

# ACCESSDEQ USER GUIDE

NCG01/NCG25 CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE

Abridged Guide for Responsible Officials/Delegated Responsible Officials

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources (DEMLR)
Construction Stormwater General Permit (NCG01/NCG25) Certificate of Coverage
Permitting Transformation Program (PTP)

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#### **Document Overview**

This document is for applicants with signature authority for entities legally responsible for a NPDES Construction Stormwater Program for an NCG01 or NCG25 Certificate of Coverage. It focuses on the steps necessary to accept access of a shared application, and the signing and submitting the application in the AccessDEQ public portal.

More complete information, including regarding withdrawing, transferring, and completing an application, is in the full AccessDEQ Stormwater Portal User Guide.

A revision history and approvals for this document are recorded in Appendix A.

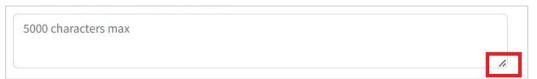
Helpful reference information may be found in <u>Appendix B</u> and <u>Appendix C</u>.

Brief instructional videos can be found on DEQ's YouTube channel in the AccessDEQ Portal Instructional Video playlist.



#### **General Instructions for Portal Users**

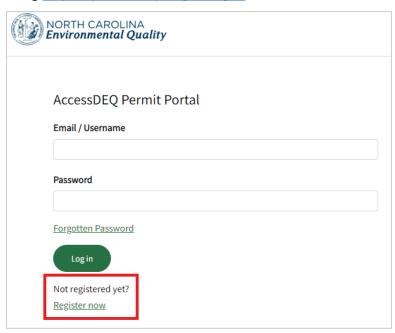
- The left-hand navigation panel is accessible throughout AccessDEQ and can be toggled open or closed by clicking the hamburger icon  $\equiv$  in the top left of the screen.
- Clicking the **Action** button on the Applications grid displays available options, such as sharing, viewing, or editing.
- Fields or grid rows with a pencil icon allow editing upon clicking the icon.
- Fields displaying a down caret indicate a drop-down list is available. In some cases, an Add New option displays indicating an option to create a new choice.
- Fields on the application marked with an *asterisk* \*are mandatory fields and cannot be left blank. Users will not be able to proceed if a mandatory field is left blank.
- The Add Existing option on grids will display a list of existing records that can be selected from a drop-down list and added to the grid.
- The **Create New** option on grids can be used to create a new record which will then show up under the drop-down list when a user selects "Add Existing".
- Location and contact information records are stored with the portal user account allowing the user to select from their own list for certain fields. Upon using the portal for the first time, a user may have none of these associated records.
- Columns in most tables can be sorted by clicking the column heading. Where vertical ellipses (dots) appear in the column heading, clicking on the ellipses displays a menu of available options, such as column sorting and filtering.
- Text boxes appearing with diagonal lines at the bottom right can be expanded or reduced by clicking in the area then dragging the box's bottom line down or up.



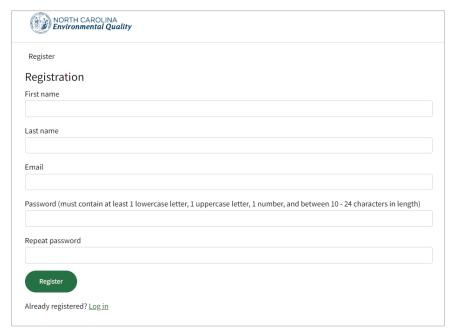


#### **AccessDEQ Home & Registration**

The home page for AccessDEQ is <a href="https://accessdeq.nc.gov">https://accessdeq.nc.gov</a>. The user portal Home page is <a href="https://portal.deq.nc.gov/my-accessdeq">https://portal.deq.nc.gov/my-accessdeq</a>. Users who are not signed in will be presented with the login screen where new users can use the **Register now** link to register for a new account. This screen can also be reached using <a href="https://portal.deq.nc.gov/login.">https://portal.deq.nc.gov/login</a>.



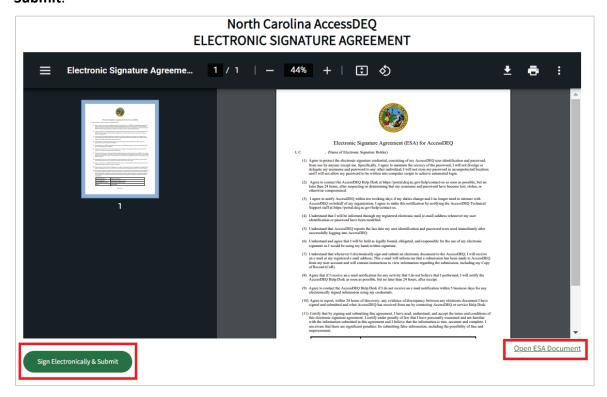
Applicants can fill out the required information and click **Register**. Applicants should use their legal first and last names if they will need to be <u>identity proofed</u>.



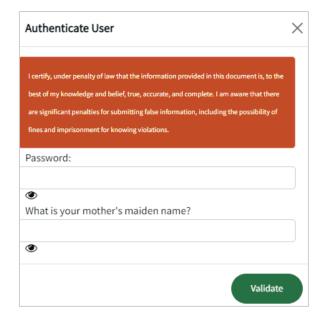
A confirmation email from the address **DEQTPCAdmin@deq.nc.gov** containing a link to activate the account will be sent to the email address on the registration. Upon logging in for the first time the user will be prompted to set up security questions and answers for their account. Then the user must sign the Electronic



Signature Agreement (ESA). This will only be required once. To sign the document click **Sign Electronically & Submit**.



Some browsers may not display the preview of the agreement document. The agreement can be opened by clicking the **Open ESA Document** link.



