# PROJECT SPECIAL PROVISIONS PERMITS

The Contractor's attention is directed to the following permits, which have been issued to the Department of Transportation by the authority granting the permit.

# **PERMIT**

# **AUTHORITY GRANTING THE PERMIT**

Dredge and Fill and/or Work in Navigable Waters (404) U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

Water Quality (401)

Division of Environmental Management, DENR, State of North Carolina

The Contractor shall comply with all applicable permit conditions during construction of this project. Those conditions marked by \* are the responsibility of the department and the Contractor has no responsibility in accomplishing those conditions.

Agents of the permitting authority will periodically inspect the project for adherence to the permits.

The Contractor's attention is also directed to Articles 107-10 and 107-14 of the Standard Specifications and the following:

Should the Contractor propose to utilize construction methods (such as temporary structures or fill in waters and/or wetlands for haul roads, work platforms, cofferdams, etc.) not specifically identified in the permit (individual, general, or nationwide) authorizing the project it shall be the Contractor's responsibility to coordinate with the Engineer to determine what, if any, additional permit action is required. The Contractor shall also be responsible for initiating the request for the authorization of such construction method by the permitting agency. The request shall be submitted through the Engineer. The Contractor shall not utilize the construction method until it is approved by the permitting agency. The request normally takes approximately 60 days to process; however, no extensions of time or additional compensation will be granted for delays resulting from the Contractor's request for approval of construction methods not specifically identified in the permit.

Where construction moratoriums are contained in a permit condition which restricts the Contractor's activities to certain times of the year, those moratoriums will apply only to the portions of the work taking place in the waters or wetlands provided that activities outside those areas is done in such a manner as to not affect the waters or wetlands.



# STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT SECRETARY

May 1, 2006

To:

File

From:

Chris Underwood, Permit Specialist

Subject:

U-3613B Section 404 Permit by Default

The Section 404 permit for this project has been issued by default, as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers review time period has exceeded 45 days (per Nationwide Permit General Condition number 13, a., 3). Therefore, NCDOT must comply with all conditions, descriptions, and mitigation allowance in the attached permit application dated 2/23/2006, Pre-Construction Notification Form, Permit Drawings, 404 General Conditions and Ecosystem Enhancement Program mitigation acceptance letter. A permit modification will be required if any of the above conditions, descriptions, and mitigation allowances cannot be met.



# STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT SECRETARY

February 23, 2006

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Field Office Post Office Box 1000 Washington, NC 27889-1000

ATTN: Mr. William Wescott NCDOT Coordinator

Subject: **Nationwide 14 and 33 Permit Application** for the proposed widening of SR 1708 (Fire Tower Road) from NC 11-903 (Memorial Drive) to SR 1709 (Corey Road) in Greenville, Pitt County; NCDOT Division 2. Federal Project No. MASTP – 1708(1), State Project No. 8.2220901; TIP No. U-3613B. \$475.00 Debit WBS Element 34961.1

Dear Sir:

The NCDOT proposes to widen SR 1708 (Fire Tower Road) to a multi-lane facility from NC 11-903 (Memorial Drive) to SR 1709 (Corey Road). The length of the proposed widening is 2.65 miles. TIP U-3613 was originally divided into three sections: Section A (Davenport Farm Road to NC 11-903 (Memorial Drive)); Section B (NC 11-903 (Memorial Drive) to SR 1700 (Old Tar Road)); and Section C (SR 1700 (Old Tar Road) to SR 1709 (Corey Road)). NCDOT combined Sections B and C into one project – U-3613B, for which an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared. Section A is unfunded and is scheduled for post year construction.

The proposed improvements will be constructed on 100 feet of right-of-way and includes typical sections of five-lanes with curb-and-gutter and a 10-foot berm as well as a four-lane, curb-and-gutter divided section with a 16-foot raised grass median. In addition, NCDOT will include 14-foot wide outside lanes and sidewalks within the typical design along the entire length of the project to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The project ties into the existing five-lane curb and gutter section just east of Corey Road (SR 1709). Traffic will be maintained on-site utilizing lane shifts.

This application package consists of the PCN Form, permit drawings, half size plan sheets, and a stormwater management plan.

<u>Purpose and Need:</u> As identified in the November 2000 EA and the October 2001 FONSI, the purpose of the project is to alleviate congestion and improve safety along Fire Tower Road (an existing three-lane, two-way roadway on 60-foot right-of-way). Currently, between 20,000 and

24,000 vehicles per day are traveling along Fire Tower Road in the project vicinity. This is expected to increase to between 30,000 and 32,000 vehicles per day by design year 2020. The proposed improvements to Fire Tower Road will provide additional travel lanes, which will alleviate current and future capacity deficiencies along this facility. In addition, safety will be enhanced along the project as a result of the widened pavement and additional through and turn lanes.

