



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
TATE REEVES  
GOVERNOR**

**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

December 11, 2020

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

Re: US Army COE,  
Nationwide Permit No. 40  
WQC No. WQC2020067

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. 40:

Nationwide Permits (NWP) 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 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.

*40. Agricultural Activities.* Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for agricultural activities, including the construction of building pads for farm buildings. Authorized activities include the installation, placement, or construction of drainage tiles, ditches, or levees; mechanized land clearing; land leveling; the relocation of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in waters of the United States; and similar activities.

This NWP also authorizes the construction of farm ponds in non-tidal waters of the United States, excluding perennial streams, provided the farm pond is used solely for agricultural purposes. This NWP does not authorize the construction of aquaculture ponds.

This NWP also authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States to relocate existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into nontidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

*Notification:* The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

**Note:** Some discharges for agricultural activities may qualify for an exemption under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (see 33 CFR 323.4). This NWP authorizes the construction of farm ponds that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f)(1)(C) exemption because of the recapture provision at section 404(f)(2). [NWP No. 40, WQC2020067].

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. In cases where a pre-construction notification (PCN) is required, a PCN shall be provided to Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (the Department) for projects that include channel work within waterways found on the latest version of the State of Mississippi's Section 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies for sediment or biological impairment or waterways with a completed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for sediment or biological impairment. This notification shall include the following:
  - a. Justification of why the impacts cannot be avoided;
  - b. Proposed best management practices that would minimize the impacts to receiving sensitive waters; and
  - c. Compensatory mitigation primarily along the same reach of stream or on another impaired stream within the same drainage basin. (Statement A, D, & E) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.3.4.A(3))
2. The permittee shall obtain appropriate wastewater permits and/or approvals for the proposed activity prior to the commencement of construction activities. (Statement C) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)

3. 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. (Statement B & C) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
4. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.)
5. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.(3))

As part of the Scope of Review for Application Decisions, 11 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 6, Rule 1.3.4(B), the above conditions are necessary for the Department to ensure that appropriate measures will be taken to eliminate unreasonable degradation and irreparable harm to waters of the State, such that the activity will not meet the criteria for denial:

(A) The proposed activity permanently alters the aquatic ecosystem such that water quality criteria are violated and/or it no longer supports its existing or classified uses. An example is the channelization of streams

(B) Nonpoint source/storm water management practices necessary to protect water quality have not been proposed.

(C) Denial of wastewater permits and/or approvals by the State with regard to the proposed activities.

(D) The proposed activity in conjunction with other activities may result in adverse cumulative impacts.

(E) The proposed activity results in significant environmental impacts which may adversely impact water quality.

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.

December 11, 2020

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 you have any questions, please contact the Department.

Sincerely,



Krystal Rudolph, P.E., BCEE  
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

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cc: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District  
Department of Marine Resources  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4