



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

April 21, 2009

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Cooperating Agency Participation for the Expansion of the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant Corridor Environmental Impact Statement-USACE 2009-00030

Mr. Gregory P. Hatchett  
Branch Chief  
Environmental Projects Branch 1  
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews  
Office of New Reactors  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Hatchett:

This is in reply to your letter dated March 10, 2009, that requests the assistance of the USACE as a cooperating agency with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) development of the Tier One environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed construction of the Comanche Nuclear Power Plant, Units 3 and 4, Somervell County, Texas. The USACE is pleased to accept NRC's invitation to participate as a cooperating agency and looks forward to working with you and your staff.

As you are aware, the proposed project may require a Department of the Army (DA) Permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The proposed project will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-331, the Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, and other pertinent laws, regulations and executive orders. The decision whether to issue any permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered.

The proposed activities may be authorized by general permit, such as nationwide permit (NWP) 12 for utility line activities or NWP 39 Commercial and Institutional Developments or a regional general permit (RGP) such as RGP-2 for Utility Lines and Intake and Outfall Structures (see enclosures). If the project does not meet the terms and conditions of a general permit, an individual permit would be required for authorization.

We recommend that any EIS include information and analysis of the proposed project's effect, relative to the corridor selection or specific project evaluation, on the following issues: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural resources, fish and wildlife values including threatened and endangered species and essential fish habitat, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, cumulative impacts, air quality, and security. Additionally, we recommend the EIS include evaluations of alternatives including geographic alternatives, changes in location and other site-specific variables, and functional alternatives, e.g. project substitutes and design modifications. The EIS should include analysis of proposed mitigation for all alternatives evaluated to offset adverse impacts to aquatic resources, including wetlands and insure that the sequencing of avoidance, minimization, and compensation has been fully integrated into the selection of the preferred alternative. Any proposed mitigation should include a functional assessment of impacted aquatic resources, including wetlands and demonstrate that mitigation provides replacement of lost wetland functions.

Thank you for your invitation to participate as a cooperating agency. We have been working closely with the NRC staff. We look forward to continuing our working relationship. If you have any questions, need additional information or wish to discuss any of the above issues in more detail please contact Mr. David Madden, Regulatory Project Manager, at (817) 886-1741.

Sincerely,



Stephen L Brooks  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

**NATIONWIDE PERMIT 12**  
**Utility Line Activities**  
Effective Date: March 19, 2007  
(NWP Final Notice, 72 FR 11182, para. 12)

**Utility Line Activities.** Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of utility lines and associated facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2 acre of waters of the United States.

**Utility lines:** This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or repair of utility lines, including outfall and intake structures, and the associated excavation, backfill, or bedding for the utility lines, in all waters of the United States, provided there is no change in pre-construction contours. A "utility line" is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substance, for any purpose, and any cable, line, or wire for the transmission for any purpose of electrical energy, telephone, and telegraph messages, and radio and television communication. The term "utility line" does not include activities that drain a water of the United States, such as drainage tile or french drains, but it does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, provided the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. The district engineer may extend the period of temporary side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line crossing of each waterbody.

**Utility line substations:** This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities associated with a power line or utility line in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2 acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

**Foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors:** This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary and separate footings for each tower leg (rather than a larger single pad) are used where feasible.

**Foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors:** This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary and separate footings for each tower leg (rather than a larger single pad) are used where feasible.

**Access roads:** This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of utility lines, including overhead power lines and utility line substations, in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the total discharge from a single and complete project does 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 non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize utility lines in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (See 33 CFR part 322). Overhead utility lines constructed over section 10 waters and utility lines that are routed in or under section 10 waters without a discharge of dredged or fill material require a section 10 permit.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work necessary to conduct the utility line activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if any of the following criteria are met:

- (1) The activity involves mechanized land clearing in a forested wetland for the utility line right-of-way;
- (2) a section 10 permit is required;

- (3) the utility line in waters of the United States, excluding overhead lines, exceeds 500 feet;
- (4) the utility line is placed within a jurisdictional area (i.e., water of the United States), and it runs parallel to a stream bed that is within that jurisdictional area;
- (5) discharges that result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States;
- (6) permanent access roads are constructed above grade in waters of the United States for a distance of more than 500 feet; or
- (7) permanent access roads are constructed in waters of the United States with impervious materials. (See general condition 27.) (Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** Where the proposed utility line is constructed or installed in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters), copies of the pre-construction notification and NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), for charting the utility line to protect navigation.

**Note 2:** Access roads used for both construction and maintenance may be authorized, provided they meet the terms and conditions of this NWP. Access roads used solely for construction of the utility line must be removed upon completion of the work, accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.

**Note 3:** Pipes or pipelines used to transport gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substances over navigable waters of the United States are considered to be bridges, not utility lines, and may require a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. However, any discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with such pipelines will require a section 404 permit (see NWP 15)

## NATIONWIDE PERMIT GENERAL CONDITIONS

**General Conditions:** The following general conditions must be followed in order for any authorization by a NWP to be valid:

**1. Navigation.** (a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.

(b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.

(c) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

**2. Aquatic Life Movements.** No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. Culverts placed in streams must be installed to maintain low flow conditions.

**3. Spawning Areas.** Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

**4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas.** Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

**5. Shellfish Beds.** No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWPs 4 and 48.

**6. Suitable Material.** No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see Section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

**7. Water Supply Intakes.** No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

**8. Adverse Effects From Impoundments.** If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

**9. Management of Water Flows.** To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization and storm water management activities, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

**10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains.** The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

**11. Equipment.** Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.

**12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.** Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow.

**13. Removal of Temporary Fills.** Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

**14. Proper Maintenance.** Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety.

**15. Wild and Scenic Rivers.** No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status. Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency in the area (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

**16. Tribal Rights.** No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

**17. Endangered Species.** (a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened authorized under any NWP which "may affect" a listed or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. No activity is species or critical habitat, unless Section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed.

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA. Federal permittees must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements.

(c) Non-federal permittees shall notify the district engineer if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or if the project is located in designated critical habitat, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or that utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity "may affect" or will have "no effect" to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-Federal applicant of the Corps' determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. In cases where the non-Federal applicant has identified listed species or critical habitat that might be

affected or is in the vicinity of the project, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification the proposed activities will have "no effect" on listed species or critical habitat, or until Section 7 consultation has been completed.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific regional endangered species conditions to the NWP.

(e) Authorization of an activity by a NWP does not authorize the "take" of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with "incidental take" provisions, etc.) from the U.S. FWS or the NMFS, both lethal and non-lethal "takes" of protected species are in violation of the ESA. Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the U.S. FWS and NMFS or their worldwide Web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> and <http://www.noaa.gov/fisheries.html> respectively.

**18. Historic Properties.** (a) In cases where the district engineer determines that the activity may affect properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, the activity is not authorized, until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Federal permittees must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the authorized activity may have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the pre-construction notification must state which historic properties may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of or potential for the presence of historic resources can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and field survey. Based on the information submitted and these efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed activity has the potential to cause an effect on the historic properties. Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties which the activity may have the potential to cause effects and so notified the Corps, the non-Federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects or that consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed.

(d) The district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA Section 106 consultation is required. Section 106 consultation is not required when the Corps determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). If NHPA section 106 consultation is required and will occur, the district engineer will notify the non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin work until Section 106 consultation is completed.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470h-2(k)) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, explaining the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

**19. Designated Critical Resource Waters.** Critical resource waters include, NOAA-designated marine sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, state natural heritage sites, and outstanding national resource waters or other waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance and identified by the district engineer after notice and opportunity for public comment. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for comment.

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, and 50 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, and 38, notification is required in accordance with general condition 27, for any activity proposed in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after it is determined that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

**20. Mitigation.** The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that adverse effects on the aquatic environment are minimal:

(a) The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).

(b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10 acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate and provides a project-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10 acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, wetland restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered.

(d) For losses of streams or other open waters that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may require compensatory mitigation, such as stream restoration, to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment.

(e) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWPs. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2 acre, it cannot be used to authorize any project resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2 acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that a project already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the minimal impact requirement associated with the NWPs.

(f) Compensatory mitigation plans for projects in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the establishment, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. Riparian areas should consist of native species. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(g) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee arrangements or separate activity-specific compensatory mitigation. In all cases, the mitigation provisions will specify the party responsible for accomplishing and/or complying with the mitigation plan.

(h) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected, such as the conversion of a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse effects of the project to the minimal level.

**21. Water Quality.** Where States and authorized Tribes, or EPA where applicable, have not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA Section 401, individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). The district engineer or State or Tribe may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

**22. Coastal Zone Management.** In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency

concurrency must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). The district engineer or a State may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

**23. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions.** The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

**24. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.** The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by the NWP does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing, over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

**25. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications.** If the permittee sells the property associated with the nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature: "When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit, and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below."

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(Transferee)

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(Date)

**26. Compliance Certification.** Each permittee who received the NWP verification from the Corps must submit a signed certification regarding the completed work and any required mitigation. The certification form must be forwarded by the Corps with the NWP verification letter and will include:

- (a) A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general or specific conditions;
- (b) A statement that any required mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions; and
- (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the work and mitigation.

**27. Pre-Construction Notification.** (a) **Timing.** Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, as a general rule, will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the district engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity until either:

- (1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or
- (2) Forty-five calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 17 that listed species or critical habitat might be affected or in the vicinity of the project, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that the activity may have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) is completed. Also, work cannot begin under NWP 21, 49, or 50 until the permittee has received written approval from the Corps. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee cannot begin

the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) Contents of Pre-Construction Notification: The PCN must be in writing and include the following information:

(1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

(2) Location of the proposed project;

(3) A description of the proposed project; the project's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause; any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity. The description should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse effects of the project will be minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation. Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the project and when provided result in a quicker decision.);

(4) The PCN must include a delineation of special aquatic sites and other waters of the United States on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters of the United States, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many waters of the United States. Furthermore, the 45 day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, where appropriate;

(5) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10 acre of wetlands and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.

(6) If any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or if the project is located in designated critical habitat, for non-Federal applicants the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that might be affected by the proposed work or utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work. Federal applicants must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act; and

(7) For an activity that may affect a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, for non-Federal applicants the PCN must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. Federal applicants must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

(c) Form of Pre-Construction Notification: The standard individual permit application form (Form ENG 4345) may be used, but the completed application form must clearly indicate that it is a PCN and must include all of the information required in paragraphs (b)(1) through (7) of this general condition. A letter containing the required information may also be used.

(d) Agency Coordination: (1) The district engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the project's adverse environmental effects to a minimal level.

(2) For all NWP 48 activities requiring pre-construction notification and for other NWP activities requiring pre-construction notification to the district engineer that result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the PCN to the appropriate Federal or state offices (U.S. FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will then have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to telephone or fax the district engineer notice that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the pre-construction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame, but will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 37, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.

(3) In cases of where the prospective permittee is not a Federal agency, the district engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by Section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(4) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps multiple copies of pre-construction notifications to expedite agency coordination.

(5) For NWP 48 activities that require reporting, the district engineer will provide a copy of each report within 10 calendar days of receipt to the appropriate regional office of the NMFS.

(e) District Engineer's Decision: In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. If the proposed activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10 acre of wetlands, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for projects with smaller impacts. The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment of the proposed work are minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse effects on the aquatic environment are minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any conditions the district engineer deems necessary. The district engineer must approve any compensatory mitigation proposal before the permittee commences work. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the district engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The district engineer must review the plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure no more than minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. If the net adverse effects of the project on the aquatic environment (after consideration of the compensatory mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the project can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP. If the district engineer determines that the adverse effects of the proposed work are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either:

(1) That the project does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit;

(2) that the project is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level; or

(3) that the project is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the district engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse effects occur to the aquatic environment, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or specific mitigation or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level. When mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan.

**28. Single and Complete Project.** The activity must be a single and complete project. The same NWP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.

#### Further Information

1. District Engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project.

#### Definitions

**Best management practices (BMPs):** Policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or non-structural.

**Compensatory mitigation:** The restoration, establishment (creation), enhancement, or preservation of aquatic resources for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

**Currently serviceable:** Useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

**Discharge:** The term "discharge" means any discharge of dredged or fill material.

**Enhancement:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s), but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Ephemeral stream:** An ephemeral stream has flowing water only during, and for a short duration after, precipitation events in a typical year. Ephemeral stream beds are located above the water table year-round. Groundwater is not a source of water for the stream. Runoff from rainfall is the primary source of water for stream flow.

**Establishment (creation):** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Historic Property:** Any prehistoric or historic district, site (including archaeological site), building, structure, or other object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR Part 60).

**Independent utility:** A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete project in the Corps regulatory program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

**Intermittent stream:** An intermittent stream has flowing water during certain times of the year, when groundwater provides water for stream flow. During dry periods, intermittent streams may not have flowing water. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

**Loss of waters of the United States:** Waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the United States is a threshold measurement of the impact to jurisdictional waters for determining whether a project may qualify for an NWP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. The loss of stream bed includes the linear feet of stream bed that is filled or excavated. Waters of the United States temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the United States. Impacts resulting from activities eligible for exemptions under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act are not considered when calculating the loss of waters of the United States.

**Non-tidal wetland:** A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. The definition of a wetland can be found at 33 CFR 328.3(b). Non-tidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).

**Open water:** For purposes of the NWPs, an open-water is any area that in a year with normal patterns of precipitation has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high water mark can be determined. Aquatic vegetation within the area of standing or flowing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. Examples of "open waters" include rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.

**Ordinary High Water Mark:** An ordinary high water mark is a line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics, or by other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas (see 33 CFR 328.3(e)).

**Perennial stream:** A perennial stream has flowing water year-round during a typical year. The water table is located above the stream bed for most of the year. Groundwater is the primary source of water for stream flow. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

**Practicable:** Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

**Pre-construction notification:** A request submitted by the project proponent to the Corps for confirmation that a particular activity is authorized by nationwide permit. The request may be a permit application, letter, or similar

document that includes information about the proposed work and its anticipated environmental effects. Pre-construction notification may be required by the terms and conditions of a nationwide permit, or by regional conditions. A pre-construction notification may be voluntarily submitted in cases where pre-construction notification is not required and the project proponent wants confirmation that the activity is authorized by nationwide permit.

**Preservation:** The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions.

**Re-establishment:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Re-establishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Rehabilitation:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function, but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Restoration:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: Re-establishment and rehabilitation.

**Riffle and pool complex:** Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines.

Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a coarse substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.

**Riparian areas:** Riparian areas are lands adjacent to streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, through which surface and subsurface hydrology connects waterbodies with their adjacent uplands. Riparian areas provide a variety of ecological functions and services and help improve or maintain local water quality. (See general condition 20.)

**Shellfish seeding:** The placement of shellfish seed and/or suitable substrate to increase shellfish production. Shellfish seed consists of immature individual shellfish or individual shellfish attached to shells or shell fragments (i.e., spat on shell). Suitable substrate may consist of shellfish shells, shell fragments, or other appropriate materials placed into waters for shellfish habitat.

**Single and complete project:** The term "single and complete project" is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. A single and complete project must have independent utility (see definition). For linear projects, a "single and complete project" is all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single waterbody several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

**Stormwater management:** Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.

**Stormwater management facilities:** Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and best management practices, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.

**Stream bed:** The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

**Stream channelization:** The manipulation of a stream's course, condition, capacity, or location that causes more than minimal interruption of normal stream processes. A channelized stream remains a water of the United States.

**Structure:** An object that is arranged in a definite pattern of organization. Examples of structures include, without limitation, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, aid to navigation, or any other manmade obstacle or obstruction.

**Tidal wetland:** A tidal wetland is a wetland (i.e., water of the United States) that is inundated by tidal waters. The definitions of a wetland and tidal waters can be found at 33 CFR 328.3(b) and 33 CFR 328.3(f), respectively. Tidal

waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line, which is defined at 33 CFR 328.3(d).

**Vegetated shallows:** Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal circumstances have rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.

**Waterbody:** For purposes of the NWPs, a waterbody is a jurisdictional water of the United States that, during a year with normal patterns of precipitation, has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high water mark (OHWM) or other indicators of jurisdiction can be determined, as well as any wetland area (see 33 CFR 328.3(b)). If a jurisdictional wetland is adjacent--meaning bordering, contiguous, or neighboring--to a jurisdictional waterbody displaying an OHWM or other indicators of jurisdiction, that waterbody and its adjacent wetlands are considered together as a single aquatic unit (see 33 CFR 328.4(c)(2)). Examples of "waterbodies" include streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This nationwide permit is effective March 19, 2007, and expires on March 18, 2012.

Information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulatory program, including nationwide permits, may also be accessed at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/enviro/regulatory/index.asp> or <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg>

**NATIONWIDE PERMIT 39**  
**Commercial and Institutional Developments**  
Effective Date: March 19, 2007  
(NWP Final Notice, 72 FR 11188, para. 39)

**Commercial and Institutional Developments.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction or expansion of commercial and institutional building foundations and building pads and attendant features that are necessary for the use and maintenance of the structures. Attendant features may include, but are not limited to, roads, parking lots, garages, yards, utility lines, storm water management facilities, and recreation facilities such as playgrounds and playing fields. Examples of commercial developments include retail stores, industrial facilities, restaurants, business parks, and shopping centers. Examples of institutional developments include schools, fire stations, government office buildings, judicial buildings, public works buildings, libraries, hospitals, and places of worship. The construction of new golf courses, new ski areas, or oil and gas wells is not authorized by this NWP.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States, including the loss of no more than 300 linear feet of stream bed, unless for intermittent and ephemeral stream beds this 300 linear foot limit is waived in writing by the district engineer. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal 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 27.) (Sections 10 and 404)

**NATIONWIDE PERMIT GENERAL CONDITIONS**

General Conditions: The following general conditions must be followed in order for any authorization by a NWP to be valid:

1. **Navigation.** (a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.  
(b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.  
(c) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.
2. **Aquatic Life Movements.** No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. Culverts placed in streams must be installed to maintain low flow conditions.
3. **Spawning Areas.** Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.
4. **Migratory Bird Breeding Areas.** Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
5. **Shellfish Beds.** No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWPs 4 and 48.
6. **Suitable Material.** No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see Section 307 of the Clean Water Act).
7. **Water Supply Intakes.** No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

**8. Adverse Effects From Impoundments.** If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

**9. Management of Water Flows.** To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization and storm water management activities, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

**10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains.** The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

**11. Equipment.** Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.

**12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.** Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow.

**13. Removal of Temporary Fills.** Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

**14. Proper Maintenance.** Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety.

**15. Wild and Scenic Rivers.** No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River status of the study river. Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency in the area (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

**16. Tribal Rights.** No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

**17. Endangered Species.** (a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. No activity is authorized under any NWP which "may affect" a listed or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species, unless Section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed.

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA. Federal permittees must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements.

(c) Non-federal permittees shall notify the district engineer if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or if the project is located in designated critical habitat, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or that utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity "may affect" or will have "no effect" to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-Federal applicant of the Corps' determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. In cases where the non-Federal applicant has identified listed species or critical habitat that might be

affected or is in the vicinity of the project, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification the proposed activities will have "no effect" on listed species or critical habitat, or until Section 7 consultation has been completed.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific regional endangered species conditions to the NWP.

(e) Authorization of an activity by a NWP does not authorize the "take" of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with "incidental take" provisions, etc.) from the U.S. FWS or the NMFS, both lethal and non-lethal "takes" of protected species are in violation of the ESA. Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the U.S. FWS and NMFS or their worldwide Web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> and <http://www.noaa.gov/fisheries.html> respectively.

**18. Historic Properties.** (a) In cases where the district engineer determines that the activity may affect properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, the activity is not authorized, until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Federal permittees must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the authorized activity may have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the pre-construction notification must state which historic properties may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of or potential for the presence of historic resources can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and field survey. Based on the information submitted and these efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed activity has the potential to cause an effect on the historic properties. Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties which the activity may have the potential to cause effects and so notified the Corps, the non-Federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects or that consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed.

(d) The district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA Section 106 consultation is required. Section 106 consultation is not required when the Corps determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). If NHPA section 106 consultation is required and will occur, the district engineer will notify the non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin work until Section 106 consultation is completed.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470h-2(k)) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, explaining the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

**19. Designated Critical Resource Waters.** Critical resource waters include, NOAA-designated marine sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, state natural heritage sites, and outstanding national resource waters or other waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance and identified by the district engineer after notice and opportunity for public comment. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for comment.

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWP's 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, and 50 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For NWP's 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, and 38, notification is required in accordance with general condition 27, for any activity proposed in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWP's only after it is determined that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

**20. Mitigation.** The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that adverse effects on the aquatic environment are minimal:

(a) The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).

(b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10 acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate and provides a project-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10 acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, wetland restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered.

(d) For losses of streams or other open waters that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may require compensatory mitigation, such as stream restoration, to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment.

(e) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWP's. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2 acre, it cannot be used to authorize any project resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2 acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that a project already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the minimal impact requirement associated with the NWP's.

(f) Compensatory mitigation plans for projects in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the establishment, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. Riparian areas should consist of native species. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(g) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee arrangements or separate activity-specific compensatory mitigation. In all cases, the mitigation provisions will specify the party responsible for accomplishing and/or complying with the mitigation plan.

(h) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected, such as the conversion of a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse effects of the project to the minimal level.

**21. Water Quality.** Where States and authorized Tribes, or EPA where applicable, have not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA Section 401, individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). The district engineer or State or Tribe may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

**22. Coastal Zone Management.** In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency

concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). The district engineer or a State may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

**23. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions.** The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

**24. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.** The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by the NWPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing, over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

**25. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications.** If the permittee sells the property associated with the nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature: "When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit, and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below."

-----  
(Transferee)

-----  
(Date)

**26. Compliance Certification.** Each permittee who received the NWP verification from the Corps must submit a signed certification regarding the completed work and any required mitigation. The certification form must be forwarded by the Corps with the NWP verification letter and will include:

- (a) A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general and specific conditions;
- (b) A statement that any required mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions; and
- (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the work and mitigation.

**27. Pre-Construction Notification.** (a) Timing. Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, as a general rule, will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the district engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity:

- (1) Until notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or
- (2) If 45 calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 17 that listed species or critical habitat might be affected or in the vicinity of the project, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that the activity may have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) is completed. Also, work cannot begin under NWPs 21, 49, or 50 until the permittee has received written approval from the Corps. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee cannot begin

the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) Contents of Pre-Construction Notification: The PCN must be in writing and include the following information:

(1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

(2) Location of the proposed project;

(3) A description of the proposed project; the project's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause; any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity. The description should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse effects of the project will be minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation. Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the project and when provided results in a quicker decision.);

(4) The PCN must include a delineation of special aquatic sites and other waters of the United States on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters of the United States, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many waters of the United States. Furthermore, the 45 day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, where appropriate;

(5) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10 acre of wetlands and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.

(6) If any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or if the project is located in designated critical habitat, for non-Federal applicants the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that might be affected by the proposed work or utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work. Federal applicants must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act; and

(7) For an activity that may affect a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, for non-Federal applicants the PCN must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. Federal applicants must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

(c) Form of Pre-Construction Notification: The standard individual permit application form (Form ENG 4345) may be used, but the completed application form must clearly indicate that it is a PCN and must include all of the information required in paragraphs (b)(1) through (7) of this general condition. A letter containing the required information may also be used.

(d) Agency Coordination: (1) The district engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the project's adverse environmental effects to a minimal level.

(2) For all NWP 48 activities requiring pre-construction notification and for other NWP activities requiring pre-construction notification to the district engineer that result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the PCN to the appropriate Federal or state offices (U.S. FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will then have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to telephone or fax the district engineer notice that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the pre-construction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame, but will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 37, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.

(3) In cases of where the prospective permittee is not a Federal agency, the district engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by Section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(4) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps multiple copies of pre-construction notifications to expedite agency coordination.

(5) For NWP 48 activities that require reporting, the district engineer will provide a copy of each report within 10 calendar days of receipt to the appropriate regional office of the NMFS.

(e) **District Engineer's Decision:** In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. If the proposed activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10 acre of wetlands, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for projects with smaller impacts. The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment of the proposed work are minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse effects on the aquatic environment are minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any conditions the district engineer deems necessary. The district engineer must approve any compensatory mitigation proposal before the permittee commences work. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the district engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The district engineer must review the plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure no more than minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. If the net adverse effects of the project on the aquatic environment (after consideration of the compensatory mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the project can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP. If the district engineer determines that the adverse effects of the proposed work are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either:

(1) That the project does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit;

(2) That the project is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level; or

(3) That the project is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the district engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse effects occur to the aquatic environment, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or specific mitigation or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level. When mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan.

**28. Single and Complete Project.** The activity must be a single and complete project. The same NWP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.

#### Further Information

1. District Engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project.

#### Definitions

**Best management practices (BMPs):** Policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or non-structural.

**Compensatory mitigation:** The restoration, establishment (creation), enhancement, or preservation of aquatic resources for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

**Currently serviceable:** Useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

**Discharge:** The term "discharge" means any discharge of dredged or fill material and any activity that causes or results in such a discharge.

**Enhancement:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s), but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Ephemeral stream:** An ephemeral stream has flowing water only during, and for a short duration after, precipitation events in a typical year. Ephemeral stream beds are located above the water table year-round. Groundwater is not a source of water for the stream. Runoff from rainfall is the primary source of water for stream flow.

**Establishment (creation):** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Historic Property:** Any prehistoric or historic district, site (including archaeological site), building, structure, or other object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR Part 60).

**Independent utility:** A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete project in the Corps regulatory program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

**Intermittent stream:** An intermittent stream has flowing water during certain times of the year, when groundwater provides water for stream flow. During dry periods, intermittent streams may not have flowing water. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

**Loss of waters of the United States:** Waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the United States is a threshold measurement of the impact to jurisdictional waters for determining whether a project may qualify for an NWP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. The loss of stream bed includes the linear feet of stream bed that is filled or excavated. Waters of the United States temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the United States. Impacts resulting from activities eligible for exemptions under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act are not considered when calculating the loss of waters of the United States.

**Non-tidal wetland:** A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. The definition of a wetland can be found at 33 CFR 328.3(b). Non-tidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).

**Open water:** For purposes of the NWPs, an open-water is any area that in a year with normal patterns of precipitation has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high water mark can be determined. Aquatic vegetation within the area of standing or flowing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. Examples of "open waters" include rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.

**Ordinary High Water Mark:** An ordinary high water mark is a line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics, or by other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas (see 33 CFR 328.3(e)).

**Perennial stream:** A perennial stream has flowing water year-round during a typical year. The water table is located above the stream bed for most of the year. Groundwater is the primary source of water for stream flow. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.

**Practicable:** Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

**Pre-construction notification:** A request submitted by the project proponent to the Corps for confirmation that a particular activity is authorized by nationwide permit. The request may be a permit application, letter, or similar document that includes information about the proposed work and its anticipated environmental effects. Pre-construction notification may be required by the terms and conditions of a nationwide permit, or by regional conditions. A pre-construction notification may be voluntarily submitted in cases where pre-construction notification is not required and the project proponent wants confirmation that the activity is authorized by nationwide permit.

**Preservation:** The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions.

**Re-establishment:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Re-establishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Rehabilitation:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function, but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Restoration:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: Re-establishment and rehabilitation.

**Riffle and pool complex:** Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a coarse substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.

**Riparian areas:** Riparian areas are lands adjacent to streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, through which surface and subsurface hydrology connects waterbodies with their adjacent uplands. Riparian areas provide a variety of ecological functions and services and help improve or maintain local water quality. (See general condition 20.)

**Shellfish seeding:** The placement of shellfish seed and/or suitable substrate to increase shellfish production. Shellfish seed consists of immature individual shellfish or individual shellfish attached to shells or shell fragments (i.e., spat on shell). Suitable substrate may consist of shellfish shells, shell fragments, or other appropriate materials placed into waters for shellfish habitat.

**Single and complete project:** The term "single and complete project" is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. A single and complete project must have independent utility (see definition). For linear projects, a "single and complete project" is all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single waterbody several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

**Stormwater management:** Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.

**Stormwater management facilities:** Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and best management practices, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.

**Stream bed:** The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

**Stream channelization:** The manipulation of a stream's course, condition, capacity, or location that causes more than minimal interruption of normal stream processes. A channelized stream remains a water of the United States.

**Structure:** An object that is arranged in a definite pattern of organization. Examples of structures include, without limitation, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, aid to navigation, or any other manmade obstacle or obstruction.

**Tidal wetland:** A tidal wetland is a wetland (i.e., water of the United States) that is inundated by tidal waters. The definitions of a wetland and tidal waters can be found at 33 CFR 328.3(b) and 33 CFR 328.3(f), respectively. Tidal waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line, which is defined at 33 CFR 328.3(d).

**Vegetated shallows:** Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal circumstances have rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.

**Waterbody:** For purposes of the NWP, a waterbody is a jurisdictional water of the United States that, during a year with normal patterns of precipitation, has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high water mark (OHWM) or other indicators of jurisdiction can be determined, as well as any wetland area (see 33 CFR 328.3(b)). If a jurisdictional wetland is adjacent--meaning bordering, contiguous, or neighboring--to a jurisdictional waterbody displaying an OHWM or other indicators of jurisdiction, that waterbody and its adjacent wetlands are considered together as a single aquatic unit (see 33 CFR 328.4(c)(2)). Examples of "waterbodies" include streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This nationwide permit is effective March 19, 2007, and expires on March 18, 2012.

