



Natural Resources - Environmental Notice Bulletin

State of Vermont

Office of the
Chief Information Officer

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Digital Government:
Government to Citizen

Executive Summary

In Vermont environmental stewardship, sustainable development and responsible growth are core to maintaining Vermont's reputation and destination status.

In May 2016, legislation (S.123 Act 150 – An act relating standardized procedures for permits and approvals issued by the DEC) was passed requiring the State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to create the new Environmental Notice Bulletin in an effort to allow the public to engage in the permitting/certification process more effectively.

The Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) provides the public with information about applications that are under consideration by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). It is updated daily, and includes [permit, certification, and registration](#) applications for most DEC programs.

The ENB has become to primary channel for notices and feedback for environmental permits under consideration. There are currently 660 permit applications available for review within the ENB.

The ENB provides the user with both search and map-based navigation so that you can either go directly to an application of interest or look to see what applications are in process near a point of interest. The map feature provides clustered information to get an understanding on a statewide level of 'hot spots'.

Project Concept, Significance and Impact

Concept

The State of Vermont prides itself on its environmental stewardship. Permits play a key role in sustaining Vermont's outstanding environment and vibrant communities. The State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) permits protect public health, support economic viability, promote the safe handling of fuel and other hazardous materials, and safeguard drinking water. These permits help businesses, municipalities and individuals build homes, facilities and infrastructure while protecting Vermont's air, water and land.

The [Environmental Notice Bulletin](#) (ENB) provides the public with information about applications that are under consideration by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). It is updated daily, and includes [permit, certification, and registration](#) applications for most DEC programs. Applications which are deemed administratively complete on January 1, 2018 or later will publish to the ENB and will remain on the site throughout the decision process and until the application's appeal period has ended.

DEC issues more than 9,000 permits annually. Nearly half of these permits will be publicly noticed on ENB in the coming year, making the entire process more straightforward and transparent. ENB gives users the power to add comments directly to the website, request a public meeting, and receive notice of the final permit application decision.

Significance

Based upon legislation passed as Act 150, the DEC has redesigned and enhanced the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB), an external website for public notices. DEC issues many different types of permits, and the ENB is meant to streamline public noticing across programs as well as increase transparency and public engagement during the review process. The ENB will post environmental proposals, draft decisions and final

decisions made by DEC. Most notices will represent environmental permits, however, the ENB will also notice important issues not requiring a permit, such as corrective action plans and dam safety orders. ENB refers to all applications as “activities”. Applicants and members of the public will be able to view any activity on public notice as well as make comments and follow activities step-by-step throughout the review process. The ENB will be the exclusive form of public noticing for most programs within the Department.

ENB is the result of user feedback and represents a larger movement in state government to modernize processes. DEC looked at its overall permitting system and analyzed how the public was engaging with the permitting process through a LEAN event.

After reviewing these results, the Department created ENB to increase public engagement and provide a more predictable, consistent system for applicants. ENB merges 85 different permit procedures into five core categories and consolidates all permit information into one place on the ENB website.

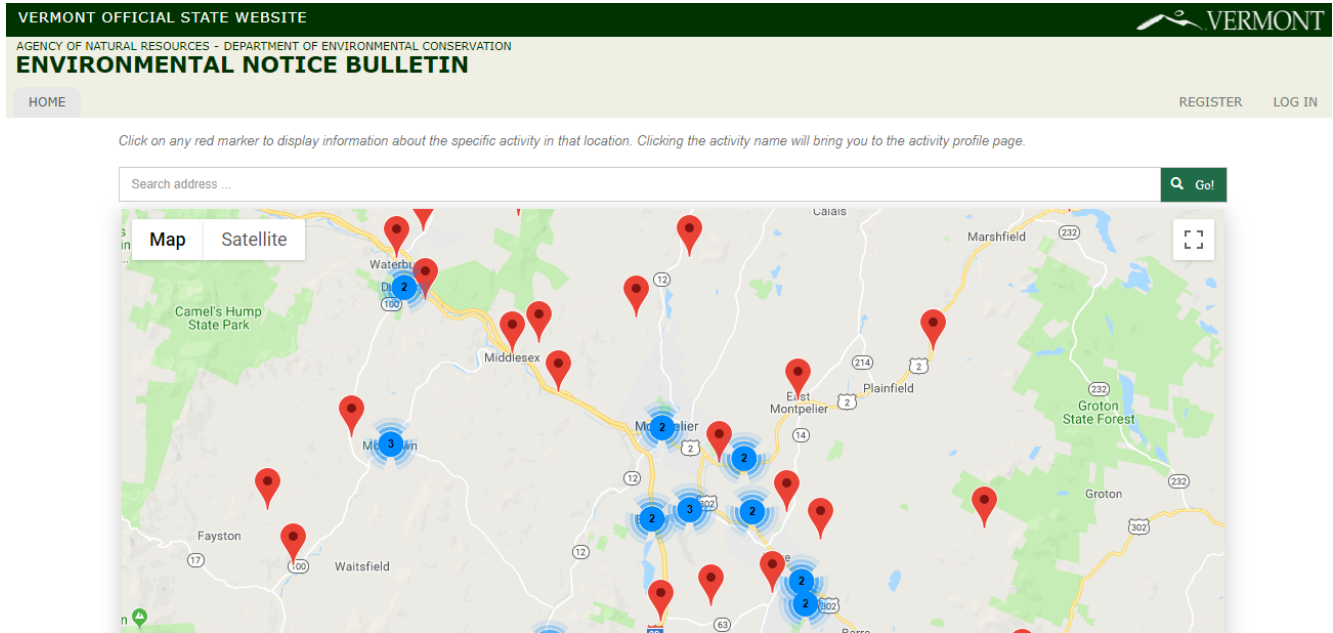
The ENB provides two primary methods for locating an permit application. The first is through a search feature that allows for the filtering based on permit type, County/Town and status. The image below shows the search functionality.



Search the ENB

Note that records displayed on ENB are for applications deemed administratively complete after January 1, 2018 and are only available on ENB for 30 days following the final decision date. Please visit the DEC Issued Permits webpage to view issued permits older than 30 days.

The second method of navigation is via a map interface. The map interface allows for simple zoom controls to go to a point of interest, it then uses cluster icons to denote the level of activity at a location. The image below shows the map interface.



For each application, the Bulletin provides basic information about the project, the type of permit requested, important dates in the permit process, and contact information for the DEC staff person who can provide additional information. The screenshot below shows the project information, timeline, contact and related documents.

VERMONT OFFICIAL STATE WEBSITE
 AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTICE BULLETIN

HOME

ENB ID	PN19.0007330	Operating permit renewal for medical hospital with boilers and diesel engine powered emergency electrical generators. Draft permit issued for comment on 3 May 2019. Comment closes on or about 17 May, 2019. Final permit issued 29 May 2019.
Activity Type	Air Pollution Control Subchapter X Operating F	
Permit # / ID	AOP-19-004	
Activity Name	Central Vermont Medical Center Inc	
Address	130 Fisher Road	
Town	Berlin	
Applicant(s)	Central Vermont Medical Center Inc	
SPAN(s)		Browse By Location



Public Notice Timeline 1

Appl. Received	04/04/2019			Share
Admin. Complete	04/05/2019			
Draft Decision	05/03/2019	Comment	from 05/03/2019 to 05/17/2019	
Final Decision	05/29/2019	Appeal*	from 05/29/2019 to 06/28/2019	
Decision Type	Issued			

* You must have commented in order to be able to appeal a decision and an individual may only appeal issues related to their own comment(s). Comments can be submitted via this site or in person at a public meeting.

Staff - Contact

Staff Contact	Tony Mathis
Phone	802-272-3445
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Related Documents

For some activities more documentation may be available. Please contact the staff person listed on this page if you would like to make a request.

Document	Date Added
2019-04-04 (1)CVMC AOP-19-004 cover letter.docx	05/03/2019
2019-04-04 (4)CVMC AOP-19-004 checklist.pdf	05/03/2019
2019-04-04 (5)CVMC AOP-19-004 certification.pdf	05/03/2019

Members of the public may set up an ENB account and configure a subscription in order to receive email notification of applications which may interest them.

Of particular interest are the beginning and end of the public comment period (for those programs that have public comment requirements), and the dates and locations of any public meetings which have been scheduled.

Comments may be submitted, and public meetings requested, through the ENB site.

Impact

The DEC permitting activities are posted on ENB when they are deemed administratively complete, making it easier for applicants and the public to stay aware and informed of permit activity in their community.

ENB allows users to provide public comments, request public meetings, and sign up to receive email updates which will be sent when an activity that matches their interests is posted to the ENB.

Applicants will no longer have to notify the Town Clerk of their application as ENB will send an automatic subscription notification when the activity is published to ENB.

The following is a quote from the DEC Commissioner that summarizes the project and it's impact.

“The Environmental Notice Bulletin is an example of how government should operate, working together with the public to improve access to information and to decisions that affect our everyday lives,” said DEC Commissioner Emily Boedecker. “Whether you’re interested in facilities that manage household trash and food scraps, invasive species control, wetlands and water quality, shoreline development projects, or wastewater treatment facilities, ENB offers an easy way to stay informed.”

Conclusion

The State of Vermont, Department of Environmental Conservation – Environmental Notice Bulletin has succeeded in bringing efficiency, transparency and engagement for those interested in application for environmental permits. Solutions like this maintain confidence in state government and assist in the responsible development that maintains the brand that Vermont is.