



Resilient Environment Department

**URBAN PLANNING DIVISION**

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**TECHNICAL BULLETIN**

**DATE:** APRIL 2025

**SUBJECT:** UPD ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE GENERAL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR OF DOCKS, SEAWALLS, BULKHEADS

**PURPOSE:** This Technical Bulletin is intended to clarify requirements and procedures for obtaining an Environmental Resource General License for the construction, addition and or repair of docks, seawalls and bulkheads in Broward County.

**AFFECTED PARTIES:** Municipal agencies issuing permits or approvals for the construction, addition and or repair of docks, seawalls and bulkheads in Broward County. Any contractor, developer, landowner and others who are going to construct or repair docks, seawalls or bulkheads in any artificial or natural lake, canal or other surface water located within Broward County.

**OVERVIEW:** The process for obtaining a General License is a streamlined one, usually completed within 7-10 days. The general license process recognizes that certain minor projects present a limited environmental risk and the process required for obtaining a license has been simplified. Nevertheless, the process will ensure that necessary precautions are taken by the applicant to protect wetlands, water quality, public drinking water supply, fish and wildlife. Minor projects eligible for this streamlined process are described more fully below.

**DISCUSSION:** The Urban Planning Division and Environmental Permitting Division regulate most construction activities in and around the waters of Broward County. These activities include dredging new lakes and canals, any work within a wetland area, work in, under and over on surface waters on projects such as, but not limited to, docks, seawalls, bulkheads, floating vessel platforms, boat lifts, piers and pilings. Section 27-336 of the Broward County Code allows for an Environmental Resource General License to be issued for certain minor work associated with the activities noted above.

To be eligible for an Environmental Resource General License, the project must fall into one of the categories listed below. Upon successful completion of the process, plans will be approved, and a General Environmental Resource License is issued.

**PROJECTS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE GENERAL  
LICENSE**

***Please see Chapter 27-336 for a full  
description of qualified projects.***

1. The repair or replacement of existing docks, provided the new or repaired dock is not enlarged beyond a total of five hundred (500) square feet over-water surface area for the new and existing structure.
2. The repair, maintenance, or restoration of existing functional seawalls no more than one (1) foot water ward of their original authorized location.

3. The relocation within an already approved right-of-way, repair or maintenance of existing utility transmission.
4. New lake or pond excavations of less than two (2) acres, but equal to or greater than one (1) acre.
5. The installation of private, noncommercial docks of five hundred (500) square feet or less of over-water surface area, where no dredging or filling is required except to install the pilings.
6. Projects which are within isolated wetlands or lakes and/or otherwise, in the opinion of RED, will not significantly degrade the environment.
7. Proposed or existing rock quarry excavations that are not in wetlands, are self-contained and not connected to and do not exchange water with any other surface water body or wetland.
8. The construction, repair, maintenance or operation of any permitted stormwater control/treatment structure when not exempt by wetland delineations.
9. The one-time dredging of twenty (20) cubic yards or less of sediment from isolated lakes, or ponds, and residential canals with no seagrasses within the project site.
10. The installation of natural lime rock rip-rap at the water ward face of an existing vertical bulkhead.
11. The repair or replacement of existing functional headwalls, pipes, or culverts.

12. The installation of utility or transmission lines laid on or embedded in the substrate provided that no dredging or filling is required and that no seagrasses or significant benthic communities will be affected by the activity.

Special Note: Projects that are larger in scale than those listed or involve dredging and/or impacts to wetlands are required to obtain a regular Environmental Resource License.

#### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE LICENSE**

1. A completed general license application submitted through the ePermit portal:  
[www.broward.org/epermits](http://www.broward.org/epermits)
2. Documents required:
  - a. A vicinity map showing location and extent of the project as proposed.
  - b. A plan view and cross-sectional drawing identifying the engineering and environmental conditions existing at the site.
  - c. A plan view and cross-sectional view drawing identifying the engineering and environmental conditions as they are proposed to exist after the completion of the project.
  - d. Mean high water elevations, mean low water elevations, and bottom elevations if the project is located in a tidal canal.
  - e. A survey of the project site.
3. A licensing fee applies and is payable online through the ePermit portal or by, cash check, or credit card. Checks should be made payable to the Broward County Board of County Commissioners.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information concerning UPD review and approval of plans to be submitted for building permits or for questions concerning this technical bulletin, please contact the Urban Planning Division at (954) 357-6666 ext 2.