Information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulatory program, including nationwide permits, may also be accessed at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/enviro/regulatory/index.asp> or <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg>



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Fort Worth District

# Public Notice

**Number:** CESWF-05-RGP-2

**Activity:** Utility Lines and Intake and Outfall Structures

**Date:** November 28, 2005

## REGIONAL GENERAL PERMIT

### UTILITY LINES AND INTAKE AND OUTFALL STRUCTURES

Interested parties are hereby notified that, in accordance with 33 CFR 322.2(f), 323.2(h), and 325.2(e)(2) published in the Federal Register November 13, 1986, the Fort Worth, Albuquerque, and Tulsa districts of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are issuing this regional general permit (RGP) to authorize the work described herein pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

The purpose of this RGP is to expedite authorization of recurring work that would have minimal adverse impact on the aquatic environment. This RGP contains provisions intended to protect the environment, including natural and cultural resources. Work that does not comply with these provisions may require an individual permit. However, compliance with the conditions contained in this RGP does not guarantee authorization of the work under this RGP. Work or structures that would have unacceptable impacts on the public interest are not authorized. Activities requiring Department of the Army authorization that are not specifically covered by this permit are prohibited unless authorized by a separate permit.

This RGP has been designated CESWF-05-RGP-2 in the Fort Worth District, TXG300011 in the Tulsa District, and 2005 00060 in the Albuquerque District, and would replace RGP SWF-99-RGP-2 in the Fort Worth District, TXG300011 in the Tulsa District, and TX-OYT-0491 in the Albuquerque District.

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

Work authorized by this RGP is limited to the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.), including wetlands, and the placement of structures and performance of work in, or affecting, navigable waters of the U.S., associated with the construction and maintenance, including the placement of backfill and bedding, and other dredged and fill material associated with utility lines and intake and outfall structures; provided there is no more than minimal adverse impact to the aquatic environment associated with the work, including any change in pre-construction contours or drainage patterns within affected waters of the U.S. The area of waters of the U.S. that is disturbed must be limited to the minimum amount necessary for construction of the utility line. Appropriate and practicable compensatory mitigation shall be required for unavoidable adverse impacts to waters of the U.S. This RGP does not authorize activities that would have more than minimal adverse impacts on the aquatic environment or cause more than minimal reduction in the reach of waters of the U.S.

A "utility line" is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of a gaseous, liquid, liquefiable, or slurry substance, for any purpose, and any cable, line, or wire for the transmission for any purpose of

electrical energy, telephone and telegraph messages, and radio and television communication. The term "utility line" does not include activities or structures that drain a water of the U.S., such as drainage tile, however, it does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area.

Intake and outfall structures are not required to be directly related to a utility line to be authorized by this permit. These structures shall be constructed so as to prevent erosion of the bank below and to the sides of the structure. The construction of temporary coffer dams, equipment ramps, roads, and similar structures necessary for the construction of intake and outfall structures are also authorized by this permit.

This RGP authorizes mechanized land clearing necessary for the installation of utility lines, provided the cleared area is kept to the minimum necessary and there is no more than minimal adverse impact associated with the activity.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the U.S. for up to three months provided that the material is not placed in a manner that will allow it to be dispersed by currents or other forces. The USACE may extend the period of sidecasting to a period not to exceed 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of a trench should generally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench.

Materials to be placed into waters of the U.S. are restricted to clean native soils obtained at the site and concrete, sand, gravel, rock, and other coarse aggregate. All material used shall be of suitable quality and free of toxic pollutants in toxic quantities. Immediately upon completion of the construction of the utility line, all excess material and temporary structures must be removed to upland areas and any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized.

The activities listed above are authorized by this RGP provided they meet all of the following criteria:

1. Adverse impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands, shall be avoided and minimized to the extent practicable through the use of alternatives that have less adverse impact on the aquatic environment. Projects shall be designed to pass low, normal, and expected high flows, to not interfere with the migration of aquatic organisms, avoid the creation of impoundments, and maintain the preconstruction conditions to the extent practicable.
2. All fills and structures above the existing ground elevation in waters of the U.S. shall be constructed and placed so as to minimize adverse impacts to local hydrology. Projects shall not promote the drainage of waters of the U.S. or cause unnecessary impoundment of water.
3. All soil-disturbing activities shall be conducted in a manner that will minimize the extent and duration of exposure of unprotected soils. Appropriate erosion and siltation controls shall be used and maintained in effective operating condition during and after construction until all exposed soil is permanently stabilized. Measures to control erosion and run-off, such as berms, silt screens, sedimentation basins, revegetation, mulching, and similar means, shall be implemented. All damage resulting from erosion and/or sedimentation shall be repaired.
4. The water velocity at any intake structure screen shall be no greater than 0.5 feet per second and the mesh size of the intake structure screen shall be no greater than 0.25 inch.
5. Compensatory mitigation shall be provided for unavoidable adverse impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands, when appropriate and practicable.

6. **Preconstruction Notification (PCN):** Prior to construction, a prospective permittee must notify the USACE of the proposed work in accordance with the requirements of the "Preconstruction Notifications" section below (see pages 6-10).

7. Permittees shall submit a written compliance report to the USACE within 120 days after completion of all work that includes the following:

- a. a statement addressing whether the authorized work and mitigation required to date have been implemented in accordance with the USACE authorization, including all general and special conditions;
- b. a summary of all construction and mitigation activities associated with the project that have occurred, including documentation of the completion of all work and compliance with all terms and conditions of the permit;
- c. a comparison of the pre- and post-construction conditions of the project area;
- d. a detailed description of all impacts that have occurred to waters of the U.S.;
- e. a map showing the final configuration of restored, enhanced, created, and preserved waters of the U.S., including wetlands;
- f. a presentation of the species of plants, number and acreage of vegetation planted, final topographic elevations of the project, and a map describing the location of the plantings;
- g. a discussion about whether disturbed areas, such as stream banks, and temporary impact areas are revegetating adequately and not suffering erosion damage; and
- h. photographs and maps as appropriate to illustrate the information presented.

The prospective permittee shall not begin any activity until notified in writing by the USACE that the activity is authorized under this RGP with any special conditions imposed by the USACE. The USACE will respond as promptly as practicable to all PCNs.

### **CONDITIONS OF THE RGP**

In addition to the limitations in the scope of work, work authorized by this RGP is subject to the general conditions listed in Appendix A. References in the general conditions to "completion of construction" refer to completion of work within the permit area for the activity. Also, for projects requiring water quality certification, projects are subject to the conditions of the water quality certification that applies.

### **LOCATION OF WORK**

The provisions of this RGP will be applicable to all waters of the U.S., including all navigable waters of the U.S., in the Fort Worth, Albuquerque, and Tulsa districts of the USACE, within the states of Texas and Louisiana (see Appendixes B and C), with the following exception:

From the Precinct Line Road crossing of the West Fork Trinity River in Tarrant County, Texas, to the State Highway 34 crossing of the Trinity River in Kaufman County, Texas, dredged material cannot be used for cofferdams, equipment ramps, or similar structures. Dredged material may only be used for

backfill in those projects where the trench has been completely de-watered. In such cases, dredged material can only be used to within two feet of the top of the trench and must be covered by two feet of clean fill material. Material excavated from these sections of the river must be properly disposed of at an upland site and covered to prevent re-entry into the river or contamination of surface or ground water. The location of all disposal sites must be included in the application for authorization.

The Fort Worth District includes the Sabine River watershed in Sabine, De Soto, and Caddo Parishes in the State of Louisiana.

### **WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has certified pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 279, for the activities for which it is responsible, that activities conducted under this RGP should not result in a violation of established Texas Water Quality Standards provided reasonable best management practices are included and followed (See General Condition 32 in Appendix A and Appendix E).

The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) has granted certification pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA, for the activities associated with the exploration, development, and production, including pipeline transportation, of oil, gas, or geothermal resources that may result in a discharge to waters of the United States, that activities conducted under this RGP comply with applicable water quality laws conditional on the addition of language to the permit that 1) activities that are not water dependent are presumed to have a practicable alternative and 2) compensatory mitigation is not considered an alternative. The specified language has hereby been added relative to RRC water quality certification (see special condition 33 in Appendix A and Appendix E).

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) has stated that the LDEQ has no objections for the renewal of this RGP under Water Quality Certification JP 050121-05/AI# 101986/CER20050001 (see Appendix E).

### **AUTHORIZATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES**

This RGP does not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law. The permittee is responsible for obtaining any additional federal, state, or local permits or approvals that may be required, including, but not limited to:

1. When streambed materials such as sand, shell, gravel and marl would be disturbed or removed from state-owned waters in Texas, the permittee may be required to obtain a permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. All activities occurring on lands owned or managed by the TPWD require a signed agreement from that agency prior to commencing operations.
2. All activities in Texas located on lands under the jurisdiction of the Texas General Land Office (GLO), 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701-1495, must have prior approval from that office. The placement of structures onto state-owned streambeds, state-owned uplands, or coastal state-owned lands in Texas may require the issuance of a lease or easement from the GLO.
3. Any work that would be conducted on lands or in waters under the jurisdiction of any river authority or other operating agency may require a permit from that agency.