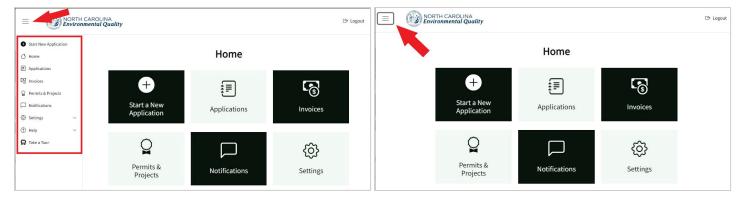
Next, the user will enter their password and answer a security question to complete signing.

Once that is complete, the user will be directed to their account Profile to enter a phone number.

Other optional fields can also be completed. Adding entries for such fields as company name and job title is advisable for consultants and those who will be signing and submitting applications.



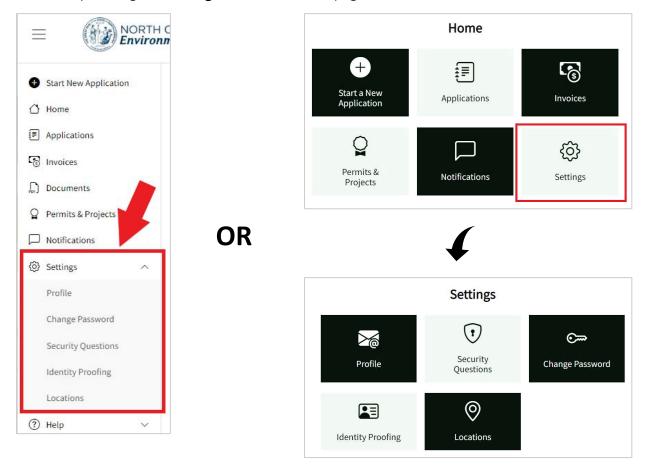
The left-hand navigation menu is accessible anywhere within AccessDEQ. Users may toggle it open or closed by clicking the hamburger icon  $\equiv$  in the top left of the screen. Each tile on the **Home** page is also an entry in the navigation menu.



Left-hand Navigation Menu Expanded

Left-hand Navigation Menu Collapsed

From the Settings menu, users may perform operations such as updating their security questions or initiate identity proofing. Settings can be reached anywhere within AccessDEQ from the **Settings** section in the left menu and navigation panel. Clicking the heading will expand or collapse the section. Settings may also be reached by clicking the **Settings** tile on the Home page.

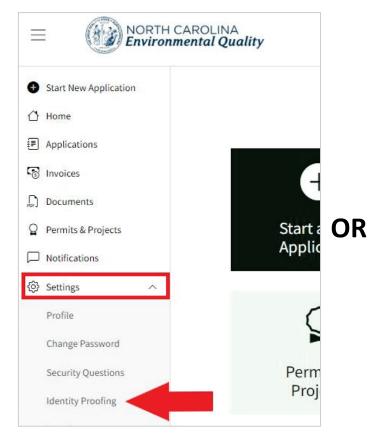


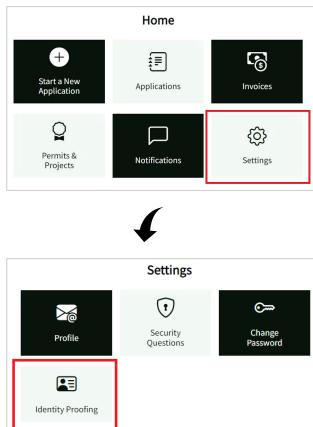


#### **Identity Proofing (CROMERR Compliance)**

NPDES Stormwater NCG01/NCG25 Certificates of Coverage applications require federal CROMERR compliance. Only a user who is a Responsible Official (RO) or Delegated Responsible Official (DRO) for the entity legally responsible for the permit can sign and submit the application. The RO/DRO must be identity proofed. This is done by selecting **Identity Proofing** from the left-hand navigation under **Settings**. Alternatively, a user can select the **Settings** tile on the home screen, then select the **Identity Proofing** tile.

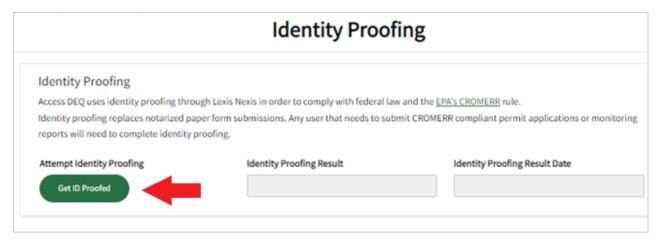
**Note**: Identity proofing only needs to be completed once.



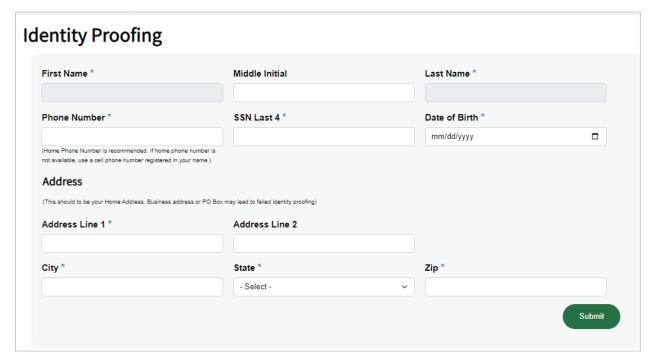




On the Identity Proofing page users may click the button for **Get ID Proofed**. Individuals who are a Responsible Official or Delegated Responsible Official for the Legally Responsible Entity seeking an NCG01/NCG25 NPDES Stormwater Construction Certificate of Coverage must be identity proofed.



The applicant can fill out the form and submit it to perform identity proofing.



There is more information regarding identity proofing in Appendix C.



