

# How to Determine Latitude and Longitude

## Reporting your construction site location for the Construction Stormwater General Permit Application

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**A**s part of the Construction Stormwater Permit Coverage application, applicants are required to provide the latitude and longitude of their construction site. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) encourages operators to make the best possible measurements when determining latitude and longitude.

Your measurements should be taken from the approximate center of the construction site. If, because of site configuration (like an irregular shape) the 'center' would be outside the construction site, the measurements should be taken from a point 'on-site' which is closest to the approximate center of the construction site.

### Acceptable Format / Precision

While either format may be used when reporting your site's latitude and longitude, Decimal Degrees are preferred:

- Decimal (degrees) (46.40004 94.51850)
- Degrees, minutes, seconds (for example, 46° 24' 00.14" 94° 31' 06.62")

You are not required to make any conversions between formats.

### Methodologies

The latitude and longitude of your construction site can be determined in several different ways, including:

- Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers,
- Web-based siting tools, and

- Calculations from the hash marks on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps

Applicants are reminded that regardless of the method chosen to obtain latitude and longitude, the latitude and longitude must be reported in one of the two formats listed above .

### GPS Receivers

These devices are generally the most accurate for reporting latitude and longitude. Most GPS receivers can be programmed to display your location in one of the two required formats. You can easily determine the format that is displayed by comparing the read-out on the screen of the GPS receiver to the formats listed above or by accessing the settings for the format of latitude and longitude. The datum should be set to WGS84 or NAD83.

### Internet Siting Tools

The EPA maintains a web-based siting tool that combines interactive maps and aerial photography to help users get latitude and longitude coordinates (in degrees, minutes, and seconds) of their construction sites. The siting tool can be accessed at [http://www.epa.gov/tri/report/siting\\_tool/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/tri/report/siting_tool/index.htm), along with instructions for using the siting tool.

### The USGS National Map

The website: <http://nationalmap.gov> is an alternate siting tool. There are other siting tools available that may also be used. Some are commercial others are from various public supported agencies.

## USGS Topographic Maps

Calculations using the hash marks on USGS topographic maps provide another method for determining latitude and longitude of your site. These maps are published in varying degrees of detail. The most detailed version of the topographic map is in 7.5 x 7.5 minute increments with a scale of 1:24,000 (i.e., one inch on the map represents 2,000 feet).

Please use the most detailed topographic map available and utilize the 1983 North American Datum (NAD 83).

The Index to Topographical Maps and Other Map Coverage and The Catalog of Topographical Maps and Other Published Maps are published by USGS and are available for each state. Both the index and the catalog are available in many libraries free of charge. You can also obtain free copies of the catalog through any of the USGS Earth Science Information Center (ESIC) offices.

## Contact us

If you have questions about the administrative details of the permit process go to [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/stormwater/stormwater-c.html) or call the Stormwater Hotline at 651-757-2119 or toll-free at 800-657-3804.