4. Projects involving government property at USACE reservoirs require submission of detailed design information to the reservoir manager and USACE approval for the proposed activity to occur on government property, including a real estate consent to easement.
5. Activities within a 100-year floodplain may require a floodplain development permit from the local floodplain administrator or, in Texas, the TCEQ Flood Management Unit, (512) 239-4771 (see Appendix A, general condition 31). In addition, evidence that the project meets non-encroachment restrictions in regulatory floodways may be required.
6. In accordance with the federal Clean Water Act and Texas statute, a point source discharge of pollutants from an outfall structure associated with activities other than oil and gas exploration, development, and production must be authorized, conditionally authorized, or specifically exempted from regulation under the terms of the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) program through the TCEQ, Water Quality Division (MC-150), P. O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. In accordance with the federal Clean Water Act and Texas Statute, a point source discharge of pollutants from an outfall structure associated with oil and gas exploration, development, and production must be authorized, conditionally authorized, or specifically exempted from regulation by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, Water Quality Protection Division (6WQ), 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202, and the Railroad Commission of Texas, Oil and Gas Division, 1701 North Congress Avenue, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, respectively.
7. Activities such as clearing, grading, and excavation that would disturb one or more acres of land may require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water management permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 6, Water Quality Protection Division (6WQ), 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas Texas 75202 or a TPDES storm water management permit from the TCEQ, Water Quality Division (MC-150), P. O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087.
8. The use of scrap tires for bank stabilization and erosion control requires notification of the TCEQ Waste Tire Recycling Program, P. O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087.
9. Activities associated with the exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or geothermal resources, including the transportation of oil or gas prior to the refining of such oil or the use of such gas in manufacturing or as a fuel, as described in Texas Natural Resource Code Annotated §91.101, may require authorization from the Railroad Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 3125 Presidential Parkway, Suite 300, Atlanta, Georgia 30340, and/or the Texas General Land Office, 1700 North Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78701-1495.
10. The construction, operation, maintenance, or connection of facilities at the borders of the U.S. are subject to Executive control and must be authorized by the President, Secretary of State, or other delegated official. Activities that would require such authorization and would affect an international water in Texas, including the Rio Grande, Amistad Reservoir, Falcon Lake, and all tributaries of the Rio Grande, may require authorization from the International Boundary and Water Commission, The Commons, Building C, Suite 310, 4171 North Mesa Street, El Paso, Texas 79902.
11. Activities outside the USACE permit area that may affect a federally-listed endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat could require permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to prevent a violation of the Endangered Species Act under Section 9. For further information, contact the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Arlington: Stadium Centre Building, 711 Stadium Drive East, Suite 252, Arlington, Texas 76011, (817) 277-1100, <http://arlingtontexas.fws.gov>; Austin: Compass Bank

Building, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78758, (512) 490-0057, <http://ifw2es.fws.gov/austintexas/>; Corpus Christi: TAMU-CC, Campus Box 338, 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412, (512) 994-9005, <http://ifw2es.fws.gov/corpuschristitexas/>; Houston: 17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211, Houston, Texas 77058, (713) 286-8282, <http://ifw2es.fws.gov/clearlaketexas/>; or Lafayette: 646 Cajundome Boulevard, Suite 400, Lafayette, Louisiana 70506, (337) 291-3100, <http://southeast.fws.gov/es/lafayette.htm>.

12. Activities may affect state-listed rare, threatened, or endangered species. For a rare, threatened, and endangered species review in the State of Texas, submit projects to: Wildlife Habitat Assessment, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 3000 South IH 35, Suite 100, Austin, Texas 78704.

13. Activities in the recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer require and activities in the contributing zone of the Edwards Aquifer that disturb more than 5 acres of land under Edwards Aquifer rules a Water Pollution Abatement Plan. For further information contact the Edwards Aquifer Authority, 1615 North St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, Texas 78215

### **PRECONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATIONS**

Preconstruction notifications (PCNs) requesting verification from the USACE of authorization under this RGP must be in writing and include a description of the project, proposed construction schedule, and the name, address and telephone number of a point of contact who can be reached during normal business hours. The information may be assembled and submitted in a format convenient to the applicant. All pages, including maps, drawings, figures, sheets, etc., must be on 8 ½ by 11-inch paper or fold easily to 8 ½ x 11-inch dimensions. The detail of the information should be commensurate with the size and environmental impact of the project. The description of the project must include at least the following information:

1. The purpose of, and need for, the project.
2. A delineation, determination, and characterization of wetlands and other waters of the U.S. in the area that would be affected by the proposed work, and a description of the project's likely impact on the aquatic environment. Delineations of wetlands must be conducted using the "Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual", USACE Waterways Experiment Station Wetlands Research Program Technical Report Y-87-1, dated January 1987 (on-line edition available at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/enviro/regulatory/jurisdiction/wlman87.pdf>), including all supplemental guidance (currently includes guidance dated October 7, 1991, and March 6, 1992). The supplemental guidance is included in the on-line version and may also be obtained from your USACE district office. In addition, include the width and depth of the water body and the waterward distance of any structures from the existing shoreline.
3. A vicinity map, or maps, on copies of 7.5-minute U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle maps, county maps, scaled aerial photographs, or other suitable maps, clearly showing the location of all temporary and permanent elements of the project, including the entire route of the project for utility lines and any associated borrow pit(s), disposal site(s), staging area(s), etc. This map, or maps, or an additional map, or maps, must show the project area in relation to nearby highways and other roads, and other pertinent features. A ground survey is not required to obtain this information. Identify all base maps, e.g. Fort Worth, Texas 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle, etc. Clearly identify and number the location of each proposed utility line crossing of a water of the U.S. and any appurtenant structure(s) in waters of the U.S.

4. Plan, profile, and cross-section views of all work (fills, excavations, structures, etc.), both permanent and temporary, in, or adjacent to, waters of the U.S., including wetlands, and a description of the proposed activities and structures, such as the dimensions and/or locations of roads (both temporary and permanent), coffer dams, equipment ramps, borrow pits, disposal areas, staging areas, haul roads, and other project related areas within the USACE permit area(s). The permit area(s) includes all waters of the U.S. affected by activities associated with the project, as well as any additional area of non-waters of the U.S. in the immediate vicinity of, directly associated with, and/or affected by, activities in waters of the U.S. The USACE permit area(s) includes associated borrow pits, disposal areas, staging areas, etc. in many cases. For each crossing or activity, such as of a utility line, in a water of the U.S. include the following site-specific information when applicable:

- a. a brief characterization of the crossing area including type (stream, forested wetland, non-forested wetland, etc.), function, value;
- b. distance between ordinary high water marks;
- c. length, width, and area of waters of the U.S. affected (temporary and permanent);
- d. width of temporary and permanent rights-of-way;
- e. proposed method of crossing (bore, trench, etc.)
- f. source, type, and volumes of dredged and/or fill material to be discharged;

5. A written discussion of the alternatives considered and the rationale for selecting the proposed alternative as the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative. Practicable alternatives that do not involve a discharge into a special aquatic site, such as wetlands, are presumed to have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem, unless clearly demonstrated otherwise. The application must also include documentation that the amount of area impacted is the minimum necessary to accomplish the project.

6. An assessment of the adverse and beneficial effects, both permanent and temporary, of the proposed work and documentation that the work would result in no more than a minimal adverse impact on the aquatic environment.

7. Documentation that the amount of area impacted is the minimum necessary to accomplish the project and, in cases where the activity would result in a change to pre-construction contours and/or drainage patterns, a description of the anticipated impacts of the changes, the reason(s) that the changes are necessary, and documentation that the changes would not result in more than minimal adverse impact on the aquatic environment.

8. A mitigation plan presenting appropriate and practicable measures planned: a) to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to the aquatic environment, particularly associated with temporary elements of the proposed project, and b) to compensate for the remaining unavoidable adverse impacts to the aquatic environment. If compensatory mitigation for unavoidable adverse impacts to the aquatic environment is not proposed, the application must include documentation that the proposed work would have minimal adverse impact on the aquatic environment without compensatory mitigation, why compensatory mitigation would be inappropriate and/or impracticable, and that compensatory mitigation should not be required. The mitigation plan must include a description of proposed appropriate and practicable actions that would restore, enhance, protect and/or replace the functions and values of the aquatic environment

unavoidably lost in the permit area because of the proposed work. See Appendix D for more information.

9. An assessment documenting whether any species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act might be affected by, or found in the vicinity of, the USACE permit area(s) for the proposed project. Coordination with the FWS concerning the potential impact of the entire project on endangered and threatened species is encouraged. See contact information, including website addresses, for FWS offices in "AUTHORIZATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES" section above.

10. A discussion documenting whether any cultural resources, particularly those historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), would be affected by, or are in the vicinity of, the USACE permit area(s) for the proposed project.

11. The applicant should include any other relevant information, including information on hydrology and hydraulics.

Early coordination with the USACE, well before a final PCN is submitted, is beneficial in many cases.

Address PCNs and inquiries concerning proposed activities to the appropriate district office (see Appendix B for boundaries of district offices):

Fort Worth District: Regulatory Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, ATTN: CESWF-PER-R, P. O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300, telephone: (817) 886-1731, website address: <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/environ/regulatory/index.asp>

Albuquerque District: El Paso Regulatory Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, ATTN: CESP-OD-R, P. O. Box 6096, Fort Bliss, TX 79906-0096, telephone: (915) 568-1359, website address: <http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/reg/>

Tulsa District: Regulatory Branch, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, ATTN: CESWT-PE-R, 1645 South 101<sup>st</sup> East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74128-4609, telephone: (918) 669-7400, website address: <http://www.swt.usace.army.mil/permits/permits.cfm>

### **EVALUATION AND VERIFICATION PROCEDURES**

For all discharges within the habitat types or areas listed below, the USACE will coordinate with the resource agencies as specified in the Nationwide Permit (NWP) general condition on notification (currently General Condition 13(e), *Federal Register*, Vol. 67, No. 10, Tuesday, January 15, 2002, Vol. 67, No. 30, Wednesday, February 13, 2002, and Vol. 67, No. 37, Monday, February 25, 2002). The habitat types and areas are:

1. wetlands, typically referred to as pitcher plant bogs, that are characterized by an organic surface soil layer and include vegetation such as pitcher plants (*Sarracenia sp.*), sundews (*Drosera sp.*), and sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum sp.*);
2. baldcypress-tupelo swamps: wetlands comprised predominantly of baldcypress trees (*Taxodium distichum*), and water tupelo trees (*Nyssa aquatica*), that are occasionally or regularly flooded by fresh water. Common associates include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), swamp privet (*Forestiera acuminata*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) and water elm (*Planera aquatica*). Associated herbaceous species

include lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*), water mermaid weed (*Proserpinaca spp.*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and smartweed (*Polygonum spp.*). (Eyre, F. H. Forest Cover Types of the U.S. and Canada. 1980. Society of American Foresters, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Washington, D.C. 20014. Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 80-54185);

3. the area of Caddo Lake within Texas that is designated as a "Wetland of International Importance" under the Ramsar Convention;
4. the Comal River, the San Marcos River, the Pecos River, and Lake Casa Blanca; and
5. critical habitat for the Concho water snake (*Nerodia hateri paucimaculata*), including areas of the Concho and Colorado Rivers and Ivie (Stacy) Reservoir; Houston toad (*Bufo houstonensis*); Arkansas River shiner (*notropis girardi*); Devils River minnow (*Dionda diabolis*) – the Devils River and San Felipe Creek Watersheds in Val Verde County, Texas; Leon Springs pupfish (*Cyprinodon bovinus*) – Leon Creek from the Diamond Y Spring to a point one mile northeast of the Texas Highway 18 crossing approximately 10 miles north of Fort Stockton, in Pecos County. (See also Appendix A, General Condition 15).

Construction may commence only upon written notification by the District Engineer, or his designee, that the project meets the terms and conditions of the RGP. In all cases, the USACE will notify the permit applicant whether the proposed project meets or does not meet the terms and conditions of this RGP. The USACE will respond as promptly as practicable to all PCNs.

It is the permit applicant's responsibility to ensure that all authorized structures and activities continue to meet the terms and conditions set forth herein; failure to abide by them will constitute a violation of the Clean Water Act and/or the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Projects outside the scope of this RGP may be considered for authorization by individual permit.

This RGP shall become effective on the date of the signature of the District Engineers, or their authorized representative(s), and will automatically expire five years from that date unless the permit is modified, revoked, or extended before that date. Verifications by the USACE that an activity is authorized by this RGP are valid until the expiration date of this RGP unless this RGP is modified, revoked, or extended before that date. For activities that have been verified by the USACE as authorized under this RGP, and have commenced, i.e. are under construction, or are under contract to commence, by the verification expiration date, will remain authorized provided the activity is completed within twelve months of the date of expiration, modification, or revocation of the RGP, or by another date determined by the USACE

for the specific case, whichever is later, unless discretionary authority is exercised on a case-by-case basis to modify, suspend, or revoke the authorization.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:  
FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEERS:

*Wayne A. Lea*  
*28 November 2005*

John R. Minahan  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer  
Fort Worth District

Miroslav P. Kurka  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer  
Tulsa District

Todd Wang  
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer  
Albuquerque District

## APPENDIX A

### GENERAL CONDITIONS

#### REGIONAL GENERAL PERMIT CESWF-05-RGP-2

1. In verifying authorization under this regional general permit (RGP), the Department of the Army has relied in part on the information provided by the permittee. If, subsequent to verifying authorization, such information proves to be false, incomplete, or inaccurate, this permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part.
2. Structures and activities authorized by this RGP shall comply with all terms and conditions herein. Failure to abide by such conditions invalidates the authorization and may result in a violation of the law, requiring restoration of the site or other remedial action.
3. This RGP is not an approval of the design features of any authorized project or an implication that such project is adequate for the intended purpose: a Department of the Army permit merely expresses the consent of the Federal Government to conduct the proposed work insofar as public rights are concerned. This RGP does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges; does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others; and does not authorize any damage to private property, invasion of private rights, or any infringement of federal, state or local laws or regulations. This RGP does not relieve the permittee from the requirement to obtain a local permit from the jurisdiction within which the project is located.
4. This RGP may be modified or suspended in whole or in part if it is determined that the individual or cumulative impacts of work that would be authorized using this procedure are contrary to the public interest. The authorization for individual projects may also be summarily modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, upon a finding by the District Engineer that such action would be in the public interest.
5. Modification, suspension or revocation of the District Engineer's authorization shall not be the basis for any claim for damages against the United States (U.S.).
6. This RGP does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed federal project, and does not entitle the permittee to compensation for damage or injury to the structures or activities authorized herein that may result from existing or future operations undertaken by the U.S. in the public interest.
7. No attempt shall be made by permittees to prevent the full and free public use of any navigable water of the U.S.
8. Permittees shall not cause any unreasonable interference with navigation.
9. Permittees shall make every reasonable effort to conduct the activities in a manner that will minimize any adverse impact of the work on water quality, fish and wildlife, and the natural environment, including adverse impacts to migratory waterfowl breeding areas, spawning areas, and trees, particularly hard-mast-producing trees such as oaks and hickories. Permittees shall normally maintain existing buffers around waters of the U.S. and create and/or expand buffers around waters of the U.S. when practicable. Compensatory mitigation plans for projects in, or near, streams, other open waters, or

wetlands shall normally include provisions for the establishment, maintenance, and legal protection, e.g. deed restrictions, conservation easements, of vegetated buffers to those waters.

10. Permittees shall allow the District Engineer and his authorized representative(s) to make periodic inspections at any time deemed necessary to ensure that the activity is being performed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RGP.

11. Permittees must evaluate the effect that the proposed work would have on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) prior to the initiation of work. Historic properties include prehistoric and historic archeological sites, and areas or structures of cultural interest that occur in the permit area. If a known historic property would be encountered, the permittee shall notify the USACE and shall not conduct any work in the permit area that would affect the property until the requirements of 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C, and 36 CFR Part 800 have been satisfied. If a previously unknown historic property is encountered during work authorized by this RGP, the permittee shall immediately notify the USACE and avoid further impact to the site until the USACE has verified that the requirements of 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C, and 36 CFR Part 800 have been satisfied.

12. Materials to be placed into waters of the U.S. are restricted to clean native soils and concrete, sand, gravel, rock, other coarse aggregate, and other suitable material. All material used shall be free of toxic pollutants in toxic quantities.

13. Permittees shall coordinate all construction activities in federally-maintained channels and/or waterways for required setback distances with the USACE prior to application for a permit.

14. Permittees shall place all heavy equipment working in wetlands on mats, or take other appropriate measures to minimize soil disturbance.

15. Activities that are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Endangered Species Act, or that are likely to destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species are not authorized. Permittees shall notify the District Engineer if any listed species or critical habitat might be affected by, or is in the vicinity of, the project and shall not begin work until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the Endangered Species Act have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized.

16. Permittees shall use and maintain appropriate erosion and siltation controls in effective operating condition during construction, and permanently stabilize all exposed soil at the earliest practicable date using native vegetation to the maximum extent practicable. Permittees shall remove all excess material and temporary fill and structures placed in waters of the U.S., including wetlands, to upland areas and stabilize all exposed slopes and stream banks immediately upon completion of construction. Permittees shall return all areas affected by temporary fills and/or structures to preconstruction conditions or better, including revegetation with native vegetation, to the maximum extent practicable. All material removed must be placed at least 100 feet from any water of the U.S., including wetlands, and adequately contained to prevent the return to any water of the U.S., including wetlands.

17. Permittees shall not significantly disrupt the movement of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the water body or those species that normally migrate through the project area.

18. Permittees shall not permanently restrict or impede the passage of low, normal, or expected high flows unless the primary purpose of the activity is to temporarily impound water or for authorized detention ponds for stormwater management.

19. Permittees shall properly maintain all structures and fills to ensure public safety.
20. Permittees shall ensure that projects have no more than minimal adverse impacts on public water supply intakes.
21. Stream realignment is not authorized by this RGP.
22. Permittees shall design facilities to be stable against the forces of flowing water, wave action, and the wake of passing vessels.
23. Permittees are not authorized to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. for purposes of disposal into, or reclamation of, an aquatic area, such as a wetland.
24. Permittees shall not use a jet barge or similar equipment for trench excavation.
25. Permittees shall mark structures and fills, particularly in navigable waters of the U.S., when appropriate, so that their presence will be known to boaters.
26. Permittees shall mark intake and/or outfall structures and other fills and structures in navigable waters, when appropriate, so that boaters will notice their presence.
27. This permit does not authorize work in a park, wildlife management area, refuge, sanctuary, or similar area administered by a federal, state or local agency without that agency's approval.
28. Permittees are responsible for compliance with all terms and conditions of this RGP for all activities within the Department of the Army permit area of a project authorized by this RGP, including those taken on behalf of the permittee by other entities such as contractors and subcontractors. Permittees assume all liabilities associated with fills and impacts that are incurred by individuals and/or organizations working under contracts with the permittee. Before beginning the work authorized herein, or directing a contractor to perform such work, permittees shall ensure that all parties read, understand and comply with the terms and conditions of this permit. The USACE strongly encourages preconstruction meetings with all construction activities of the project.
29. Permittees shall conduct dredging and excavation activities with land based equipment rather than from the water body whenever practicable.
30. Permittees must comply with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), or FEMA-approved local floodplain development requirements in the placement of any permanent above-grade fills in waters of the U.S., including wetlands, within the 100-year floodplain. The 100-year floodplain will be identified through FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Maps or FEMA-approved local floodplain maps. A permanent above-grade fill is a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, that results in a substantial increase in ground elevation and permanently converts part or all of the water body to dry land. Structural fills authorized by nationwide permits 3, 25, 36, etc., are not included.
31. For all discharges proposed for authorization in Dallas, Denton, and Tarrant Counties that are within the study area of the "Final Regional Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Trinity River and Tributaries" (May 1986), permittees shall meet the criteria and follow the guidelines specified in Section III of the Record of Decision for the Regional EIS, including the hydraulic impact requirements. A copy

of these guidelines is available upon request from the Fort Worth District and at the District website at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/environ/regulatory/index.asp>.

32. To satisfy Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) water quality certification requirements for all projects to which Section 401 water quality certification by the TCEQ applies, the permittee must use at least one best management practice (BMP) from each of the first three categories of on-site water quality management and comply with item d. concerning contaminated dredged material below to satisfy TCEQ water quality certification requirements. Descriptions of the BMPs may be obtained from the TCEQ by calling (512) 239-5366, by calling one of the Corps district regulatory offices identified in the "PRECONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATIONS" section of this RGP, or from the USACE, Fort Worth District, web site at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/environ/regulatory/index.asp>. The TCEQ-required BMPs are as follows:

a. Erosion Control

Disturbed areas must be stabilized to prevent the introduction of sediment to adjacent wetlands or water bodies during wet weather conditions (erosion). *At least one* of the following best management practices (BMPs) must be maintained and remain in place until the area has been stabilized.

- Temporary Vegetation
- Blankets/Matting
- Mulch
- Sod

b. Post-Construction TSS Control

After construction has been completed and the site is stabilized, total suspended solids (TSS) loadings shall be controlled by *at least one* of the following BMPs.