<u>Summary of Impacts to Waters of the United States:</u> Proposed impacts on jurisdictional areas of the project consist of a total of 277 linear feet of permanent stream impacts and 147 linear feet of temporary stream impacts. No wetland impacts are associated with the proposed project.

<u>Summary of Impacts to Neuse River Basin Riparian Buffers:</u> This project is located in the Neuse River Basin (sub-basin 03-04-09), therefore the project is subject to the Neuse River Buffer Rules (15A NCAC 2B. 0233). Proposed buffer impacts associated with this project total 52,285 square feet. The Zone 1 buffer impacts are 34,569 square feet and Zone 2 buffer impacts are 17,716 square feet.

<u>Summary of Mitigation</u>: The project has been designed to avoid and minimize impacts to jurisdictional areas throughout the NEPA and design processes. Compensatory mitigation for proposed impacts to jurisdictional streams and Neuse River riparian buffers will be provided by the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP).

### **NEPA DOCUMENT STATUS**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was submitted by NCDOT on November 14, 2000 in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The document addressed the widening of SR 1708 (Fire Tower Road) to a multi-lane facility from NC 11-903 (Memorial Drive) to SR 1709 (Corey Road). The EA explains the purpose and need for the project; provides a description of the alternatives considered; and characterizes the social, economic, and environmental effects. After the EA was approved, it was circulated to federal, state, and local agencies. On October 31, 2001 a FONSI was approved for U-3613. Copies of the EA and FONSI have been provided to regulatory review agencies involved in the approval process. Additional copies will be provided upon request.

#### INDEPENDENT UTILITY

The subject project is in compliance with 23 CFR Part 771.111(f) which lists the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) characteristics of independent utility of a project:

- (1) The project connects logical termini and is of sufficient length to address environmental matters on a broad scope,
- (2) The project is usable and a reasonable expenditure, even if no additional transportation improvements are made in the area;
- (3) The project does not restrict consideration of alternatives for other reasonably foreseeable transportation improvements.

#### Impacts to Waters of the United States

Wetland/Stream delineations: Potential wetland communities were investigated pursuant to the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual by NCDOT biologist Susan Brady and

Chris Murray on December 11, 1998. There are no jurisdictional wetlands located on the project. Two streams (western and eastern tributaries to Fork Swamp) will be crossed by the project. These tributaries were determined to be perennial, jurisdictional streams. Impacts are reported in Table 1.

All project waters are located within the Neuse River Basin. The project crosses the western and eastern tributaries of Fork Swamp which are located within USGS hydrologic unit code (HUC) 03020202. The best usage classification for each of these streams is class C, Sw, NSW.

The first site involves replacing an existing 96-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) with a 10 foot by 8-foot reinforced concrete box culvert (RCBC) buried one foot below the stream bed. Temporary stream impacts will occur to allow for dewatering of the site during construction of the culvert and stream relocation.

The second site involves extending two existing 11 foot 5 inch by 7 foot 1 inch structural plate aluminum pipe arches to meet the new fill slopes. The normal stream flow and channel characteristics will be maintained at the crossing by diverting low flow into one of the pipe arches and keeping the pipe inverts buried below the stream bed. Temporary stream impacts are proposed to allow for dewatering of the site during construction.

Table 1. Stream Impacts for TIP Project U-3613B, Pitt County.

Site	Station No. (from/to)	Structure Size/ Type	Stream Impacts (lf) Permanent	Stream Impacts (lf) Temporary	Stream Name
1	33 + 52 - L	1@10' x 8' RCBC	196	77	Ut 1 to Fork Swamp
2	135 + 24 - L	2@11'5" x 7'1" STR Plate Pipe Arches	81	70	Ut 2 to Fork Swamp
		TOTAL	277	147	

This project is located in the Neuse River Basin and is subject to the riparian buffer protection rules for the Neuse River Basin (15A NCAC 2B. 0233). Buffer impacts associated with this project total are reported in Table 2.

Table 2. Riparian Buffer Impacts for TIP Project U-3613B, Pitt County.

Site	Station No. (from/to)	Structure Size/ Type	Zone I Impacts (ft <sup>2</sup> )	Zone II Impacts (ft <sup>2</sup> )	Total (ft²)
1	33 + 52 - L	1@10' x 8' RCBC	15,908	5,386	21,294
2	105 + 22 - L	3@ 8' x 7' RCBC	8,134	6,911	15,045
3	135 + 24 - L	2@11'5" x 7'1" STR Plate Pipe Arches	10,527	5,419	15,946
		TOTAL	34,569	17,716	52,285

#### **UTILITIES**

Utility work at jurisdictional areas are as follows:

#### Culvert at station 33+52

There are three lines on the left side of the road; one 12" water line, one 4" gas line, and one 8" sewer force main. On the right side of the road, one 6" water line is being installed, and the head wall will be poured around an existing 12" sewer line. All new lines will be installed by directional drilling. There will be no impacts to the stream or buffer area.

