

## **Waterlines Flume - News from DNR Division of Water**

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Thank you for subscribing to the Indiana DNR Division of Water's (DOW) monthly newsletter for engineers – *Flume*, and your interest in the division's mission to protect, enhance, preserve, and wisely use water resources for the benefit of Indiana's citizens through professional leadership, management, and education.

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### **Update for Discharge Determinations with DNR Division of Water**

The discharge determination tool has been rebuilt. The former web-based version of the tool for the public is still unavailable, but Robert Wilkinson and his team have developed an internal tool for determining discharges that Division of Water staff can run. An online form has been created for the public to request discharge determinations from our office.

### **The New Process**

Consultants seeking a discharge determination can now go to the Engineering Service Center [webpage](#) and click on the State Engineering Resources. From there, select "The Indiana Peak Discharge Determination System" under Hydrology and click the link to be taken to the Discharge Request tool. A direct link to this request tool can also be [found here](#). Instructions are included on the tool webpage for ease of use. Requesters will use the tool to select the point for

the determination request and fill out the requested information. The web tool will then send the discharge request to the DOW. The calculations will be completed by staff, and a response including the discharge determination will be issued to the requestor.

NOTE: Some discharge determination requests received by the DOW before this tool being available are still being processed. If you have requested a discharge determination before June 2024 and have not yet received a response from the DOW, please use this new tool to request a determination.

### **Reminders and Timesavers**

There are several cases where a discharge determination will not be made. Consider checking to see if your site falls under any of these categories. It will save your project team and the DOW staff time in getting your results.

### **Coordinated Curves**

If the determination site is on a stream that has a coordinated curve, a discharge determination will not be issued. A list of Indiana Coordinated Curves can be [found here](#). Consultants should use these curves to determine the discharge.

### **Flood Insurance Study Streams**

If the determination site is on a stream that has been included in a FEMA Flood Insurance Study (FIS), the discharges stated in the study must be used. Please reference the FEMA Flood Map Service Center to see if your stream is included in the FIS: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/advanceSearch>

### **Outside of Jurisdiction**

The DOW does not have jurisdiction over a stream in which the drainage area is less than one square mile. Our staff cannot comment on discharges outside our jurisdiction.

### **Common Sense Practices**

Requests must be located on a river reach at the point of request to be accurate. Staff will have to use their best judgment on the request site if the point is not on a valid reach. This may lead to processing errors or incorrect determination data if staff assumptions are incorrect. Please select your request points wisely and fill out the information prompts carefully to ensure an accurate and swift response from the team.



This survey is used to request a discharge determination from the Indiana DNR Division of Water. After you submit the survey, it will be automatically sent to the Division of Water for review and assignment to an engineer. Discharge requests determined to be within the DNR's jurisdiction will be calculated and returned to the requester in a timely manner.

#### IMPORTANT NOTES

1. The DNR Division of Water only has jurisdiction over streams with a drainage area of 1 square mile or more. A discharge determination will not be calculated if the discharge request point along the stream has a drainage area of less than 1 square mile.

2. Discharge calculations are only provided for the 1% annual chance storm event.

3. Discharges for coordinated streams are not calculated by Division of Water. If a discharge on a coordinated stream is needed, please download the coordinated curve from <https://www.in.gov/dnr/water/publications/coordinated-discharges-of-selected-streams-in-indiana/> to determine the discharge.

If you have any questions about this request tool or discharge determinations, please email [water\\_inquiry@dnr.in.gov](mailto:water_inquiry@dnr.in.gov).

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## Discharge Request

### DISCHARGE REQUEST

#### Request Point

Use the map below to select the point for your discharge determination request. Ensure that you place your point on the streamline (as near as possible to the blue line) at the location you wish the discharge to be calculated. If your discharge request point is not on a blue streamline on the map, a discharge will not be calculated.



Requestor First Name\*

Requestor Last Name\*

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### **Outstanding Floodplain Project Award from INAFSM**

Congratulations to the DOW's Engineering Service Center staff who received the Outstanding Floodplain Project Award at the annual Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM) conference. Collaborating with the Kankakee River Basin and Yellow River Basin Development Commission, the team added approximately 600 acres of managed floodwater storage capacity within the Kankakee River Basin.

By reconnecting the Kankakee River to the Commission's Thayer Farm and the DNR's Blackberry Marsh during flood stages, the initiative provides flood relief and wetland and natural habitat enhancements for the main channel. Christopher B. Burke Engineering also shared recognition for consulting on the project. For DNR hydraulic engineer Paul Brayton, this project provided a unique opportunity beyond his typical activities in the Division of Water. He embraced the chance to work on a design project, learning from other engineering projects in the Yellow River Basin and expanding his modeling skills.



*Brayton at the project site in January 2024.*



*Brayton and ESC manager Adam Bales (both far right) with other award winners at the INAFSM conference, September 2024. (picture credit INAFSM)*

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### **Updates to Division of Water webpages**

The Division of Water (DOW) Engineering Service Center (ESC) now has a dedicated section on the DOW main website, accessible through the Floodplain and Permits section. This is a new development, as the Engineering Service Center previously lacked its own distinct area on the Division of Water site.

These improvements were driven by feedback from both external partners and internal DNR staff, focusing on enhancing the accessibility and user-friendliness of the center's tools and information. The goal of these updates is to improve the experience for stakeholders and facilitate more efficient work on projects under DNR jurisdiction.

To access the new Engineering Service Center pages, visit the DOW main page and navigate to the Floodplain and Permits section or [click here](#).

The Division of Water (DOW) website has also been updated to include detailed guidance on the Agricultural or Residential Stream Crossings exemption under the Flood Control Act. The guidelines PDF can be accessed from the DOW [Exemptions](#) page, or linked directly [here](#). These guidelines aim to help users understand and apply the new exemption.

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