

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

POLICY/PROCEDURE STATEMENT

TOPIC: Request for Priority Processing of Construction Permit Applications

Policy Procedure Number: 3-b-10

Replaces Number:

Date:

Effective Date: November 12, 1998

Preparer: David Phelps

Reviewer:

Approval: Bureau Chief: Peter Hamlin  **Date:** 11/12/98

Division Administrator: Allan Stokes  **Date:** 11/12/98

Applicable Code of Iowa or Iowa Administrative Code Rule:

567 IAC 22.2(1) "..... When this schedule would cause undue hardship to an applicant, or the applicant has a compelling need to proceed promptly with the proposed installation, modification or location, a request for priority consideration and the justification therefor shall be submitted to the department. "

REASON OR BACKGROUND

There are cases where the normal turnaround time for issuance of a permit may cause serious economic or other hardship for a facility. When the department considers the request for a project to be reviewed (ahead of other pending projects) to be warranted, the department may be able to expedite the project depending on the ability to assign staff. Legitimate reasons may include but are not limited to safety, unexpected economic opportunities that could not have been anticipated, impending plant shutdown providing an opportunity for construction, or a necessary change in the method of transportation such as a rail strike.

In many cases a variance could be granted to allow a limited amount of construction to begin prior to the issuance of the permit. In fairness to those facilities that have submitted timely applications to the department, this process should be explored first. If a variance is not granted, the request will be considered.

DETAILS

The applicant must contact the supervisor of the construction permit section and request that the project be considered ahead of other projects that are awaiting action. The request must come from the applicant, not from a consultant. The justification for the priority request

must also be provided explaining the hardship to the company. This request may be made in person, email, or telephone but must be followed up in writing.

The department may choose to grant the request after reviewing the justification for the request and the resources available at the time of the request. If the priority is not granted, the facility will be notified within 5 workdays.