



Making Your Voice Heard

Public participation is essential to developing more effective permits. When drafting a permit, DNREC engineers and scientists incorporate requirements from applicable federal and state regulations and complete the technical work, but we rely on the public to identify community concerns and offer solutions to achieve a better outcome.

Keys to an Effective Comment

Clearly Identify the Permit

Provide thorough information in the subject line of your comment (e.g., name of applicant, draft permit number, hearing docket number). Comments cannot be considered if they are misdirected or get lost because identifying information was not included.

Be Specific

Explain your views as clearly as possible, avoiding the use of profanity or personal attacks. Although it is useful to state that you do not support a permit being issued, it is more helpful to explain why you agree or disagree, suggest alternatives and substitute language for your requested changes, and provide specific examples to illustrate your concerns about potential consequences.

Be Timely

Be sure to submit your comments on or before the close of the comment period deadline identified by DNREC for a particular permitting matter.

Ready to Make Your Voice Heard?



DNREC and its divisions and boards are committed to using the public notice and comment process to make better regulatory decisions. If you have additional questions about a public notice or comment for a specific proposal, please visit the DNREC Public Notice page at de.gov/dnrecnotices to locate the appropriate contact information.

Common Pitfalls



The Comment Process Is **NOT** a Vote

One well-supported comment is often more informative than a hundred emails or form letters that raise the same point. DNREC will respond to comments from a hearing in a technical response memo that accompanies a permit decision by the DNREC Secretary.



Comments **NOT** Specific to the Proposal

Although there may be numerous important issues that need to be addressed in a community, it is important that comments are relevant to the proposed permit.



Comments Beyond DNREC's Authority

You may have a great suggestion for improving Delaware's environment, but it may require approval by the Delaware Legislature or Governor. Understanding DNREC's regulatory authority can help support your claims. Many issues fall under the authority of municipal or county governments or other state agencies.



Questions Are **NOT** Considered Comments

Questions are welcome. If you have one, email the contact person identified in the public comment section of the hearing web page. Getting clarification on a question often will help you formulate a helpful comment.