



# Coastal Permitting Factsheet

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## Factsheet for Landowners: Placing Temporary Emergency Erosion Control Structures

The Great Lakes coast is a very dynamic environment. Water levels on Lake Michigan have been below average since the late 1990's, until recently. There is now a greater potential for shoreline erosion and ultimately bluff failure.

The Department understands landowner and municipality concerns about structures that may be at risk from bluff erosion on the Great Lakes and fully recognizes the large investments residents have in their homes and their concern

State law requires any material that is placed in the Great Lakes be authorized by the Department. In recent cases landowners have requested the Department to allow temporary emergency material to be put into place while they design and seek approval for a permanent solution.

The Department will allow the placement of temporary emergency material in public water without a permit as long as the following guidelines are followed by the landowner:

- ✓ The landowner must request in writing to the Department to place temporary emergency materials to control erosion on a great lakes waterbody to protect a structure or infrastructure
- ✓ In the request, the landowner must provide the following information:
  - WHERE the temporary material will be PLACED
  - The TYPE and AMOUNT of temporary MATERIALS that will be used
  - HOW the temporary material will be PLACED

Once the Department receives the request, a letter authorizing the placement of temporary emergency structures will be sent to the landowner and once received the landowner can proceed with placing the temporary measures.

**PLEASE BE AWARE:** One of the conditions in the letter will be that the landowner will actively work toward planning, designing, and implementing a permanent shoreline protection solution, through the state Chapter 30 permit process

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE** that the use of materials for temporary toe protection may not be 100% effective. The Department recommends hiring a Professional Engineer (PE) to properly design shore protection structures.

If the material used for temporary protection cannot be incorporated into a final design, it must be removed, which may increase the costs of installing the final permanent solution.

### **GUIDELINES FOR PLACING TEMPORARY EMERGENCY MATERIALS**

- ❖ No temporary material will be allowed on the bluff face. Placement of material on the bluff face may further destabilize the bluff. This means all requests for placement of temporary material should be limited to the base of the slope.
- ❖ The temporary material should not exceed a height of 5 feet when measured from the base of the slope. This will ensure that if the slope is unstable the placement of additional weight will not make the situation worse.
- ❖ The temporary material should not extend more than 10 feet (2:1) waterward of the base of the slope. This will minimize the amount of lakebed fill and reduce potential fish and wildlife habitat loss.

### **WHAT MATERIALS CAN I USE?**

- ❖ If using rock, stone, or heavy concrete it should consist of clean (no re-bar, metal etc.) large, non-flat, angular, interlocking pieces.
- ❖ If using sandbags, it should consist of clean fill and the bag material of appropriate tensile strength to prevent bursting.
- ❖ Concrete rubble and other construction site debris should NOT be used. These types of materials have a tendency to crack and break apart reducing the weight of the material that is needed to resist wave forces and may create voids for the waves to erode behind the material.

### **WHERE DO I SEND MY REQUEST?**

Requests for placing temporary emergency material should be directed to the Water Management Specialist for your area:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/contacts.html#county>

**Reminder:** This authorization is temporary and the landowner will need to work through the Chapter 30 permit process on a permanent solution.

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Visit the Wisconsin DNR  
on the Web at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov>  
Information about applying for DNR permits is found at:  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways>