

DELINEATION OF WETLANDS AND OTHER SURFACE WATERS

Section 1-11.04

PURPOSE:

Pursuant to Section 1-11.04, the EPC has adopted the statewide methodology utilized for determining the landward extent of wetlands and other surface waters for determining applicable EPC jurisdiction for impacts prohibited under Section 1-11.05. This methodology is further used to identify the interface between wetlands and uplands so as to review and verify the avoidance of direct and secondary impacts to wetlands or other surface waters.

DESCRIPTION:

Wetland delineations are often referred to as wetland jurisdictional determinations. In Hillsborough County, wetlands and other surface waters are regulated by the EPC, pursuant to Chapter 1-11, Rules of the EPC. Wetland delineations are performed in accordance with the unified wetland delineation methodology described in Chapter 62-340, F.A.C., *Delineation of the Landward Extent of Wetlands and Surface Waters*.

Wetland delineations are conducted during a field assessment of the property at the request of the property owner or authorized agent. Using the delineation methodology described in Chapter 62-340 F.A.C., an EPC staff Environmental Scientist establishes points in the field, or reviews the points established by the applicant, at the landward extent of the wetland. These points are established by using consecutively numbered flagging, staking, or other similar means of marking. After EPC staff delineates the wetland line it is the responsibility of the applicant to have the line surveyed.

Formal Wetland Determination:

To obtain a formal binding wetland determination an applicant must provide a certified survey of the wetland limits to be reviewed and approved by EPC staff. This survey must meet the requirements of Chapter 61G17-6, F.A.C., pursuant to Chapter 472.027, Florida Statutes. The Specific Purpose Wetland Survey shall include the surveyed property boundaries with the surveyed wetland points identified thereon. The surveys must depict the appropriate State Plane Coordinates or bearings and distances, the wetland points labeled as flagged in the field, wetland line labeled as "wetland line", wetland labeled as "Wetland Area" or "Wetland." The EPC staff formal approval of a certified survey shall be binding for a period of 5 years from the date of approval, provided physical conditions on the property do not change.

Informal Wetland Determination:

Pursuant to Section 1-11.04(2), Rules of the EPC, an approximate delineation as reflected on a scaled site plan may be accepted as to the existence and extent of any wetlands, upon any lands within Hillsborough County. An informal wetland determination is only valid for the purpose of reviewing a specific project and is not binding on the parties.