#### **Accepting a Shared Application/Permit**

Only users who have signature authority for the entity responsible for the permit can sign and submit the application. Users without signature authority must share the application with a user who has signature authority.

When a user shares an application, the recipient is sent a message from the email address **DoNotReply- DEQPermits@deq.nc.gov** which includes information about the permit application shared. The subject line of the email contains [Sharer] has shared a permit or permit application with you on AccessDEQ.

If the recipient does not already have a portal account in AccessDEQ, they can register an account then accept the sharing invitation.

AccessDEQ user PTP Test User 3 (ptp.test.user3@deq.nc.gov) has shared access to a permit application with you.

Permit Application Number: PA-025449

Permit Application Type: Stormwater COC - NCG25 NPDES Construction

Since it appears that you do not have an account with AccessDEQ, you will need to register before you can access the shared permit application. To register, please use the link below and follow the instructions provided. Registration Link

After completing your registration, you will have access to the shared permit and can view the permit application on AccessDEQ.

My Permit Applications

An example of a permit application sharing email message sent which includes instructions to register an account then return to the email to redeem the invitation.

AccessDEQ user PTP Test User 3 (ptp.test.user3@deq.nc.gov) has shared access to a permit and permit application with you.

Permit Number: NCC256014

<u>Permit Type:</u> NCG01 - NPDES Construction <u>Permit Application Number:</u> PA-024789

Permit Application Type: Stormwater COC - NCG01 NPDES Construction

Location/Project Name: Delphi Museum

It looks like you already have an account with AccessDEQ so all you need to do is log into AccessDEQ to view the shared permit and permit application.

My Permits & Projects My Permit Applications An example of a permit sharing email message sent to a share recipient whose email address matches a current AccessDEQ portal account.

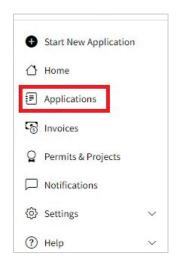
It is important that the email address to which the sharing invitation is sent matches the email address that is/will be associated with the invitee's AccessDEQ portal account. In the event a user sends a sharing request to the wrong email address, the sharer can re-send the invitation using the correct email address for the recipient.

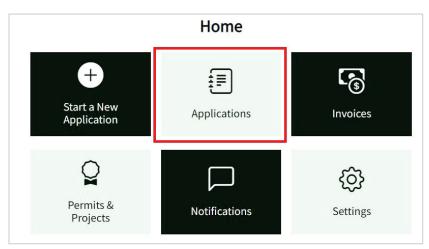
Once the redemption link is clicked, access will be granted and the shared permit or permit application will now appear in the recipient's **Permits & Projects** and/or **Applications** section in My AccessDEQ.



#### **Opening an Application**

The **Applications** grid shows the applications to which the user has access. This includes applications created by the user or shared with the user. It can be reached by selecting it from the left-hand navigation menu or the tile on the Home screen.





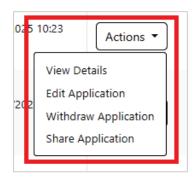
Clicking on the permit application number (**PA-######**) in the **Application** column will open the permit application for editing if the permit application is in the status of "Not Submitted" or "Awaiting Applicant". If the permit application is in any other status, the **Application Details** screen is displayed.

Application	Program	Application Type	Status	Location	Primary Ap	Submitted On	Created On ↓	
PA-156533	Post- Construction Stormwater	Post-Construction Stormwater	Application Submitted	My Test Location	James Martin	8/7/2025 9:41 AM	8/7/2025 9:19 AM	Actions •
PA-156531	NPDES Stormwater	Stormwater COC - NCG01 NPDES Construction	Not Submitted	WaFo Renaissance Food Hall	Blue Ox Construction		8/7/2025 9:10 AM	Actions ▼

The **Actions** button also allows users to select various actions, such as **Edit Application**, **Share Application**, or **View Details**.

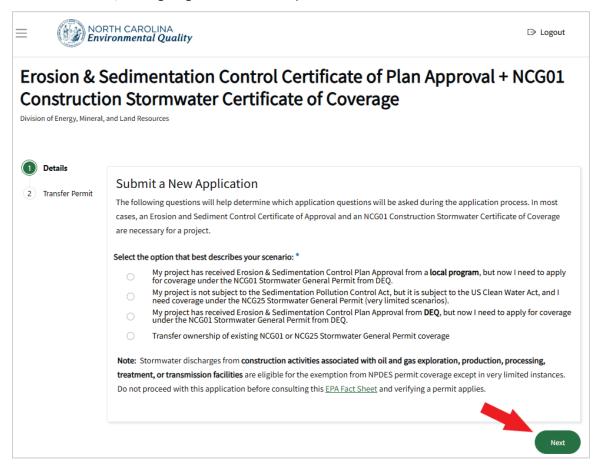
OR

To sign and submit an application, users with signing authority must first open the application for editing.





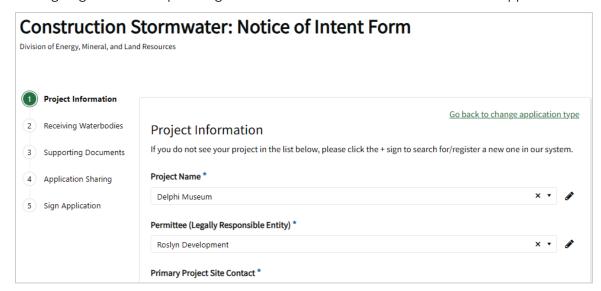
To sign an application, it must first be opened for editing. Once an application is opened for editing the application introduction page is displayed. The entries already made by the preparer will be displayed. Unless there is an error, the signing user should only need to click **Next** at the bottom of the screen.