#### Culvert at station 105+21

At this station there is an existing culvert. Two lines are being installed on the left side of the road, one 12" water line, and one 4" gas line. Both of these lines are being installed over the culvert by trenching. All work will be behind the curb within the construction limits.

## Culvert at station 135+27

At this station there is an existing culvert that is being extended. Two lines are being installed on the left side of the road, one 12" water line, and one 4" gas line. Both of these lines are being installed by directional drilling, with no impacts to the stream or buffer.

#### FEDERALLY PROTECTED SPECIES

Plants and animals with Federal classifications of Endangered (E), Threatened (T), Proposed Endangered (PE) and Proposed Threatened (PT) are protected under provisions of Sections 7 and 9 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. As of January 29, 2003 the FWS lists the following federally-protected species for Pitt County as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Federally Protected Species for Pitt County

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat	Biological Conclusion
Elliptio steinstansana	Tar River spinymussel	E	Nope	No Effect
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald eagle	T	Nope	No Effect
Picoides borealis	Red-cockaded woodpecker	E	Nope	No Effect
Trichechus manatus	West Indian Manatee	Е	Nope	No Effect

E – denotes endangered

**T** – denotes threatened

Surveys for the Tar River spinymussel (*Elliptio steinstansana*) and the dwarf wedgemussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*) were conducted for the proposed project by Alderman Environmental Services, Inc. on September 26, 2003. The findings concluded that the stream habitat within the project area is degraded with heavy sediment loading and stormwater runoff resulting in inappropriate habitat for the Tar River spinymussel or the dwarf wedgemussel. The survey results concurred with the No Effect biological conclusion documented in the EA.

#### INDIRECT CUMULATIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

Existing rules for the 401 Water Quality Certification Program (15A NCAC 2H.0506(b)(4) require that the DWQ determine that a project "does not result in cumulative impacts, based on past or reasonably anticipated future impacts, that cause or will cause a violation of downstream water quality standards."

NCDOT contracted with the Louis Berger Group, Inc. to conduct an Indirect and Cumulative Effects (ICE) Analysis for the proposed project. The analysis was completed in November 2004. The results of the analysis concluded that while the widening of Fire Tower Road (U-3613B) is expected to reduce east-west travel times, provide increased capacity, and accommodate growth that has already occurred along the Fire Tower Road corridor, the project taken by itself is not likely to induce substantial development or land use changes. The U-3613B project was determined to be a minor component of a series of proposed road projects and anticipated private development projects that, when considered together, constitute a cumulative impact on the ICE study area. Copies of the ICE analysis have been provided to regulatory review agencies involved in the approval process. Additional copies of the ICE report are available upon request.

#### **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Archaeology & Historical Structures: An archaeological survey was conducted within the area of potential effect (APE) of this project by the Archaeological Section of the NCDOT. Based upon the topographic setting, the project was determined to have a low probability of containing prehistoric and early historic archaeological sites. All potential sites date to the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century and represent domestic dwellings. None of these archaeological sites were considered eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the determination of each of these sites. The SHPO concurrence letter is found in Appendix B in the EA.

A historic architectural survey of the APE of this project was conducted by the Historic Architectural Resources section of the NCDOT. A Phase II survey of the APE identified eight properties over fifty years of age including one late nineteenth-century dwelling, six early twentieth-century dwellings, and one early twentieth-century fire tower. Of these eight properties, none were determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The SHPO concurred with the determination of each of these sites. The SHPO concurrence letter is found in Appendix B in the EA.

### FEMA COMPLIANCE

Pitt County is currently a participant in the National Flood Insurance Regulatory Program. The proposed stream crossings are not located in any designated flood hazard areas and will not impact any 100-year floodplain limits.

#### WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM

The project will not impact any designated Wild and Scenic Rivers or any rivers included in the list of study rivers (Public Law 90-542, as amended).

#### **MITIGATION OPTIONS**

The Corps of Engineers has adopted, through the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), a wetland mitigation policy that embraces the concept of "no net loss of wetlands" and sequencing. The purpose of this policy is to restore and maintain the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the Waters of the United States. Mitigation of wetland and surface water impacts has been defined by the CEQ to include: avoiding impacts, minimizing impacts, rectifying impacts.

reducing impacts over time and compensating for impacts (40 CFR 1508.20). Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) and Department of Transportation Order 5660.1A (Preservation of the Nations Wetlands), emphasize protection of the functions and values provided by wetlands. These directives require that new construction in wetlands be avoided as much as possible and that all practicable measures are taken to minimize or mitigate impacts to wetlands.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The NCDOT is committed to incorporating all reasonable and practicable design features to avoid and minimize jurisdictional impacts, and to provide full compensatory mitigation of all remaining, unavoidable jurisdictional impacts. Avoidance measures were taken during the planning and NEPA compliance stages; minimization measures were incorporated as part of the project design.

