



How to access the EQB Silica Sand Technical Assistance Team (SSTAT)

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Overview

SSTAT is led by the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to serve local governments hosting silica sand mining, processing, and transloading facilities. At the request of elected government officials and LGU staff, SSTAT can be accessed through informal and formal processes. Examples of informal requests include inquiries for additional information and general questions about silica sand related issues. The EQB can help local governments get in contact with the appropriate state agency and agency staff to address their concerns.

For more complex questions, projects, or decisions involving on-going participation of staff or coordinating staff from multiple agencies, a formal request is required for assistance. Examples of projects requiring a formal request include zoning and land use decisions, environmental review or permitting, and monitoring programs.

Process

To access the SSTAT, contact the EQB and we will assist in determining if your request involves a formal or informal process. Formal requests will involve a government action approving the request by the township, city, or county board or planning commission.

General guidelines for a request include-

- A description of the nature of the project and relevant background information
- Specific questions that you would like answered
- Identification of timelines, deadlines, and dates of any extensions for actions (per MN Stat. 15.99). That is, the date or expected date in which the LGU takes action to add an additional 60 days for a government decision.

The target timeline for a draft SSTAT recommendation for environmental review and permitting questions is 45 days after receiving the request. Recommendations on a silica sand project that requires approval by a local government will also require submittal to the EQB for Board action. Final recommendations will be posted on the EQB website.