Should a user leave an application, upon re-entering it, the user will enter again at the introduction page and must click **Next** to proceed but thereafter may advance through completed screens. Previously entered information will be saved and will not be lost.



The signing user can step through to review and edit the information in the application as necessary.



They can use the tracker circles on the side or the **Back** and **Save & Continue** button at the bottom of the screen to step backward and forward through the application.

Once they get to **Application Sharing** step, they must use the **Save & Continue** button to proceed to **Sign Application.** 





#### **Sign Application**

Only users who have signature authority for the entity responsible for the permit may sign and submit the application.

There are two roles with signature authority: **Responsible Official (RO)** and **Delegated Responsible Official (DRO)**. DROs must go through an extra step to have their signature authority verified before being able to sign and submit an application. The Delegated Responsible Officials section has more information on this process.

#### **Important Information About User Roles**

In accordance with Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 122.22 (see link <u>eCFR: 40 CFR 122.22</u>) and as noted in the Stormwater website: New NCG01 AccessDEQ Permit System | NC DEQ

Important information about User Roles to help you prepare and/or submit an application (specific to NCG01 or NCG25 NPDES Construction Stormwater):

**Responsible Official (RO)** is defined as the representative with the authority to be the primary decision-maker for the property or business function. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Signature Authority
- This role is responsible and accountable for compliance.
- Ability to Prepare/Submit applications, modifications, data/reports and pay fees (see individual rules for the program).
- Examples: Owner, Operator, Plant Manager, Corporate Officer, Elected Official, LLC owner/operator, etc.

**Delegated Responsible Official (DRO)** is defined as a duly Authorized Representative **within the RO's organization** who has been given specific powers/authority to act on the behalf of the RO.

Delegation of duties to the Authorized Representative must be approved in advance and documented. This process takes place during the application procedure at the signing step. To indicate that you are a Delegated Responsible Official, follow these steps: request approval, print the Delegation of Signature Authority (DOSA) form, and mail the **wet-signed paper copy of the DOSA form** to the Stormwater Program per the instructions. Please note that the paper copy only needs to be submitted once for each Delegated Responsible Official within a specific organization. Duties include, but are not limited to:

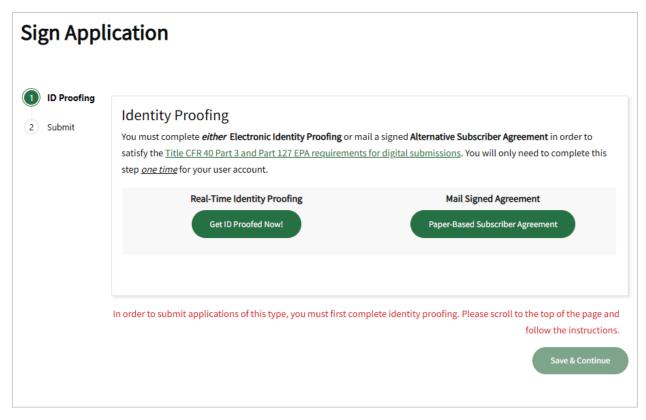
- Signature Authority
- This role can submit applications and compliance reports.
- Federal permits (like NCG01/NCG25) must have the DROs be a part of their organization.
- Ability to Prepare/Submit applications, modifications, notice of terminations (NOTs), data/reports, and pay fees (see individual rules for the program).



## **Identity Proofing**

A user who has signature authority must have completed identity proofing to submit the application. If this is not already done, the user may click the **Get ID Proofed Now!** button for real-time online identity proofing. For paper-based identity proofing, the user can click the paper-based subscriber agreement button to download an agreement that can be printed out and mailed to DEQ.

**Note**: Identity proofing only needs to be completed once. The section in this guide on <u>Identity Proofing</u> and <u>Appendix C</u> have more information about identity proofing.

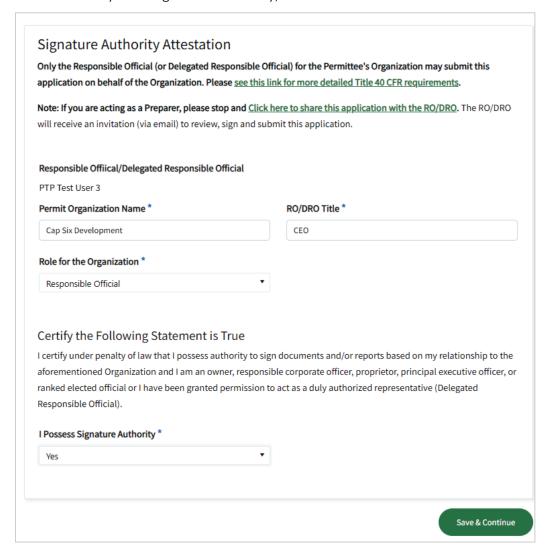




#### **Responsible Officials**

AccessDEQ users who have been identity proofed and who are responsible officials for the entity seeking the permit can attest to signature authority and sign and submit the application.

The name of the RO/DRO is already filled in and cannot be changed. The **Permit Organization Name** is already filled in but can be changed. The user must enter the **RO/DRO Title** field (their title at the organization: CEO, COO, Director, Owner, etc.) and select <u>Responsible Official</u> for **Role for the Organization**. They must select **Yes** to indicate they have signature authority, then click **Save & Continue** to submit the application.



The next section of the guide applies only to Delegated Responsible Officials (DROs). ROs can skip it and go directly to the Review Permit Application and Submit section.



#### **Delegated Responsible Officials**

AccessDEQ users who have been identity proofed and who are delegated responsible officials for the entity seeking the permit must have signature authority on file to sign and submit the application.

**Delegated Responsible Official (DRO)** is defined as a duly Authorized Representative **within the same Organization as the Responsible Official (RO)** who has been given specific powers/authority to act on behalf of the RO.

Delegation of duties to the Authorized Representative must be approved in advance and documented. This process takes place during the application procedure at the signing step. To indicate that you are a Delegated Responsible Official, follow these steps: request approval, print the Delegation of Signature Authority (DOSA) form, and mail the **wet-signed paper copy of the DOSA form** to the Stormwater Program per the instructions.

The name of the DRO is already filled in and cannot be changed. The **Permit Organization Name** is already filled in but can be changed. The user must enter their job title in the **RO/DRO Title** field and select Delegated Responsible Official for **Role for the Organization**. They must select **Yes** to indicate they have signature authority and select the signature authority on file if it already exists, then click **Save & Continue** to submit the application.

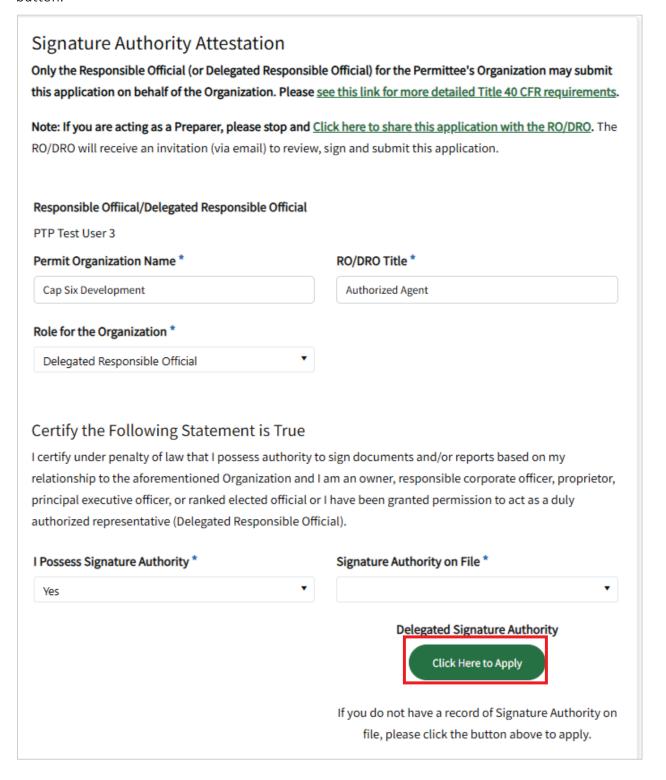
Please note that the paper copy only needs to be submitted once for each Delegated Responsible Official within a specific organization.

Please note that only one DOSA should be downloaded and submitted per application, per each individual portal user, since each form generates a unique ACT number linked to the individual in the database.

# **NEXT PAGE**



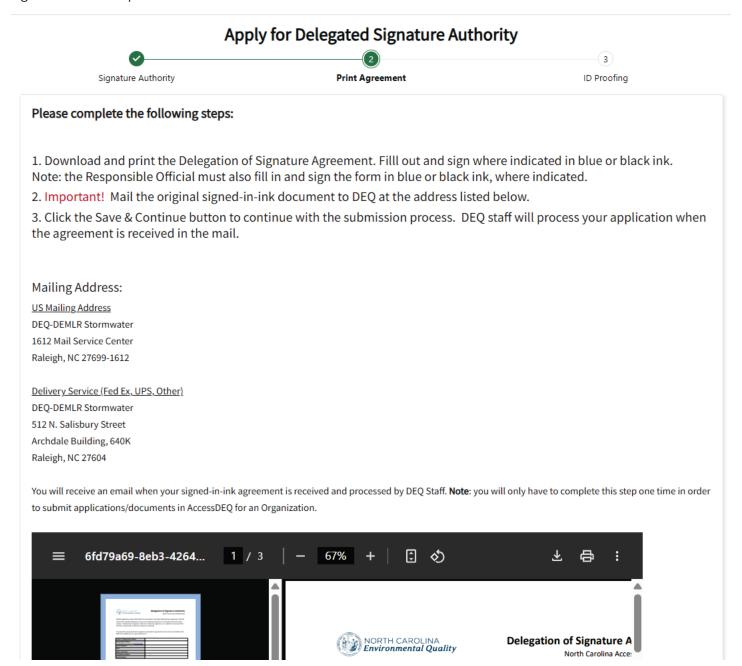
If you do not already have signature authority on file, you may request it by clicking the **Click Here to Apply** button.





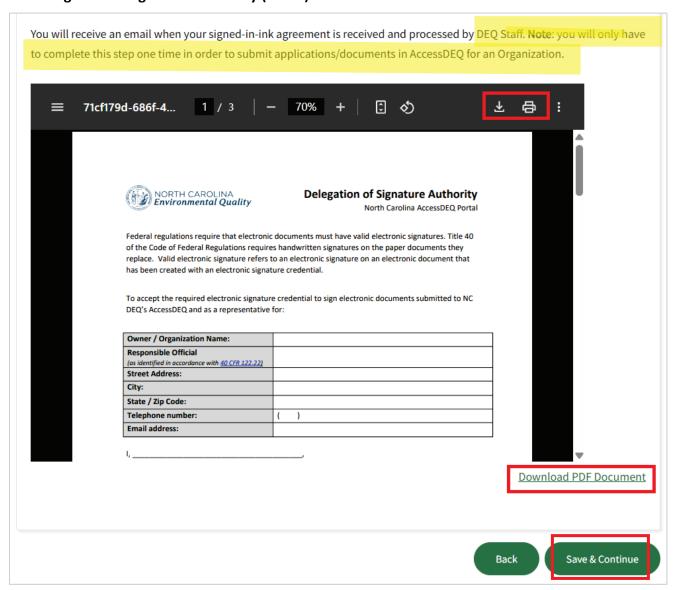
The next screen contains the Delegation of Signature document as well as instructions on downloading, completing, and mailing it in to DEQ. Users will receive an email notification when the application has been received and processed by DEQ staff. Note that a Responsible Official must also sign the agreement.

**Note**: DROs will only have to complete this step once for each organization for which they have delegated signature authority.





Users can click the download icon, the print icon, or the **Download PDF Document link to download or print** the **Delegation of Signature Authority (DOSA) document.** 



Please note that only one DOSA form can be downloaded and submitted per application, for one individual, since each form generates a unique ACT number linked to the individual in the database.

Mail the Completed form to:

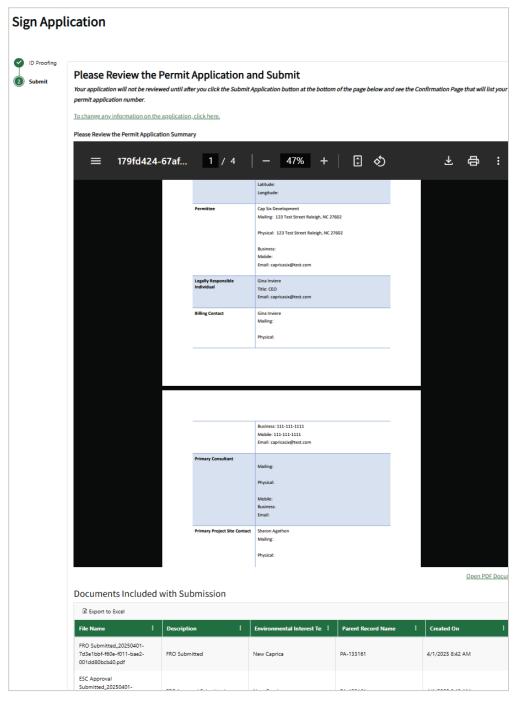
<u>US Mail</u> DEQ-DEMLR Stormwater 1612 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1612 Delivery Service (Fed Ex, UPS, Other)
DEQ-DEMLR-Stormwater
512 N. Salisbury Street
Archdale Building, 640K
Raleigh, NC 27604

Once you have completed printing or downloading the form, you can click **Save & Continue** to exit the signature authority process. You will return to the Sign Application page where you can **electronically Sign, Save & Continue**, **and Submit** the Application once ready to do so.



#### **Review Permit Application and Submit**

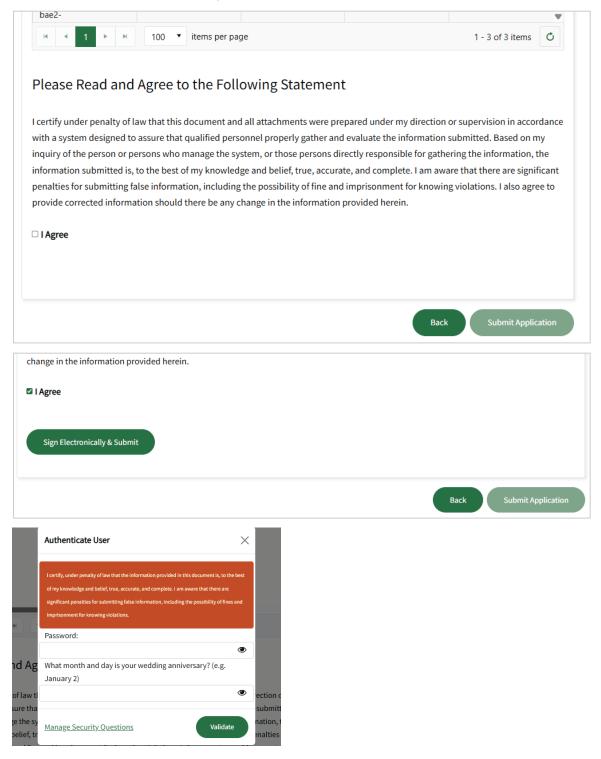
Once an RO or DRO has proceeded past step one of **Sign Application**, they can review the application and attached documents and submit the application. On the top of the screen is a document viewer displaying the completed application from which users can download or print it. Beneath that is a display of documents that were uploaded as part of the application. At the bottom the application can be signed and submitted.



Users can click the link above the document display to go back and change information. **Note**: Until an application has been submitted, users can always change the application information at any time. The section on the <u>Opening an Application</u> has more information about accessing applications.



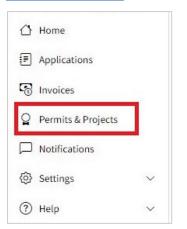
Checking I agree will reveal a Sign Electronically & Submit button. Upon clicking it, a modal window pops up prompting the user to enter their password and a security question answer. The Submit Application button is then enabled. Clicking it will submit the application to DEQ. Once an application has been submitted it cannot be edited unless it is returned by DEQ to the user for revisions.



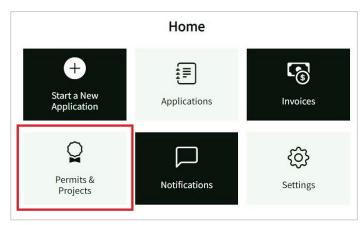


#### **Permits & Projects Grid**

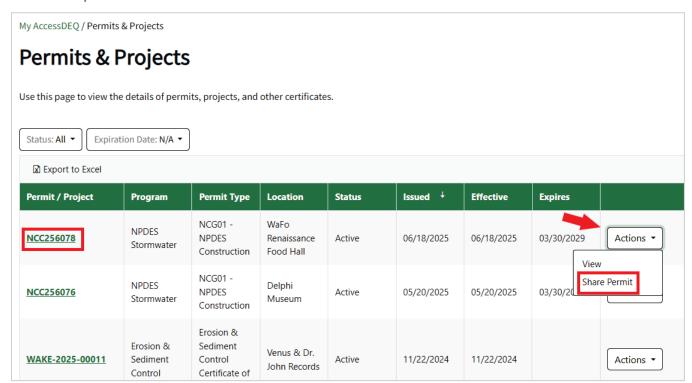
Users can see the permits to which their AccessDEQ portal account currently has access. To reach the Permits & Projects screen users can select **Permits & Project** on the left-hand navigation, or click the tile on the home screen. To gain access to a permit which does not appear in the list, users can request access. The <u>Request Access to a Permit</u> section has more information.



