

Temporary Shore Structure Permits



Recent sustained high Lake Erie water levels combined with severe storms have resulted in severe damage to coastal properties due to coastal erosion and flooding. ODNR recognizes a need for a rapid response to these events to prevent further damage and loss to coastal property. To expedite the permitting process, Temporary Shore Structure Permits are available for emergency construction of new erosion control structures or for emergency repairs to existing unpermitted structures that are necessary to safeguard life, health, or property along Ohio's Lake Erie shore. Repair of an existing permitted structure does not require a Temporary Permit because Shore Structure Permits allow repairs to the permitted structure for the life of the structure.

Temporary Shore Structure Permits are intended for emergency situations, such as those currently being experienced on Lake Erie due to severe storms and high Lake Erie water levels, where immediate action is necessary and the time to complete the usual permit process is not possible. Review of applications for temporary permits will be expedited and, in most cases, will be completed within a few days of receipt of the application. There is no fee to apply for a Temporary Shore Structure Permit.

How does a Temporary Shore Structure Permit differ from a Shore Structure Permit?

Shore Structure Permits are required prior to the construction or placement of any measure along or near the shore of Lake Erie structure that will control erosion, wave action, or inundation. Temporary Shore Structure Permits are issued by the Director of ODNR if it is determined necessary to safeguard life, health, or property. The services of a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Ohio are not required for a Temporary Permit, but are required for a Shore Structure Permit.

What is eligible for an Temporary Shore Structure Permit?

Temporary Shore Structure Permits are available for emergency construction of new erosion control structures or for emergency repairs to existing unpermitted structures. Examples of structures that could be authorized to be constructed or repaired by a Temporary Shore Structure Permit include stone revetments, concrete seawalls, and crib bulkheads. Existing structures that already have a Shore Structure Permit can be repaired to their permitted condition without any additional permits from ODNR.

What is not eligible for a Temporary Shore Structure Permit?

Placement or dumping of unconsolidated debris, concrete or other rubble, rebar, or fine-grained soils is not permitted along or near the shore. It can result in unsafe conditions on a bluff face, beach, and in the waters of Lake Erie. Additionally, structures not immediately necessary to safeguard life, health, or property along Ohio's Lake Erie shore cannot be authorized under a Temporary Shore Structure Permit. Examples of structures that are not eligible for a Temporary Permit and must follow the usual Shore Structure Permit application process include new breakwaters, groins, docks, piers and jetties.

How long is a Temporary Shore Structure valid?

Temporary Shore Structure Permits provide temporary authorization for a period of two years. By submitting the application form the applicant agrees apply for and obtain a Shore Structure Permit prior to or upon expiration of the Temporary Shore Structure Permit (2 years from date of issuance).

What information is required to obtain a Temporary Shore Structure Permit?

An application for a Temporary Shore Structure Permit should include:

- recent photographs taken with your phone or camera showing the current condition of the shoreline requiring emergency shore protection
- a map from the internet or otherwise showing the location of the project site
- hand drawn sketches depicting both an overhead view and side view of the proposed new structure or

Temporary Shore Structure Permit Guidance

repairs to the existing structure containing:

- project dimensions (i.e. length along the shore, height of top of structure, distance structure will extend lakeward from the bluff or bank toe)
- type and size of material to be used (i.e. armor stone & size, concrete block & dimensions, steel crib member and stone fill type and dimensions, etc.)

An example of a completed Temporary Shore Structure Permit application with supporting documents is available at coastal.ohiodnr.gov/tssp.

How will ODNR review an application for a Temporary Shore Structure Permit?

ODNR will review applications for Temporary Shore Structure Permits based on the following criteria:

- The new structure or the repair to the existing structure is necessary to safeguard life, health, or property.
- The size and height of the structure appears appropriate and necessary to control erosion, wave action, or inundation.
- The proposed structure or repair will be constructed or performed in a manner and of materials that appear sufficient to control erosion, wave action, or inundation.

General guidelines for erosion control structures are included in ODNR Coastal Guidance “Temporary Shore Structure Permit Project Guidance” available at coastal.ohiodnr.gov/tssp. This fact sheet includes a listing of construction materials that are generally suitable for use along the shore and a listing of those that are not suitable. Additionally, it provides general guidelines for structure dimensions (length, width, height, and slope) that are appropriate for successful erosion control projects. Following these guidelines now may decrease the need for any changes to the structure later in order to obtain a Shore Structure Permit upon expiration of the Temporary Permit.

How do I apply for a Temporary Shore Structure Permit?

The application for a Temporary Shore Structure Permit can be found online at coastal.ohiodnr.gov under “Regulations & Guidance” or paper application forms can be mailed to you upon request by calling (419) 626-7890. The application can be submitted via email to coastal@dnr.state.oh.us or can be printed and mailed to:

ODNR Office of Coastal Management
105 West Shoreline Drive
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

When will my Temporary Shore Structure Permit be issued?

ODNR understands the serious impacts that high water levels are having on Ohio’s Lake Erie coast and will process applications as quickly as possible with the intent of issuance of permits within days of application receipt.

What other authorizations may be required?

Other local, state, and federal authorizations may also be required. ODNR Coastal Guidance Sheet “Coastal Regulations Summary” available at coastal.ohiodnr.gov/permits includes a listing of authorizations that may be required for structures along or near the Lake Erie shore.

Questions?

Staff at the ODNR Office of Coastal Management are available to assist with assessing erosion issues. At the request of the property owner, ODNR engineers can meet with the property owner on-site and assess the current conditions and make recommendations for erosion control options best suited to the site. Assistance with the permitting process is also available. Please contact us at the number or email address below.