



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
GARY C. RIKARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 6, 2017

Certified Mail No. 7016 2070 0000 7232 9873

Ms. Jennifer Mallard
Regulatory Branch Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435

Dear Ms. Mallard:

Re: US Army Corps of Engineers
Nationwide Permit No. 54
Warren County
COE No. MVK-2017-114
WQC No. WQC2017054

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U. S. C. 1251, 1341), the Office of Pollution Control (OPC) issues this Certification, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing, to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

US Army COE, Nationwide Permit No. 54:

Nationwide Permits are general permits issued on a nationwide basis to streamline the authorization of activities that have no more than minimal and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues NWP's to authorize certain activities that require Department of the Army permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

54. *Living Shorelines*. Structures and work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States for the construction and maintenance of living shorelines to stabilize banks and shores in coastal waters, which includes the Great Lakes, along shores with small fetch and gentle slopes that are subject to low- to mid-energy waves. A living shoreline

has a footprint that is made up mostly of native material. It incorporates vegetation or other living, natural "soft" elements alone or in combination with some type of harder shoreline structure (e.g., oyster or mussel reefs or rock sills) for added protection and stability. Living shorelines should maintain the natural continuity of the land-water interface, and retain or enhance shoreline ecological processes. Living shorelines must have a substantial biological component, either tidal or lacustrine fringe wetlands or oyster or mussel reef structures. The following conditions must be met:

(a) The structures and fill area, including sand fills, sills, breakwaters, or reefs, cannot extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the activity will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;

(b) The activity is no more than 500 feet in length along the bank, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the activity will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;

(c) Coir logs, coir mats, stone, native oyster shell, native wood debris, and other structural materials must be adequately anchored, of sufficient weight, or installed in a manner that prevents relocation in most wave action or water flow conditions, except for extremely severe storms;

(d) For living shorelines consisting of tidal or lacustrine fringe wetlands, native plants appropriate for current site conditions, including salinity, must be used if the site is planted by the permittee;

(e) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, and oyster or mussel reef structures in navigable waters, must be the minimum necessary for the establishment and maintenance of the living shoreline;

(f) If sills, breakwaters, or other structures must be constructed to protect fringe wetlands for the living shoreline, those structures must be the minimum size necessary to protect those fringe wetlands;

(g) The activity must be designed, constructed, and maintained so that it has no more than minimal adverse effects on water movement between the waterbody and the shore and the movement of aquatic organisms between the waterbody and the shore; and

(h) The living shoreline must be properly maintained, which may require periodic repair of sills, breakwaters, or reefs, or replacing sand fills after severe storms or erosion events. Vegetation may be replanted to maintain the living shoreline. This NWP authorizes those maintenance and repair activities, including any minor deviations necessary to address changing environmental conditions.

This NWP does not authorize beach nourishment or land reclamation activities.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the construction of the living shoreline. (See general condition 32.) The pre-construction notification must include a delineation of special aquatic sites (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). Pre-construction notification is not required for maintenance and repair activities for living shorelines unless required by applicable NWP general conditions or regional conditions.

Note: In waters outside of coastal waters, nature-based bank stabilization techniques, such as bioengineering and vegetative stabilization, may be authorized by NWP 13 [MVK-2017-114, WQC2017054].

The Office of Pollution Control certifies that the above-described activity will be in compliance with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Section 49-17-29 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, if the applicant complies with the following conditions:

1. All material placed for beneficial use shall be properly tested and analyzed as required by the Mississippi Beneficial Use Program.
2. Material shall be clean and non-polluting, free of trash, debris, asphalt, etc.
3. All fill materials and excavation areas shall have side slopes of at least 3:1 (horizontal:vertical) shall be immediately seeded, stabilized, and maintained.
4. For projects greater than five acres of total ground disturbances including clearing, grading, excavating, or other construction activities, the applicant shall obtain the necessary coverage under the State of Mississippi's Large Construction Storm Water General NPDES Permit. For projects greater than one, to less the five acres of

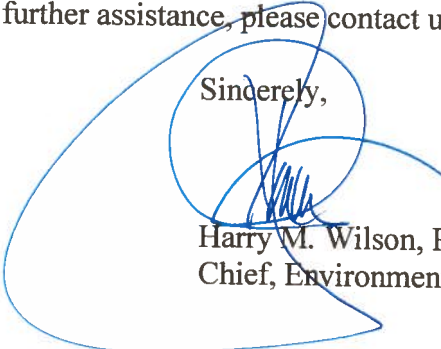
total ground disturbances including clearing, grading, excavating, or other construction activities, the applicant shall follow the conditions and limitations of the State of Mississippi's Small Construction Storm Water General NPDES Permit. No construction activities shall begin until the necessary approvals and/or permits have been obtained.

5. Best Management practices (BMPs) should be used at all times during construction to minimize turbidity at the site. The site shall be operated and maintained in a manner that minimizes the discharge of turbid waters into waters of the State. These BMPs include, but are not limited to, the use of staked hay bales; staked filter cloth; sodding, seeding, and mulching; staged construction; and the installation of turbidity screens around the immediate project site.
6. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse.
7. The turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50-Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

The Office of Pollution Control also certifies that there are no limitations under Section 302 nor standards under Sections 306 and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act which are applicable to the applicant's above-described activity.

This certification is valid for the project as proposed. Any deviations without proper modifications and/or approvals may result in a violation of the 401 Water Quality Certification. If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Harry M. Wilson, P.E., DEE
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

HMW: ld

cc: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Attn: Mr. Craig Litteken
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
Attn: Mr. Tim Fudge
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District
Attn: Mr. Timothy Wilder

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: Mr. Michael Farabee
Ms. Willa Brantley, Department of Marine Resources
Mr. David Felder, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. William Ainsley, Environmental Protection Agency

