



# Indirect Potable Reuse Permitting Process

## What You Need to Know

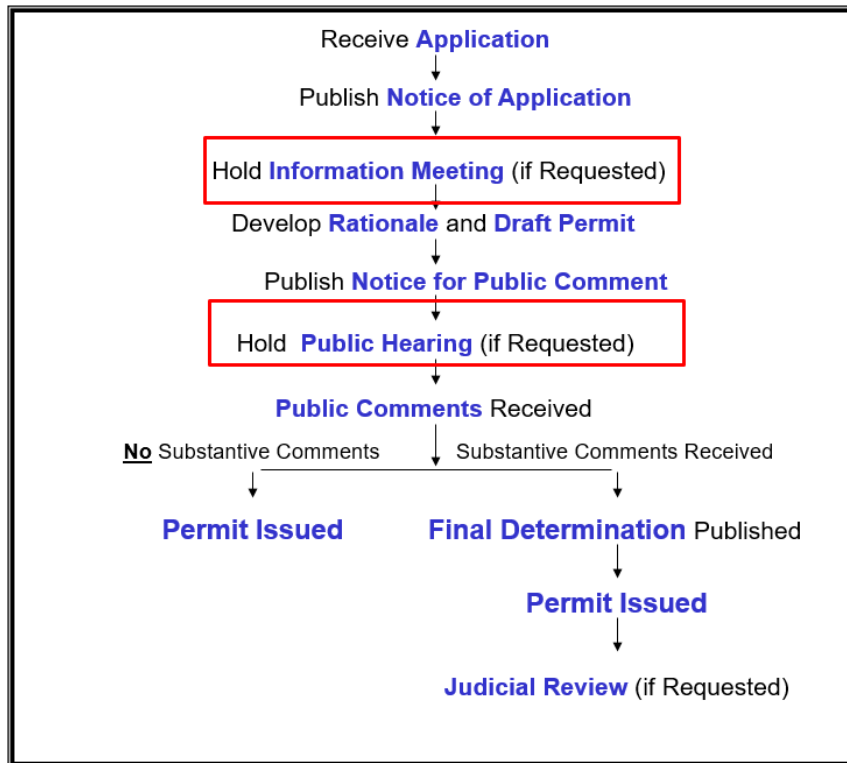
Senate Bill 407 of 2023, “Drinking Water – Indirect Potable Reuse Pilot Program – Establishment,” established a temporary program to authorize Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) projects in Maryland. This bill authorizes MDE to do the following:

- Regulate use of reclaimed water as a source for drinking water treatment facilities
- Issue potable reuse permits
- Apply certain public participation requirements to these permits

The bill allowed applications for potable reuse permits to be received between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, during which time, MDE received one application.

### What is the permitting process for IPR Permits?

A flow diagram of the permitting process is provided below. The points in the process where an informational meeting and/or a public hearing would be held are in the red boxes.





Maryland  
Department of  
the Environment

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#### What is the difference between an informational meeting and a public hearing?

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##### Informational Meetings:

If requested, the Department will hold an informational meeting following publication of the application received notice for a permit application. Informational meetings are informal. The proceedings are not transcribed. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the public to ask questions of the applicant, concerning the application they have submitted. It is also a forum for MDE to get an overview of any concerns the public has about the permit being requested. For renewals of existing permits, the Department will also present information concerning any permit that is already in place. MDE representatives will also present an overview of the public participation process, including an outline of opportunities during that process when the public may provide input. Time is provided for questions and answers regarding the permit request.

##### Public Hearings:

If requested, the Department will hold a public hearing following the publication of the tentative determination. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments from the public concerning the terms of the tentative determination. To facilitate receiving the best comments MDE will usually present a summary of the conditions in the tentative determination and go over the procedures to provide comments. Comments can be provided at the hearing or in writing at any time during the comment period. At the hearing, comments are usually presented orally, but we will also accept written comments as well. All substantive comments received during the comment period, whether received at a hearing or not, are given the same weight. Public hearing proceedings are transcribed by a court reporter. The transcript becomes part of the record and is available to the public upon request.