

Department of Planning and Development
McHenry County Government Center - Administration Building

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**ANNOUNCING NEW PROCEDURES
REGARDING
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (IDNR)
THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION**

You are required to consult with IDNR regarding the protection of threatened and endangered species, if you are applying for a permit for any of the following:

- Stormwater permits that involve impacts to isolated waters of McHenry County or their adjoining buffer areas.
- Plats of subdivision (excluding plats that vacate lots or utility easements).
- Conditional use permits that will disturb large areas of land or environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., gravel pits), as determined by the zoning enforcement officer.
- Mid-size and large wind energy system conditional use or building permits.
- Any application in which McHenry County will play a direct role in the planning, design, funding, construction, or carrying out of a proposed action (e.g., county road construction).

Additionally, consultation is recommended for all rezoning and conditional use permit applications.

At the discretion of IDNR, a fee may be required for consultation. Payment is the responsibility of the applicant.

When IDNR consultation is required, the department may withhold issuance of a permit until IDNR consultation is terminated.

Procedure

It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact IDNR for consultation and to pay any fees required by that agency. IDNR consultation is initiated through the EcoCAT website (<http://dnr.illinois.gov/ecopublic/>). *Note: this web application requires the use of the Microsoft Internet Explorer web browser.* At the direction of IDNR, some consultations may require a follow-up submission, known as a detailed action report, which is also the responsibility of the applicant.

Fees

The State of Illinois adopted in 2013 a flat-rate fee of \$500 for IDNR consultation, however, implementation has been delayed and the agency is not charging a fee at this time. This is subject to change at any time, at the discretion of IDNR. If fees are required, it will be made known to the applicant prior to the submission of the consultation request.

Background

IDNR implements and enforces Title 17, Chapter I, Subchapter c, Part 1075 of the Illinois Administrative Code, titled *Consultation Procedures for Assessing Impacts of Agency Actions on Endangered and Threatened Species and Natural Areas*. This code is authorized under the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act (520 ILCS 10/11) and the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (525 ILCS 30/17). The current requirements for consultation in the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act have been in effect since 1986, but an amendment passed in July 2013 institutes, for the first time, a consultation fee.

In March 2014, McHenry County adopted a policy clarifying which permits require IDNR consultation. The goal of the policy is to prevent unnecessary application steps and fees for residents while adhering to the requirements of the state and protecting the county's threatened and endangered plant and animal communities. This policy will be codified in the Unified Development Ordinance.