

Noise Variance Process (as of 10/8/2015)

1. Variance comes to ONI, either delivered in person or via US mail.
2. Program Assistant checks for completeness and contacts applicant when necessary
3. Variances that will either last 1 year or more, or looks to be significant in either/or dBA level or number of people affected by noise impact are flagged for Noise Control Officer
 - a. Noise Control Officer consults with Noise Review Board Chair to determine the need for formal review (public hearing) by the Noise Review Board.
 - b. If determined to be on NRB agenda, applicant is contacted to provide additional payment, get on the docket for an upcoming NRB meeting, and work with NCO to provide the proper notification that allows public to comment or appeal.
 - c. Before NRB meeting, board members are provided with packets that include supporting documents, site plan, with nearby residences included, and any comments received either through email or postal service.
 - d. During the NRB meeting, applicant describes in more detail the need for a variance, notification process, and mitigation efforts.
 - e. Public testimony is taken, either in person or by aforementioned letters and emails.
 - f. NRB sets conditions, if approved. If not approved, they are asked to come back to a later meeting more fully prepared.
 - g. Variance is processed, signed, and returned to applicant
Note: NRB Chair can delegate to the NCO if he/she so chooses, with recommendations by NRB to be included).
4. Variance applications of lesser impact (everything from Waterfront Blues Festival to small wedding ceremonies in Portland parks) are handled by staff in-house.
 - a. Application is processed, with Program Assistant setting initial set of conditions (note: software system used has templates for standard conditions for all categories, and staff then adjusts as needed)
 - b. NCO determines final conditions, and if needed, modifies initial conditions set by Program Assistant, or denies request altogether.
 - c. Notification area is set by NCO, with buffer zone determined on an individual basis, taking into account size, expected noise level and proximity to residences. If appropriate, a notification map, address list, and notification template is provided to applicant.
 - d. Application is processed, signed, and returned to applicant

Note – the vast majority of the 600 plus noise variance applications received come between May and September.

Attached on page 2 of this document - variances issued between August 28, 2014 and August 28, 2015 to provide data to compare with process flow.

Construction - 92

Private Construction – Concrete pours, etc.	49
Private Construction – Crane erections	22
Public Agencies – BES, ODOT, Water, TriMet, PPS	21

High Noise Impact – 112

Park Events (Blues Festival, Rose Festival, Komen Race for the Cure, Pride, MusicFest NW, The Bite, Oregon Symphony etc.	41
Other (Red Dress Party, Macy’s Holiday Parade, Street Fairs, Portland Marathon, etc.	71

Noise Review Board – 13

BES, Project Pabst, Oregon Zoo, PIR, Multnomah County Bridge work, KNRK, Hempstalk	9
Oversight (not NRB decisions, but recommendations) for construction variances/Pearl District	4

All Other Applications – 390

Park Events – weddings, BBQs, Pioneer Courthouse Square and Director Park events, Company picnics, small fundraisers, etc.	180
All Other Events – Grand openings, block parties, film and TV shoots, small fundraisers, small concerts	210