OR

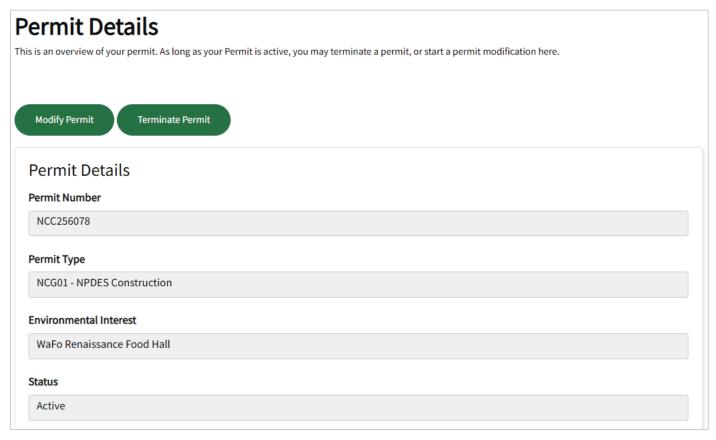


The user's permits and projects grid will be displayed. Users may click on the link in the **Permit/Project** column to view the Permit Details screen for a permit. In the **Actions** menu, users may select **Share Permit** to share access to a permit with another user.





The Permit Details screen displays information about the permit and links to associated invoices and permit applications, and portal actions.



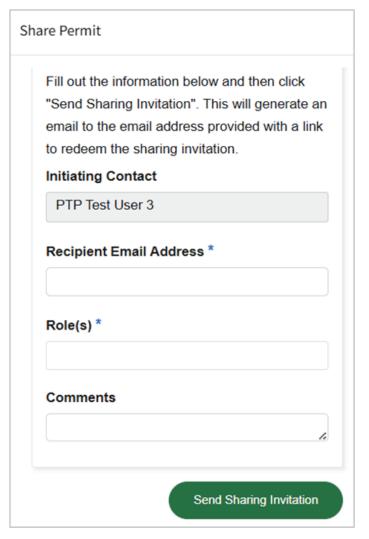
Notice of Termination and Modification Requests associated with the permit will appear in the Applications section. Applications in **Not Submitted** status can be opened for editing and resumed from the <u>Applications</u> Grid part of AccessDEQ to access these applications.

Application	Туре	Applicant	Request Type	Status	Submitted
PA-156299	Stormwater COC - NCG01 NPDES Construction	Blue Ox Construction	Permit Termination	New - Pending Submission	
PA-156280	Stormwater COC - NCG01 NPDES Construction	Blue Ox Construction	New Application	Issued	6/18/2025 12:45 PM



Selecting **Share Permit** from the Actions menu on the Permits & Project grid will open a modal window in which the user can fill out the invitation. The sharing user's name is automatically filled in.

The **Email Address** of the invitee must be entered and their **Role** must be selected from the dropdown. There is also space for optional comments which will be inserted into the email that is automatically sent to the share recipient once **Send Sharing Invitation** is clicked.



Invitees who have signature authority should have the role Responsible Official or Delegated Responsible Official.

Responsible Official
Delegated Responsible Official
Report Certifier
Preparer
Financial Administrator

For others, users can select the role that seems most appropriate. If unsure, the role of Preparer can be used.

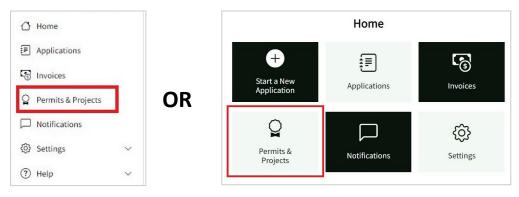
The email address that is/will be associated with the share recipient's AccessDEQ portal account must match the email entered here for the invitation to be redeemed successfully. If a user shares an application to the wrong email address, they can share the application again to the correct email address.

If the email address of the recipient is not yet associated with an AccessDEQ portal account, the sharing message will include registration instructions for the recipient. The <u>Accepting Shared Applications/Permits</u> section in this document has more information.

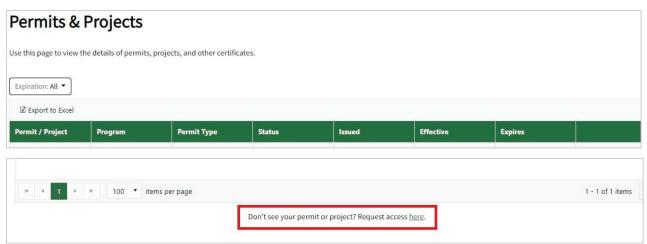


#### **Request Access to a Permit**

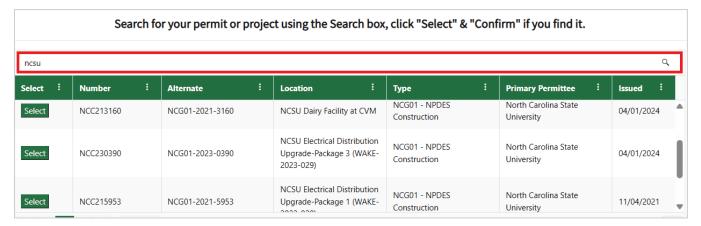
A user can request access to an existing NPDES Stormwater permit from the Permits & Projects screen.



