# Vermont's MRGP- What's New (and Due) for 2023

Here's some upcoming important Vermont Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) related schedules and permit requirements, fees, training opportunities and resources available to towns in 2023.

## 2023 Summary Table

| Due Date | Requirement | Fees |
|---|---|---|
| Before January 26, 2023- NEW | Notice of Intent (NOI) One-Page Form, Application fee ($400) and Processing fee ($240) | $640 total |
| April 1st- NEW DUE DATE | Annual Fee | $500, $1350, or $1800 - Prorated based on population & road miles |
| April 1st | Annual Report One-Page form due | $0 |

## MRGP Re-issued Permit

DEC has re-issued the MRGP permit for the second MRGP permit cycle, approximately 1/26/2023- 1/2028. There was an opportunity for public review and comments in late summer or early fall of 2022 and DEC made appropriate changes to the permit. **Towns are required to be fully compliant with any past due MRGP fees or other requirements before your application for coverage under the reissued permit can be processed** (see MRGP Compliance Status Database below).

Some changes to the permit include the following:
- There will be a new townwide road erosion inventory (REI) assessment of hydrologically-connected road segments due before October 31, 2027.
- Starting in spring of 2023, DEC will require towns and other organizations conducting REIs and segment upgrades to use the updated DEC-developed Survey 123 REI app and map layer.
- The scoring of road segments will be revised to include and prioritize road segments for upgrades based on the degree of erosion assessed. REI segment scores would be available immediately and the transfer of REI data more efficient.
- Towns will continue to be required to upgrade 7.5% of non-compliant segments to meet the MRGP standards annually and report those updates in the MRGP Implementation Table Portal before April 1st of each year and submit a one-page Annual Report form.
- Towns must now include at least 20% of the total of *Very High Priority* segments as part of the 7.5% upgrades each year.
- Annual implementation requirements are based on the baseline REI until towns fully complete the new REI reassessments, at which point new implementation requirements will then be based on the new assessment numbers.
- Annual fees will now be due on April 1st instead of June 1st.

- As part of the MRGP re-issuance, towns will be required to pay an Administrative Processing fee of $240 and an Application Fee of $400 and submit a one-page Notice of Intent form before January 26, 2023. The DEC Business Office will be sending email reminders to all MRGP towns.
- See the MRGP website (link below) to review the new MRGP Permit in its entirety.

## MRGP- Permit Requirements, Schedules, and Fees for 2023

### Annual Report Form- due April 1, 2023
Towns are required to submit completed and signed a one-page Annual Report form. DEC will be sending an email notice about this form submittal.

### April 1, 2023- MRGP Annual Fees Due (NEW DUE DATE)
MRGP towns will be required to pay an annual fee ($500 or $1,350 or $1,800 prorated fee based on population and road miles) before April 1, 2023. Towns will be sent a reminder email from DEC with additional information in early spring 2023. A link to prorated MRGP annual fees can be found here: https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/stormwater/docs/Permitinformation/MunicipalRoads/sw_MRGP_ProratedAnnualOperatingFees.pdf

## MRGP Compliance Status Database
To assist MRGP municipalities in determining whether they are fully compliant with the MRGP fees and administrative requirements, DEC has developed a Compliance Status Database: https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IWIS/ReportViewer2.aspx?Report=SWMRGPComplianceStatus&ViewParms=False

## MRGP Implementation Requirements- Upgrade of 15% (2021-2022 field seasons combined) of Non-compliant Road Segments to Meet the MRGP Standards

The MRGP requires towns to upgrade to MRGP standards 15% (2 years of implementation) of non-compliant hydrologically-connected road segments by December 31, 2022. What does this mean? If your completed initial inventory indicates that 100 road segments (1 road segment= 328 feet) *Does Not Meet* or *Partially Meets* scores, then 15% of 100 segments or 15 segments (just under 1 mile of road) are required to be brought up to the MRGP standards during this time. This number will vary according to your REI results. Please keep track of where road segments have been upgraded and make those updates through the DEC *Survey 123* app. Trainings will be provided to towns in the Road Roundtable trainings described below and additional information can be found below (see Upcoming Trainings below).

# MRGP Implementation Table Portal

DEC and the Agency of Digital Services have upgraded the MRGP "Portal." The Portal gives both baseline REI data, as well as up to date data. Portal reports include: Baseline REI summaries, Baseline REI inventories, Current inventories, Outlet surveys and All assessments. The Portal can be found here: https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IWIS/MRGPReportViewer.aspx?ViewParms=True&Report=Portal

# Upcoming Trainings in 2023 TBA

**Road Roundtable Forums**- DEC and the VTrans Local Roads Program will be offering a series of Road Round Table Forums in 2023.

**This year's training topics will include:**
- How to download and use DEC's MRGP REI applications (apps) such as *Collector* and *Survey 123*, as well as the new *MRGP Reporter* web-based tool.
- How to re-assess road segments after segments have been upgraded to MRGP standards.
- How to view, interpret and use your town's REI data in the MRGP database portal and mapping tools to assist in implementation of road practices as required by the MRGP
- Required practice installation, grant funding programs, and culvert sizing and installation
- How to conduct the REI in the field using the DEC apps
- How to determine the Active Channel Width in the field for non-compliant intermittent stream culverts sizing.

**Check the VTrans Local Roads Program website for specific dates and registration of upcoming MRGP-related trainings:** https://localroads.vermont.gov/

# Financial Assistance Available for Towns

**Municipal Grants-in-Aid (GIA) for road upgrades to MRGP standards:**
The Municipal Grants-in-Aid program made awards to towns in the summer of 2022, for funding under SFY23. These awards were for implementation projects in the 2022 and 2023 field season.  It is anticipated that VTrans will again send letters to towns announcing the next round of GIA funding in the spring of 2023 for implementation of projects under SFY24, with awards in late summer/fall allowing for implementation in the 2023-2024 field season. Towns receiving grant funding will help them bring their connected roads up to MRGP standards. For additional program information please see our website at https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/Municipal-Grant-in-aid-Program or contract Ross Gouin at ross.gouin@vermont.gov

**VTrans Better Roads Grants:**
VTrans Better Roads Grant funding can be used to implement road best management practices (Category B) that will assist municipalities in meeting MRGP implementation requirements. Currently the solicitation for Better Roads Projects under SFY24 is open. For more information regarding the

Better Roads Grant Program or for application materials, please visit our website at
https://vtrans.vermont.gov/highway/better-roads
or contact Ross Gouin at ross.gouin@vermont.gov


**For more information about the MRGP, head to our MRGP website or reach out to one of us:**

https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/stormwater/permit-information-applications-fees/municipal-roads-program

**Jim Ryan** DEC's Municipal Roads Program Coordinator at (802) 490-6140 or jim.ryan@vemont.gov

**Paul Phelps-** Agency of Digital Services, for questions about REI data submittal, reports/queries, scoring, and the MRGP Portal paul.phelps@vermont.gov

**Ryan Knox-** Agency of Digital Services, for questions about the MRGP Survey 123 app, Collector map layer, the ANR Natural Resources Atlas Municipal Road Theme, and MRGP Reporter web-based tool ryan.knox@vermont.gov