 500-foot length of the existing channel is being altered or						

(ii) the length of existing channel being altered is reduced by more than 25 percent? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is a DNR Flood Plain permit needed (for your channel change project)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If "Yes" please continue below and then proceed to Part A2. If "No" please continue below and then proceed to Part A1.
Note: If it is unclear as to whether your project will require a Flood Plain Permit from this department, please call (866) 849-0321 for assistance with the determination. This determination will have a significant effect on the type and amount of information that you will need to include with your application.
Is there any other construction in the flood plain associated with this project? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, please explain:
If your project includes other construction activities within the flood plain, please review the other DNR forms to see if they apply. Should you need assistance, please call the DNR at (866) 849-0321.

Submitting the information:

- **A1:** If you answered "No" to the question "Is a DNR Flood Plain permit needed?" AND you wish to have written confirmation from this Department that a DNR Flood Plain Permit is not required, you must submit copies of a completed and signed Joint Application Form (Form #36 - *Protecting Iowa Waters*) to the DNR Flood Plain Management Program, to the DNR Sovereign Lands Program, and to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, according to the instructions for the Joint Application Form (can be found at <http://floodplain.iowadnr.gov/>).
 - For the Flood Plain Management Program, the required submittals (in addition to the Joint Application Form) are this form and a project location map.
 - Please note that the DNR Sovereign Lands Program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may require additional information to determine if their permits are required.
 - Your project may also need a permit from your local (city or county) permit authority. The local permit may require technical concurrence from the DNR Flood Plain Management Program.

- **A2:** If you answered "Yes" to the question "Is a DNR Flood Plain permit needed?" you will be required to secure a flood plain permit from the DNR Flood Plain Management Program prior to constructing the project. To apply for a flood plain permit, please reference form 542-1025 titled "Applying for a Flood Plain Permit –Channel Changes" (can be found at <http://floodplain.iowadnr.gov/>) and follow all directions contained within. All required information in the referenced document must be submitted along with the completed Joint Application Form at the time of application. **Applications submitted without this information will be considered incomplete.**