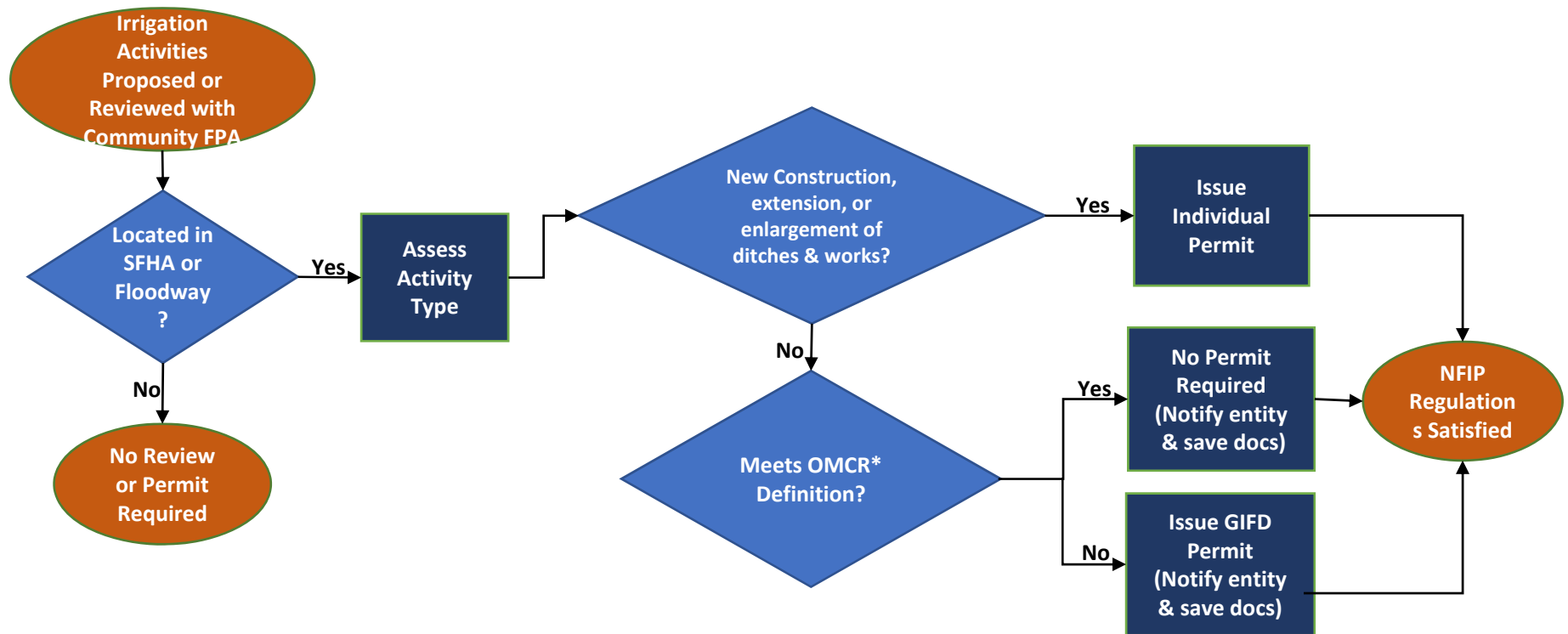


## NFIP IRRIGATION and DRAINAGE PERMIT PROCESS FLOWCHART

Including Operation, Cleaning, Maintenance & Repair (OMCR) of Irrigation & Drainage Works



\* Refer to OCMR definitions in IDWR NFIP Irrigation and Drainage Permit Guidance

# NFIP Irrigation Permitting

Operation, Maintenance, Cleaning, & Repair	GIFD Permit: Activities must be permitted before work can begin.	Individual Floodplain Development Permit: Activities must be permitted before work can begin.
<i>Non-development activities Requires no permit</i>	<i>Development activities that can be grouped together under a common GIFD permit / low-to-no impact irrigation &amp; drainage development activities or uses in the floodplain which inherently do not increase the BFE</i>	<i>Development activities requiring an Individual Floodplain Development Permit - all other permitted activities &amp; projects within the regulatory <b>floodway</b> &amp; SFHA that do not meet the requirements of a GIFD permit.</i>
a. General farming, pasture, horticultural and forestry activities that do not involve earthwork that permanently alter the topography or any clearing/grubbing of an area.	a. Dredging and grading of irrigation and drainage channels, when the fill from dredging or grading is not deposited on the banks of channels or anywhere within the regulatory floodway or SFHA for longer than 10 days.	a. fill and/or dredging (sedimentation/silt removal)
b. Grading of existing roads or easements along or near channels and within the SFHA, when the grading does not add fill within the regulatory floodway or SFHA.	b. Seasonal grading within natural stream channels to check or direct water into irrigation facilities (i.e. earthen “push-up dams” and “wing dams”).	b. new construction, or replacements that do not meet the in-kind definition;
c. Maintenance of underground utilities (work must not permanently alter topography).	c. Deposition of fill within the SFHA for less than 10 days. After 10 days, deposited fill must be removed from the SFHA, or graded and compacted to existing grade within $\pm 0.2$ feet. Deposition of fill includes deposition of material resulting from grading or excavating irrigation or drainage channels. Deposition of fill within the mapped floodway requires an individual permit.	c. activities or projects that trigger any requirement found in the local floodplain management or NFIP regulations; and
d. In-kind replacement of existing piers or posts supporting a conforming deck.	d. Construction of new underground utilities that do not permanently alter the existing grade elevations by $\pm 0.5$ feet. Excess soil from new pipes larger than 2 feet in diameter must be disposed of outside the regulatory floodway and SFHA.	d. activities or projects that increase flood damage and/or increase exposure to flood hazards.

