

WHAT IS COASTAL EROSION?

Coastal erosion is the endless reshaping of shorelines by waves, currents, tides, storms, ice, rain and groundwater seepage. Human activities, like construction, dredging, excavation and vegetation removal, can accelerate erosion of beaches, dunes and bluffs. This reduces the natural protection these features provide against flooding and property damage.

Where Can I Find More Information?

Go to **dec.ny.gov/lands/28923.html** for additional information on Coastal Erosion Management (CEM).

Go to www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6064.html for additional information on CEM Permits.

If the website doesn't answer your questions or you have difficulty with internet access, call **518-402-8185** for help.

Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas and the Coastal Erosion Management Permit Program:

A GUIDE FOR HOMEOWNERS





Department of Environmental Conservation

COULD YOU BE PLACING YOUR PROPERTY AND THE ENVIRONMENT AT RISK?

If you live along the coast, you may need a permit for certain regulated activities on your property. This brochure explains how to comply with the law and protect your property and the environment.

What are Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas?

DEC identifies Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas (CEHAs) in locations with Natural Protective Feature Areas (NPFAs) and in areas of high erosion vulnerability. NPFAs include beaches, dunes and bluffs.

New York State's CEHAs are located along the coastlines of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Long Island Sound, and the Atlantic coastlines of Long Island and New York City.

How does DEC help protect CEHAs and reduce risk to residents?

DEC's CEHA program provides advice to homeowners and issues Coastal Erosion Management (CEM) permits for regulated activities in CEHAs. CEM permits are designed to manage land use and construction within CEHAs, reducing flooding and erosion risk while maintaining the protective value of NPFAs.

DEC can advise you regarding which actions and construction techniques are most effective at minimizing flooding and erosion risk. Reach out to DEC before starting work to:

- Save time
- Save money
- Avoid penalties

Pre-application calls or meetings are an efficient way for our staff to inform you of what you need in order to file a complete permit application. This often results in savings on costly consultant fees, or money spent on proceeding with an inappropriate project.





What types of activities require a CEM permit?

Homeowners in CEHAs must have project approval and a CEM permit before undertaking regulated activities, including, but not limited to:

- Excavation, filling or dredging
- Construction, modification or restoration of any type of structure or erosion protection measure
- Removal of vegetation

How do I know if I'm in a CEHA and what do I do if I am?

- 1. Check the official CEHA maps available at http://on.ny.gov/2aVYuOA.
- 2. Determine who administers your local CEHA program, DEC or your community, by contacting the DEC Regional Permit Administrator for your area listed at www.dec.ny.gov/about/39381.html.
- 3. Discuss your project with your DEC or community permit administrator, who can tell you:
- Whether your project needs a CEM Permit or any other permit(s) and, if it does...
- What information you'll need to complete the application(s).
- 4. Apply for your CEM Permit, and other permit(s) as required.
- 5. Wait until you receive your permit(s) before starting work.