

## Evaluation Factors

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The decision whether to grant or deny a permit is based on a public interest review of the probable impact of the proposed activity and its intended use. Benefits and detriments are balanced by considering the effects on items such as:

- *conservation*
- *economics*
- *aesthetics*
- *general environmental concerns*
- *wetlands*
- *cultural values*
- *flood hazards*
- *floodplain values*
- *food and fiber production*
- *navigation*
- *shore erosion and accretion*
- *recreation*
- *water supply and conservation*
- *water quality*
- *energy needs*
- *safety*
- *needs and welfare of the people*
- *considerations of private ownership*

The following general criteria will be considered in the evaluation of every application:

1. the relative extent of the public and private need for the proposed activity;
2. the practicability of using reasonable alternative locations and methods to accomplish the objective of the proposed activity; and
3. the extent and permanence of the beneficial and/or detrimental effects which the proposed activity is likely to have on the public and private uses to which the area is suited.

**Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act** If your project involves the discharge of dredged or fill material, it will be necessary for the

Corps to evaluate your proposed activity under the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency. The guidelines restrict discharges into aquatic areas where less environmentally damaging, practicable alternatives exist.

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