

or more counties, and in more than one weekly newspaper of general circulation in one or more counties, which the Department determines may be directly affected by the proposed activity. The applicant also shall notify by registered or certified mail the mayor or chief executive officials of each city, the county legislative body and chief executive official of each affected county, and the proper official of any interested State unit or political subdivision. The Department shall allow at least 15 days after the public notice to receive requests for a hearing. If the Department does not receive a request for a hearing, the Department may issue or deny the permit without a hearing. Within 30 days after receipt of a hearing request, the Department shall set the date, place, and time for the public hearing and shall publish notice of the hearing once in each week for 2 successive weeks in a daily newspaper published in one or more counties, and in more than one weekly newspaper of general circulation in one or more counties, which the Department determines may directly be affected by the proposed activity. At the public hearing, the applicant and any interested person shall be given an opportunity to present facts, evidence, and arguments for or against granting the application. If a contested case hearing is requested specifically, the hearing shall be conducted to comply with the contested case provisions of the Administrative [Procedures] PROCEDURE Act.

(d) The Department may waive holding a public hearing on any permit application under the following conditions:

(5) If temporary structures constructed to provide access across streams during construction operations or to trap sediment or achieve another similar purpose [meets] MEET minimum design standards the Department establishes, and are removed completely, in a manner acceptable to the Department, within six months after need for the structure is terminated.

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(a) In this title[, ] the following words have the meaning indicated.

(b) "Board" means THE Board of Public Works.

[(d)] (C) "County" includes Baltimore City unless otherwise indicated.

[(e)] (D) "Department" means THE Department of Natural Resources.

[(f)] (E) "Dredging" means the removal or displacement by any means of soil, sand, gravel, shells, or other material, whether or not of intrinsic value, from any State or private wetlands.

[(g)] (F) (1) "Filling" means either: