



### **What is MiWaters?**

The Water Resource Division of the MDEQ Launches Streamlined Permitting System. It has been in effect since August. The process to obtain environmental permits required by the federal government in Michigan are all by electronic submission thanks to the launch of a new information system designed to streamline the permit application and compliance process. No more Hard copy submissions.

The DEQ and Department of Technology, Management and Budget collaborated to develop the MiWaters system, a comprehensive, web-based permitting and compliance database. MiWaters replaces more than 25 applications and databases, some of which were more than 30 years old. This is part of a larger project to replace Michigan's aging IT systems throughout state government.

MiWaters' streamlined electronic permitting process allows Michigan to fulfill federal electronic reporting requirements and provides an easy online portal for access to public information. The system simplifies the permitting process for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), storm water, groundwater discharge, aquatic nuisance control, and land and water interface permits. It also includes electronic reporting of untreated or partially treated sanitary wastewater.

MiWaters is the first new production system hosted in DTMB's Next Generation Digital Infrastructure (NGDI). The new infrastructure is Michigan's on-demand cloud hosting service, allowing the state to quickly adapt to increased capacity needs as demand dictates.

The MiWaters application can be accessed at <https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us>. A series of on-demand video tutorials demonstrating how to use the system are available at [www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313\\_72753-360888--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3313_72753-360888--,00.html). Additional seminars are available, but fill up quickly.

MiWaters DEQ staff contacts:

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### **How does this affect you?**

All future submissions to MDEQ will have to be done through the MiWaters application. This includes but is not limited to Construction Joint permits, NPDES Ph II permit applications and compliance submissions, such as reporting, sanitary overflow reporting, industrial discharge permits. This program is for the following 5 permitting programs: NPDES, Groundwater Discharge, Part 41 Construction, Aquatic Nuisance Control and Land/Water interface (wetlands, Lakes & Streams, Great lakes)

### Things to Know:

- Those with an ongoing permit such as an NPDES Ph II permit should have **received a letter from the State in July** asking you to establish an Administrator's Account in MiWaters. This letter included a verification code for your permit to quickly and easily link your administrator account to your active permit. Letter would have been sent to responsible person listed in your last Permit Application.
- Once you have an account, you will have to submit a MiWaters Certifier Agreement by mail with signature. This tells them who the administrator is. That is going to be the person who grants permissions for the account. Permissions: submit on your behalf, edit submissions, certifiers, etc...
- ONLY Certifiers can submit plans on behalf of organization.
- Each person must have their own personal account. Then administrator can invite them to work on behalf of the organization. **NOTE: it is easier for the administrator to invite someone who has already established an account before they respond to invite.**
- Even if you have a contractor/ engineering firm (agent) applying for permits on your behalf, Your entity will still have to set up the administrator's account and then can assign permissions to your Agent.
- MiWaters has been tested and will work with Internet Explorer 10 or 11 (preferred) and current versions of Chrome and Firefox. Initial testing of Microsoft Edge has not uncovered any problems. From the training class the instructor expressed that Chrome works best.
- Email addresses are unique. Changes to email addresses must be done over phone. There is no way to change that in your account.
- The **submission number is unique. Always write it down** and make sure anyone who works on that individual permit has it so that you will be able to find it later.
- When you are working in MiWaters, you can hit SAVE FOR LATER if you have to leave program and come back later.

**GCDC Office:** Contact Susanne Kubic, Drain Engineer 810-732-1590  
It is our hope to be a valuable resource to you.