# NFIP Irrigation Permitting

<p>e. Activities associated with land-surface construction stormwater Best Management Practices (“BMP”), when the measures are temporary in nature (i.e. not in place for longer than 180 days) or do not increase the BFE. Examples of stormwater BMP activities that do not require a permit include the following: dust control; materials and equipment covers; mulching; geotextile fabrics; matting; bio-filter bags; fiber rolls; silt fences; vegetative buffer strips; temporary swales; and temporary berms.</p>	<p>e. In-kind replacement of irrigation and drainage works or components including but not limited to control gates or head gates, measuring devices and their housing structures/stilling wells, culverts, pumps, pipes, flumes, siphons and similar works. GIFD permits cannot authorize the In-kind replacement of dams or bridge structures.</p>	
<p>f. New installation or maintenance of non-solid fences constructed parallel to the flow of water during a flood event. Non-parallel or solid fences that block the flow will need to go through the individual permitting process.</p>	<p>f. New driveways, trails, sidewalks, roads and streets constructed completely at-or-below existing grade.</p>	
	<p>g. Armoring, stabilizing, securing, or in-kind replacement of existing infrastructure within the channel banks (such as bridge piers, sewer/utility supports and storm water/sewer drainage outfalls/headwalls) when the dimensions (bank slopes, channel location, channel elevation) of the channel are not altered. This should not involve replacement with larger or additional above ground infrastructure.</p>	
<p><i>Irrigation and drainage entities should consult their local Floodplain Administrator regarding the application and review process for individual permits.</i></p>		
<p><i>FEMA defines Development as any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavating or drilling operations or storage of equipment and materials.</i></p>		

## Frequently Asked Questions – NFIP Irrigation Guidance and GIFD Permit

Q. Who determines whether or not any permit, including a GIFD or individual permit, is necessary for irrigation and drainage activities within the SFHA or regulatory floodway?

A. The local community Floodplain Administrator (“FPA”) makes the determination based upon annual or periodic coordinated meetings with irrigation/drainage entities to review planned activities or projects within the SFHA or regulatory floodway. A written notice of determination (letter or email) is sent to the entity documenting which activities do not require any permit, which activities qualify as GIFD, and those activities that may require an individual floodplain development permit. A notice of determination that identifies qualifying GIFD activities serves as the GIFD permit

Q. Is there a GIFD permit application form?

A. No. An irrigation/drainage entity may submit a plan, list or outline that documents the planned activities or projects for a period of up to five years. Each FPA program may have different submittal needs, so it is important for FPAs and irrigation entities to have good working relationships for sharing information.

Q. Is there an actual paper or digital document issued for a GIFD permit?

A. No. The FPA may issue a written letter or email to the irrigation/drainage entity documenting the proposed activities or projects that qualify as GIFD. The written notice serves as the GIFD permit. The FPA shall save the written notice and all related documents as a permanent record of decision or permit.

Q. Can a GIFD permit cover multiple activities or projects?

A. Yes. Multiple activities or projects located within the SFHA or regulatory floodway that qualify as GIFD may be grouped together under one GIFD permit.

Q. Does a GIFD permit have an expiration date or limited term?

A. Yes. GIFD permits may be issued for up to five years.

Q. What happens if an irrigation entity has a new or unforeseen GIFD project that was not included in the multi-year GIFD permit?

A. When the irrigation entity identifies a new project, they should contact the FPA and work together to determine whether the activity may qualify as GIFD. The FPA should document whether or not the activity qualifies as GIFD and send notice to the entity of that decision. If the activity qualifies as GIFD, the notice becomes an additional GIFD permit. The FPA shall save a copy of the notice and any related documentation.

Q. Does the community need to formally amend its floodplain ordinances in order to implement the GIFD permit process?

A. No. A community may adopt IDWR’s GIFD Guidance as policy.