Clicking on the link in **Request access here**. will bring up the permit search grid.



The user can scroll through permits or enter a search term to narrow down the list. The **Number, Alternate**, and **Location** columns are evaluated for the search term. The search accepts partial numbers and names.





The user can click **Select** then **Confirm** to select the permit to which they are requesting access.

Select :	Number :	Alternate :	Location :	Туре :	Primary Pe :	Issued :
Select	NCC213160	NCG01-2021- 3160	NCSU Dairy Facility at CVM	NCG01 - NPDES Construction	North Carolina State University	04/01/2024
Select :	Number :	Alternate :	Location :	Туре :	Primary P€ :	Issued :

The user can enter explanatory comments about the request for access and upload supporting documentation. These should include information about who the user is and why they should have access. Users are encouraged to also complete their AccessDEQ **Profile**. This will make the process go more smoothly.



Clicking **Submit** sends the request to DEQ. The user will be notified via email about the decision for the request. If the request is granted, the permit will appear in the Permits & Projects for the user's AccessDEQ account.



# **Appendix A – Document Management**

# **Document History**

The change history of the document is recorded in the Revision History Table.

Version	Version Description	Details
1.0	Initial version of the user guide.	Author: Christi Haynes Date: 04/08/2025
1.1	<ul> <li>Add further details &amp; updated screen illustrations for the <u>Sign Application</u> section</li> <li>Add Permit Sharing feature in <u>Accepting Shared Applications/Permits</u> (and rename section); update sharing email content and subject line</li> <li>Application status New – Pending Submission changed to Not Submitted</li> <li>Add Construction Stormwater RO/DRO information</li> <li>Reword for clarity RO/DRO instructions</li> <li>Added sections <u>Permits &amp; Projects Grid</u> and <u>Request Access to a Permit</u></li> <li>Minor rewording and formatting changes; font change to allow inline bolded words to show up better on PDF</li> </ul>	Author: Christi Haynes, Shelton Sullivan Date: 09/12/25



## Appendix B - Helpful Information

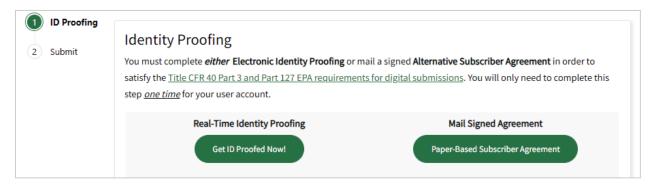
Description	Web Address
North Carolina AccessDEQ homepage	https://deq.nc.gov/accessdeq
Sign into or sign up for an AccessDEQ portal account	https://portal.deq.nc.gov/login
My AccessDEQ user portal homepage	https://portal.deq.nc.gov/my-accessdeq
General guide to the My AccessDEQ portal	https://portal.deq.nc.gov/help/getting-started-guide
Answers to FAQs and commonly used acronyms	https://portal.deq.nc.gov/help/faqs-and-acronyms
Links to all AccessDEQ portal application user guides	https://portal.deq.nc.gov/help/user-guides
North Carolina DEQ YouTube Playlists	https://youtube.com/@NCDEQ/playlists

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Permitting Transformation Program (PTP) is the initiative behind AccessDEQ. Information about it can be found at <a href="https://www.deq.nc.gov/accessdeq/permitting-transformation-program">https://www.deq.nc.gov/accessdeq/permitting-transformation-program</a>.

Information about all DEQ permitting and a link to a list of all permits, including those not currently part of AccessDEQ, can be found at this web address: <a href="https://www.deq.nc.gov/accessdeq/permit-directory">https://www.deq.nc.gov/accessdeq/permit-directory</a>.



#### Appendix C - Identity Proofing



#### Real-Time Identity Proofing - GET ID Proofed Now!

The purpose of identity proofing is to ensure that the person interacting electronically with NCDEQ is the person they say they are. NPDES Construction Stormwater Certificate of Coverage under NCG01/NCG25 electronic applications are required by the EPA to be CROMERR (Cross-Media Electronic Reporting Rule) complaint. Requiring identity proofing of users who submit electronic applications is part of this compliance.

The identity proofing component of NCDEQ's external portal is provided via an integration with EPA and their third-party partner Lexis-Nexis.

Lexis-Nexis uses information in publicly available databases to check the information users entered on the identity proofing screen. This includes the user's first and last name, phone number, the last 4 digits of their social security number, and address.

Tips for successful real-time identity proofing:

- Use home address and not a PO Box or work address.
- Enter the phone number typically used when filling out financial applications, banking information, mortgage documents, etc. This is usually a home phone number or registered cell phone, and not a work number.
- Ensure there are no leading or trailing spaces in the first and last name on the user's AccessDEQ profile.
- Identity proofing uses the first and last name entered when the AccessDEQ portal account was created. It checks against names in databases where legal names are used. If the identity proofing fails and the user's name has recently changed, or the user signed up for AccessDEQ using a name other than their legal name, they can change the name on their AccessDEQ profile and attempt identity proofing again.
- The user can enter different information and try again. For instance, they can try adding/removing the middle initial or try a different phone number with which the user is associated.

#### Mail Signed Agreement - Paper Based Subscriber Agreement

If a user cannot complete real-time identity proofing they can mail in a signed paper-based Subscriber Agreement to DEQ. To do this, they can click on the **Paper-Based Subscriber Agreement** button on the Identity Proofing screen, print and sign the form, and mail it to DEQ. The mailing address is provided.

Sometimes publicly available information is erroneous. Users can use the **contact us** link for assistance.