- Retention/Irrigation
- Extended Detention Basin
- Vegetative Filter Strips
- Constructed Wetlands
- Wet Basins

c. Sedimentation Control

The project area must be isolated from adjacent wetlands and water bodies by the use of BMPs to confine sediment. *At least one* of the following BMPs must be maintained and remain in place until project completion.

- Sand Bag Berm
- Silt Fence
- Triangular Filter Dike
- Rock Berm
- Hay Bale Dike

Dredged material shall be placed in such a manner that prevents sediment runoff into water in the state, including wetlands. Water bodies can be isolated by the use of one or more of the required BMPs identified for sedimentation control. These BMPs must be maintained and remain in place until the dredged material is stabilized.

Hydraulically dredged material shall be disposed of in contained disposal areas. Effluent from contained disposal areas shall not exceed a TSS concentration of 300 mg/l.

d. Contaminated Dredged Material

If contaminated dredge material that was not anticipated or provided for in the permit application is encountered during dredging, operations shall cease immediately. Pursuant to 26.039 (b) of the Texas Water Code, the individual operating or responsible for the dredging operations shall notify the commission's emergency response team at (512) 463-7727 as soon as possible, and not later than 24 hours after the discovery of the material. The applicant shall also notify the Corps that activities have been temporarily halted. Contaminated dredge material shall be remediated or disposed of in accordance with TCEQ rules. Dredging activities shall not be resumed until authorized in writing by the Commission.

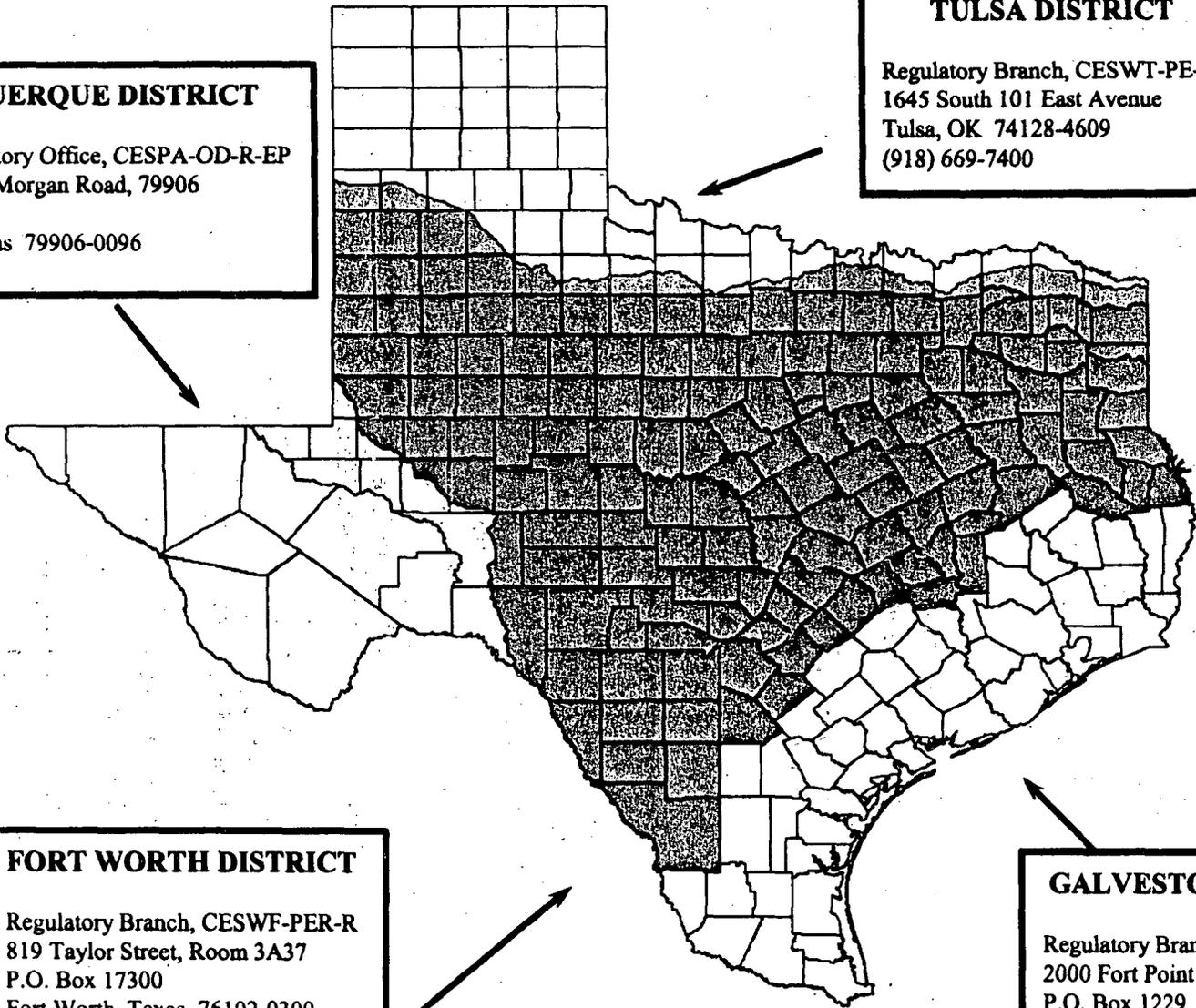
Contaminated dredge material is defined as dredge material which has been chemically, physically, or biologically altered by man-made or man-induced contaminants which include, but are not limited to solid waste, hazardous waste and hazardous waste constituent as those terms are defined by 30 TAC Chapter 335, Pollutants as defined by Texas Water Code 26.001 and Hazardous Substances as defined in the Texas Health and Safety Code, 361.003.

33. To satisfy Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) water quality certification requirements for all projects to which Section 401 water quality certification by the RRC applies, the permittee must demonstrate that activities that are not water dependent do not have a practicable alternative and may not consider compensatory mitigation an alternative.

**APPENDIX B**

**ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT**  
El Paso Regulatory Office, CESP-OD-R-EP  
Building 6380 Morgan Road, 79906  
P.O. Box 6096  
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906-0096  
(915) 568-1359

**TULSA DISTRICT**  
Regulatory Branch, CESWT-PE-R  
1645 South 101 East Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74128-4609  
(918) 669-7400



**FORT WORTH DISTRICT**  
Regulatory Branch, CESWF-PER-R  
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A37  
P.O. Box 17300  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300  
(817) 886-1731

**GALVESTON DISTRICT**  
Regulatory Branch, CESWG-PE-R  
2000 Fort Point Road  
P.O. Box 1229  
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229  
(409) 766-3930

February 5, 2002

## APPENDIX C

### NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

For purposes of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, the following sections of rivers, including their lakes and other impoundments, are considered to be navigable waters of the United States (U. S.) that fall within the jurisdiction of the Fort Worth, Albuquerque, and Tulsa districts of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in the states of Texas and Louisiana.

**ANGELINA RIVER:** From the Sam Rayburn Dam in Jasper County upstream to U. S. Highway 59 in Nacogdoches and Angelina counties and all U. S. Army Corps of Engineers lands associated with B. A. Steinhagen Lake in Tyler and Jasper counties, Texas.

**BIG CYPRESS BAYOU:** From the Texas-Louisiana state line in Marion County, Texas, upstream to Ellison Creek Reservoir in Morris County, Texas.

**BRAZOS RIVER:** From the point of intersection of Grimes, Washington, and Waller counties upstream to Whitney Dam in Hill and Bosque counties, Texas.

**COLORADO RIVER:** From the Bastrop-Fayette county line upstream to Longhorn Dam in Travis County, Texas.

**NECHES RIVER:** U. S. Army Corps of Engineers lands associated with B. A. Steinhagen Lake in Jasper and Tyler counties, Texas.

**RED RIVER:** From Denison Dam on Lake Texoma upstream to Warrens Bend which is 7.25 miles northeast of Marysville, Texas, and from the U. S. Highway 71 bridge north of Texarkana, Texas, to the Oklahoma-Arkansas Border.

**RIO GRANDE:** From the Zapata-Webb county line upstream to the point of intersection of the Texas-New Mexico state line and Mexico.

**SABINE RIVER:** From the point of intersection of the Sabine-Vernon parish line in Louisiana with Newton County, Texas upstream to the Sabine River-Big Sandy Creek confluence in Upshur County, Texas.

**SULPHUR RIVER:** From the Texas-Arkansas state line upstream to Wright Patman Dam in Cass and Bowie counties, Texas.

**TRINITY RIVER:** From the point of intersection of Houston, Madison, and Walker counties upstream to Riverside Drive in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

## APPENDIX D

### MITIGATING ADVERSE IMPACTS TO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) evaluation of a project proposal submitted for authorization under this permit includes a determination of whether the applicant has taken sufficient measures to **mitigate** the project's likely adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem (See USACE Regulatory Guidance Letter 02-02 dated December 24, 2003, and USACE district websites for more detailed information.) Applicants should employ the following three-step sequence in mitigating likely adverse project impacts: 1) take appropriate and practicable measures to **avoid** potential adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem; 2) employ appropriate and practicable measures to **minimize** unavoidable adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem; and 3) undertake appropriate and practicable measures to **compensate** for adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem that cannot be reasonably avoided or minimized. **Compensatory mitigation**, then, is the restoration, enhancement, creation, or preservation of wetlands and other waters of the United States (U.S.) to compensate for adverse impacts to the aquatic ecosystem that cannot reasonably be avoided or minimized.

Compensatory mitigation should replace those aquatic system functions that would be lost or impaired because of the proposed activity. The appropriate type and amount of compensatory mitigation depends on the nature and extent of the project's likely adverse impact on those functions performed by the aquatic area(s) that would be impacted. These functions include, but are not limited to, flood storage and conveyance; providing habitat for fish, aquatic organisms, and other wildlife, including endangered species; sediment and erosion control; groundwater recharge; nutrient removal; water supply; production of food, fiber, and timber; and recreation. Compensatory mitigation should also be commensurate with the scope and degree of the anticipated impacts and be practicable in terms of cost, existing technology, and logistics, in light of the overall project purpose.

