



Water and Science Administration

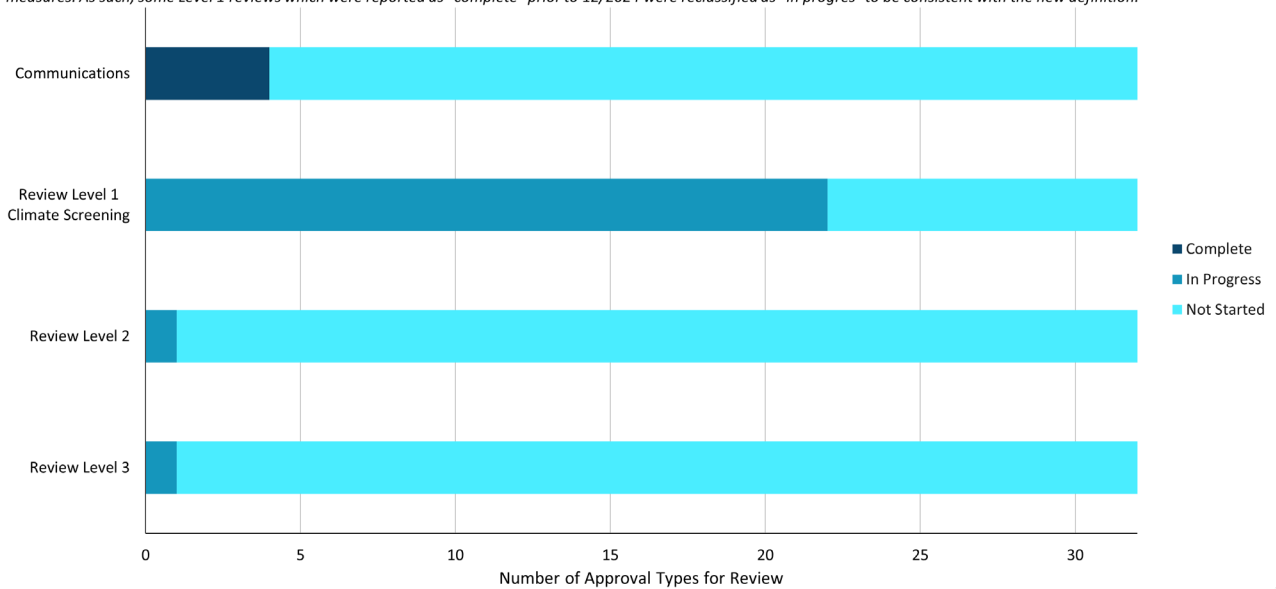
Climate Priority Area 2: Climate Smart Permits

Review MDE’s water regulatory approval instruments—including permits, authorizations, and licenses—to ensure they promote resilience to climate change impacts. The graph outlines three levels of review, each representing a progressively thorough scrutiny. Higher-level reviews require more time to complete. More detailed descriptions of these review levels are provided in the document linked below the graph.

Overall Progress

Area 2 Progress on Climate Review of Authorizations
Updated 12/2024

Note: Level 1 Review process was formalized in 2024. To be considered "complete," Level 1 reviews now incorporate both internal and external review plus adoption of identified measures. As such, some Level 1 reviews which were reported as "complete" prior to 12/2024 were reclassified as "in progress" to be consistent with the new definition.



Permit Climate Review Process: Three Levels of Review plus Communications

Communications	Level-1 Best Judgment	Level-2: Studies	Level-3: Reg Change
Conduct outreach to regulated communities and stakeholders on climate adaptation related to specific permit categories.	Review permit categories based on current knowledge and information. Update permit templates ♦ and procedures. Identify study needs.	Fund studies needed to justify enhancements to permit templates and procedures. Update permit templates. Identify regulation update needs.	Update regulations as needed to enable regulatory decisions that bolster climate resilience through the permitting process. Update permit templates.

♦ The term “template” is used here as shorthand for any materials used to standardize the permit writing process.



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Permit Enhancement

Below is a summary list of approval instruments issued by MDE WSA programs (permits, authorizations, licenses, etc.). WSA staff are reviewing all of these for climate change resilience-building opportunities using a three-phased process outlined in the table above.

Discharge Permits (14 Total)

- Individual Industrial (direct, pre-treatment) (2)
- Individual Municipal
- Groundwater (industrial or municipal)**
- General Permits (10)

Well Construction Permit (1)

Water Appropriation and Use (1)**

Dam Safety Permits - Joint EPA/USACE (1)**

Wetlands and Waterways - Joint EPA/USACE (4)**

- Tidal Wetland (licenses & Permits)**
 - Discharge (fill) & Construction
 - Individual & General
- Nontidal Wetland (Letters of Authorization & Permits)
- Waterway Construction (Authorization to Proceed & Permits)
- Water Quality Certification - Individual, General**

Stormwater and Erosion/Sediment Control (3)

- Sediment & Erosion Control, Stormwater Management Plan approval**
- Responsible Person Training & Certification Program for Erosion/Sediment Control
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit**

Licenses & Certifications (6)

- Facilities (Laboratories)
- Individual Professionals
- Drinking water sampler, Well driller, Waterworks and Waste systems operators, Marine Contractors, Onsite wastewater **

Shellfish (3)

- Relay, Harvesting water classification, In-water wet storage

Notes:

Permit category counts in (parentheses). These could increase if finer distinctions are made among categories.

* 32 Categories. Possible finer distinctions could be made to the category.

** Multiple topics may need independent review for each of these.