



Urban Waterfront Action Group

The Urban Waterfront Action Group (UWAG) was created in 1980 through the Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Program to provide “one-stop shopping” for information about waterfront development permits in the Delaware River Estuary. Today the UWAG services the Pennsylvania portion of the estuary through funds provided by the PA DEP Coastal Zone Program.

The purpose of UWAG meetings is to provide a pre-permit conferencing service between applicants and the regulatory agencies that provide environmental permits. The goal of UWAG meetings is to identify and hopefully resolve permitting issues before the applicant invests in detailed engineering for their project. UWAG meetings are a voluntary service provided anyone interested in developing or expanding a waterfront project in the Delaware River Estuary.



When does the UWAG meet?

In 2020, the UWAG has tentatively scheduled meetings for each fourth Tuesday of each month. Meeting dates are reserved each month to accommodate applicant schedules. If applicants don't submit agenda items, the monthly meetings will be cancelled.

What kinds of projects may require federal and state permits and will benefit from UWAG consultation?

- ④ Work on structures located in navigable waters.¹
- ④ Work performed in navigable waters, such as dredging or fill, or work that impacts navigable waters.¹
- ④ Discharge of dredged material or water from dredged material into waters of the United States.²
- ④ Work on dams, water obstructions, or structures that encroach in, along, or across a waterway.³
- ④ Construction, modification, demolition or removal of structures in the 100-year floodplain.⁴

¹ Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899

² Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

³ Pennsylvania Dam Safety and Encroachments Act (as amended)

⁴ Pennsylvania Flood Plain Management Act of 1978

Who are the primary regulatory agencies involved in permitting activities along the waterfront in the Delaware River Estuary?

- ② US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps),
- ② Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), The
- ② The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC), and
- ② Local Jurisdictions (Philadelphia, Bucks, and Delaware Counties).

Agencies that may have jurisdiction over safety, cultural, and natural resources:

- ② National Marine Fisheries Service,
- ② US Coast Guard,
- ② US Fish and Wildlife Service,
- ② Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission,
- ② Pennsylvania Division of Coastal Zone Management, and
- ② Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

Do local land-use regulations apply to waterfront activities?

Local municipalities may have flood plain management ordinances. The City of Philadelphia has extensive flood plain and stormwater requirements and City representatives are active members of the UWAG. Representatives of the suburban counties in the Delaware Estuary also participate in UWAG when appropriate.

How do I bring my project to UWAG?

If you have a project that may require federal or state waterfront construction, disturbance, or alteration permits, and your project is within the area of the Delaware Estuary noted on the map, you can contact Miles Owen at DVRPC at mowen@dvrpc.org in order to be placed on the agenda for the next UWAG meeting. More information is available at www.dvrpc.org/Committees/UWAG/. Please note that it is highly advised that a Pennsylvania Design Professional, preferably an engineer should be in attendance to represent the project team.

Links to Permit Applications

US Army Corp of Engineers:

www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Obtain-a-Permit/

PA DEP:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Waterways/Pages/default.aspx>
