

567—72.32(455B) Protected stream information. The following describes the variance procedure and the relation of hydrologically connected streams to protected streams:

72.32(1) *Protected streams variance procedure.* The variance shall be requested as part of the permit application and review process provided for in rules 567—70.3(17A,455B,481A) to 567—70.5(17A,455B,481A) and decisions on the variance request may be appealed in accordance with rule 567—70.6(17A,455B,481A). If the applicant is denied a permit to channelize a protected stream, the applicant may appeal to the environmental protection commission. The appeal will normally be heard by an administrative law judge but the applicant may request that the commission hear the appeal directly. If a proposed decision of an administrative law judge would affirm the denial of the permit, the applicant may appeal the administrative law judge's decision to the commission. If, on appeal, the commission affirms the denial of the permit, the applicant may appeal to the district court.

72.32(2) *Hydrologically connected streams.* Streams or waters that are hydrologically connected to protected streams are not protected streams unless specifically listed as protected streams in 72.50(2). The environmental protection commission considers the streams and waters that are hydrologically connected to streams proposed to become protected streams as one of the factors in the decision-making process to add streams to the list of protected streams in a rule-making procedure. Subrule 72.51(7) lists the other factors that affect the decision.

72.32(3) *Protected stream activities.* Protected stream status does not prohibit bank stabilization measures; tree maintenance or removal; maintenance or installation of tile outlets; machinery crossings, including concrete drive-throughs and bridges; boat or canoe ramps; or other structures permitted by the department; nor restrict riparian access to the protected stream for such uses as livestock watering or grazing. Protected stream status does not affect current cropping practices or require the establishment or maintenance of buffer strips, filter strips, or fences along protected streams except as may be required to mitigate environmental damage associated with a channel change on a protected stream.