In general, in-kind compensatory mitigation is preferable to out-of-kind and should occur as close to the location of the adverse impacts as practicable, generally in the same watershed. However, environmentally preferable out-of-kind and/or off-site compensatory mitigation may be acceptable. Such mitigation options as mitigation banking and in-lieu fee mitigation may be appropriate when on-site or other off-site compensatory mitigation options are not available or not practicable. In some cases, it is appropriate to provide partial compensation at one location, such as the impact site, with the remainder occurring at an off-site location.

Normally, restoration or enhancement of wetland functions is preferable to wetland creation because the probability of successfully restoring or enhancing wetlands is greater than the probability of successfully creating new wetlands, and restoration and enhancement activities are less likely to impact upland and open water habitats. The preservation of existing wetlands is appropriate as compensatory mitigation only in exceptional situations.

Compensatory mitigation plans should include a thorough description of the proposed mitigation area; a description of all proposed work and structures such as grading, fills, excavation, plantings, and water level control structures; plan and cross-section drawings of pertinent work and structures; a statement explaining how adverse impacts to local hydrology will be minimized; and a proposal for monitoring the success of the proposed mitigation plan. Generally, monitoring should continue for at least five years after mitigation activities are completed, providing planting survival and ecological success requirements have been achieved. To achieve long-term success of a mitigation plan, an appropriate real estate arrangement, such as a deed restriction, may be required.

## APPENDIX E

### Attachment 1 - Dredge and Fill Certification USACE Regional General Permit CESWF-05-RGP-2 June 21, 2005 Page 1 of 3

**WORK DESCRIPTION:** As described in the public notice dated February 22, 2005.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** None

**GENERAL:** This certification, issued pursuant to the requirements of Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 279, is restricted to the work described in the application or joint public notice and shall expire five years from the date of issuance of the Corps of Engineers (COE) permit. This certification may be extended to any minor revision of the COE permit when such change(s) would not result in an impact on water quality. The Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) reserves the right to require full joint public notice on a request for minor revision. If this application is a modification of an original permit or any modification thereof for which a special condition was cited by the Commission or a predecessor agency, such conditions shall remain valid. The applicant is hereby placed on notice that any activity conducted pursuant to the COE permit which results in a violation of the state's surface water quality standards may result in an enforcement proceeding being initiated by the TCEQ or a successor agency.

**STANDARD PROVISIONS:** These following provisions attach to any permit issued by the Corps of Engineers and shall be followed by the permittee or any employee, agent, contractor, or subcontractor of the permittee during any phase of work authorized by a Corps permit.

1. The water quality of wetlands shall be maintained in accordance with all applicable provisions of the Texas Surface Water Quality Standards including the General, Narrative, and Numerical Criteria.
2. The applicant shall not engage in any activity which will cause surface waters to be toxic to man, aquatic life, or terrestrial life.
3. Permittee shall employ measures to control spills of fuels, lubricants, or any other materials to prevent them from entering a watercourse. All spills shall be promptly reported to the TCEQ, Emergency Spill Response, at (512) 463-7727.
4. Sanitary wastes shall be retained for disposal in some legal manner. Marinas and similar operations which harbor boats equipped with marine sanitation devices shall provide state/federal permitted treatment facilities or pump out facilities for ultimate transfer to a permitted treatment facility. Additionally, marinas shall display signs in appropriate locations advising boat owners that the discharge of sewage from a marine sanitation device to waters in the state is a violation of state and federal law.
5. Materials resulting from the destruction of existing structures shall be removed from the water or areas adjacent to the water and disposed of in some legal manner.
6. A discharge shall not cause substantial and persistent changes from ambient conditions of turbidity or color. The use of silt screens or other appropriate methods is encouraged to confine suspended particulates.
7. The placement of any material in a watercourse or wetlands shall be avoided and placed there only with the approval of the Corps when no other reasonable alternative is available. If work within a wetland is unavoidable, gouging or rutting of the substrate is prohibited. Heavy equipment shall be placed on mats to protect the substrate from gouging and rutting if necessary.

**Attachment 1 - Dredge and Fill Certification**  
**USACE Regional General Permit CESWF-05-RGP-2**  
**June 21, 2005**  
**Page 2 of 3**

8. **Dredged Material Placement:** Dredged sediments shall be placed in such a manner as to prevent any sediment runoff onto any adjacent property not owned by the applicant. Liquid runoff from the disposal area shall be retained on-site or shall be filtered and returned to the watercourse from which the dredged materials were removed. Except for material placement authorized by this permit, sediments from the project shall be placed in such a manner as to prevent any sediment runoff into waters in the state, including wetlands.
9. If contaminated spoil that was not anticipated or provided for in the permit application is encountered during dredging, dredging operations shall be immediately terminated and the TCEQ, Emergency Spill Response, shall be contacted at (512) 463-7727. Dredging activities shall not be resumed until authorized by the Commission.
10. Contaminated water, soil, or any other material shall not be allowed to enter a watercourse. Noncontaminated storm water from impervious surfaces shall be controlled to prevent the washing of debris into the waterway.
11. Storm water runoff from construction activities that result in a disturbance of one or more acres, or are a part of a common plan of development that will result in the disturbance of one or more acres, must be controlled and authorized under Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) general permit TXR150000. A copy of the general permit, application (notice of intent), and additional information is available at: <http://www.tnrc.state.tx.us/permitting/waterperm/wwperm/construct.html> or by contacting the TCEQ Storm Water & Pretreatment Team at (512) 239-4433.
12. Upon completion of earthwork operations, all temporary fills shall be removed from the watercourse/wetland, and areas disturbed during construction shall be seeded, ripped, or given some other type of protection to minimize subsequent soil erosion. Any fill material shall be clean and of such composition that it will not adversely affect the biological, chemical, or physical properties of the receiving waters.
13. Disturbance to vegetation will be limited to only what is absolutely necessary. After construction, all disturbed areas will be revegetated to approximate the pre-disturbance native plant assemblage.
14. Where the control of weeds, insects, and other undesirable species is deemed necessary by the permittee, control methods which are nontoxic to aquatic life or human health shall be employed when the activity is located in or in close proximity to water, including wetlands.
15. Concentrations of taste and odor producing substances shall not interfere with the production of potable water by reasonable water treatment methods, impart unpalatable flavor to food fish including shellfish, result in offensive odors arising from the water, or otherwise interfere with reasonable use of the water in the state.
16. Surface water shall be essentially free of floating debris and suspended solids that are conducive to producing adverse responses in aquatic organisms, putrescible sludge deposits, or sediment layers which adversely affect benthic biota or any lawful uses.
17. Surface waters shall be essentially free of settleable solids conducive to changes in flow characteristics of stream channels or the untimely filling of reservoirs, lakes, and bays.

**Attachment 1 - Dredge and Fill Certification**  
**USACE Regional General Permit CESWF-05-RGP-2**  
**June 21, 2005**  
**Page 3 of 3**

18. The work of the applicant shall be conducted such that surface waters are maintained in an aesthetically attractive condition and foaming or frothing of a persistent nature is avoided. Surface waters shall be maintained so that oil, grease, or related residue will not produce a visible film of oil or globules of grease on the surface or coat the banks or bottoms of the watercourse.
19. This certification shall not be deemed as fulfilling the applicant's/permittee's responsibility to obtain additional authorization/approval from other local, state, or federal regulatory agencies having special/specific authority to preserve and/or protect resources within the area where the work will occur.

VICTOR G. CARRILLO, CHAIRMAN  
MICHAEL L. WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER  
ELIZABETH A. JONES, COMMISSIONER



RICHARD A. VARELA  
DIRECTOR, OIL AND GAS DIVISION

# RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

## OIL AND GAS DIVISION

September 2, 2005

U S ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
REGULATORY BRANCH (CESWF-PER-R)  
P O BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH TX 76102-0300  
ATTN PRESLEY HATCHER

Re: Proposed Regional General Permit for Utility Lines and Intake and Outfall Structures  
Fort Worth District CESWF-05-RGP-2  
Tulsa District TXG300011  
Albuquerque District 2005-00060

Dear Mr. Hatcher:

The Railroad Commission of Texas (Commission) has received the public notice for the draft regional general permit dated February 22, 2005. The Commission is the certifying agency for federal permits covering activities in Texas associated with the exploration, development, and production, including pipeline transportation, of oil, gas, or geothermal resources that may result in discharges to waters of the United States. This office did not receive any comments on the proposed permit.

This office has examined the proposed general permit and identified no conflicts between the proposed permit and applicable state water quality laws, with two exceptions. In Texas, activities that are not water dependent are presumed to have a practicable alternative, unless the applicant demonstrates otherwise. In addition, compensatory mitigation is not considered an alternative. Our review indicates that, based on the information contained in the draft permit and public notice, and the addition of language to address these issues, there is a reasonable assurance that the permitted activities will be conducted in a manner which will not violate any applicable water quality requirements. The Commission also finds that no conditions more stringent than those in the draft permit, other than those noted above, would be necessary to comply with state water quality laws. Therefore, certification of the referenced proposed permit for compliance with applicable water quality laws conditional on addition of the recommended language or some version thereof is hereby granted.

Please call me at (512) 463-7308 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leslie Savage".

Leslie Savage, WQ Certification Coordinator  
Oil and Gas Division  
Railroad Commission of Texas

Cc: Tommie Seitz  
Bart Sims

SEP 09 2005



State of Louisiana  
Department of Environmental Quality



KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO  
GOVERNOR

April 1, 2005

MIKE D. McDANIEL, Ph.D.  
SECRETARY

Department of the Army-Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District  
P.O. Box 17300  
Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300

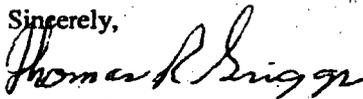
Attention: Jessica Napier

RE: Water Quality Certification (JP 050121-05/AI# 101986/CER20050001)  
Renewal of Regional General Permit 2

Dear Ms. Napier,

After reviewing your request for the renewal of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District RGP-2, the Department has decided that it has no objections for the renewal of this general permit.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas R. Griggs  
Engineer Manager

TRG/jjp

APR 06 2005



OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES • P.O. BOX 4313 • BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821-4313

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