

A construction project that requires the groundwater table to be lowered at its site must obtain prior approval for the discharge from the city, and at times, the state, environmental agency as well.

A city dewatering permit is required to discharge any amount of pumped water into a city sewer. The application can be found [here](#). It will be reviewed by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Bureau of Wastewater Treatment (BWT), which will review the quality of the proposed discharge. Upon a complete application, BWT will render a decision within two weeks. Pretreatment to remove solids or volatile organic compounds is often required.

Following BWT approval, a project must also apply to DEP's Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) if its discharge will exceed 10,000 gallons per day. The application can be found [here](#). BWSO will determine if the receiving sewer has sufficient capacity for the additional flow. The BWSO application also requires a project owner to indemnify the city against any harm the dewatering project might cause the city. Where dewatering requires construction of a connection to a sewer, plans for the new connection must comply with requirements set forth in Title 15, Chapter 31 of the Rules of the City of New York. Once BSWO receives a complete application, the bureau renders a decision in two weeks.

If a project proposes to withdraw groundwater via one or more wells, the applicant must apply to the state Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for a Long Island well permit or a Water Withdrawal permit, depending on the project's location. Projects in Brooklyn and Queens require a Long Island well permit; those in Manhattan, the Bronx or Staten Island, a Water Withdrawal permit. All NYSDEC applications can be accessed at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/97650.html>

**Long Island Well Permit Program:** A Long Island Well Permit is needed for the installation or operation of any well with a total capacity in excess of 45 gallons per minute for any property in Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island. More information about the Long Island Well Permit application can be found here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6036.html>

**Water Withdrawal Permit Program:** A Water Withdrawal permit is required for the construction, operation and maintenance of a water withdrawal system with a maximum daily capacity of 100,000 gallons or more. Further information regarding the Water Withdrawal Permit application can be found here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/94327.html>

**SPDES Permit Program:** If a project proposes to discharge dewatered groundwater to a surface water body, a State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit may also be required. SPDES Permit Application Forms can be found here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6287.html>  
Additional guidance and information pertaining to permit applications can be found here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/97650.html>

If a NYSDEC permit is required, the applicant must obtain the state permit and then return to DEP, pay DEP's Bureau of Customer Services for the water to be discharged (the current fee is \$3.81 per 748 gallons pumped) and then obtain a dewatering permit from DEP's borough office.