NCDOT's guidelines for Best Management Practices for the Protection of Surface Waters will be enforced throughout the duration of the project construction. Because the project is located within the Neuse River Basin, strict adherence to the Neuse River Riparian Buffer rules will apply. Minimization and avoidance measures that were taken to reduce impacts to streams and the Neuse Buffers include the following:

- 1. The project consists of widening an existing facility therefore it will have less surface water and riparian buffer impact than a project on new location.
- 2. The existing hydraulic structures will be retained and widened where possible.
- 3. Disturbance of stream and buffers up and downstream of the project will be minimized as much as possible.
- 4. The Neuse River Riparian Buffer Rules were followed in the design of the project. Diffuse flow will be maintained in the riparian buffer by dispersing concentrated flow and reestablishing vegetation. Grass swales and preformed scour holes were utilized throughout the project to provide treatment of runoff before it is discharge into receiving waters to reduce the stormwater impacts.

The reinforced concrete box culvert proposed at station 33 + 52 - L (Site 1) will be buried one foot below the streambed to allow for natural aquatic passage.

The extension of the existing structural plate aluminum pipe arches at station 135 + 24 - L (Site 2) will maintain normal stream flow and channel characteristics at the crossing by diverting low flow into one of the pipe arches and keeping the pipe inverts buried below the stream bed.

**COMPENSATION:** The primary emphasis of compensatory mitigation is to reestablish a condition that would have existed if the project were not built. As previously stated, mitigation is limited to reasonable expenditures and practicable considerations related to highway operation. Mitigation is generally accomplished through a combination of methods designed to replace wetland functions and values lost as a result of construction of the project. These methods consist of creation of new wetlands from uplands, borrow pits, and other non-wetland areas; restoration of wetlands; and enhancement of existing wetlands. Where such options may not be available, or when existing wetlands and wetland-surface water complexes are considered to be important resources worthy of preservation, consideration is given to preservation as at least one component of a compensatory mitigation proposal.

FHWA STEP DOWN COMPLIANCE: All compensatory mitigation must be in compliance with 23 CFR Part 777.9, "Mitigation of Impacts" that describes the actions that should be followed to qualify for Federal-aid highway funding. This process is known as the FHWA "Step Down" procedures:

- 1. Consideration must be given to mitigation within the right-of-way and should include the enhancement of existing wetlands and the creation of new wetlands in the highway median, borrow pit areas, interchange areas and along the roadside.
- 2. Where mitigation within the right-of-way does not fully offset wetland losses, compensatory mitigation may be conducted outside the right-of-way including enhancement, creation, and preservation.

Based upon the agreements stipulated in the "Memorandum of Agreement Among the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (MOA)", it is understood that the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP), will assume responsibility for satisfying the Section 404 compensatory mitigation requirements for NCDOT projects that are listed in Exhibit 2 of the subject MOA during the EEP transition period which ended on July 1, 2005.

Since the subject project is listed in Exhibit 2, the necessary compensatory mitigation to offset unavoidable impacts to waters that are jurisdictional under the federal Clean Water Act will be provided by the EEP. The offsetting mitigation will derive from an inventory of assets already in existence within the same Ecoregion and the same 8-digit cataloging unit. We have avoided and minimized the impacts to jurisdictional resources to the greatest extent possible as described above. The remaining impacts to 277 linear feet of jurisdictional streams and 52,285 square feet of riparian buffer will be compensated for by mitigation provided by the EEP program.

#### REGULATORY APPROVALS

Section 404: Application is hereby made to the Department of the Army for Section 404 Nationwide 14 and 33 permits for the above described activities.

Section 401: Application is hereby requesting a 401 Water Quality Certification from the Division of Water Quality. We anticipate 401 General Water Quality Certification numbers 3404 and 3366 will apply to this project. All general conditions of the Water Quality Certification will be met. In compliance with Section 143-215.3D(e) of the NCAC we will provide \$475.00 to act as payment for processing the Section 401 permit application previously noted in this application (see Subject line). We are providing five copies of this application to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality, for their review.

Neuse River Basin Buffer Authorization: NCDOT requests that the NC Division of Water Quality review this application and issue a written approval for a Neuse River Riparian Buffer Authorization.

We also anticipate that comments from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) will be required prior to authorization by the Corps of Engineers. By copy of this

letter and attachment, NCDOT hereby requests NCWRC review. NCDOT requests that NCWRC forward their comments to the Corps of Engineers.

Thank you for your assistance with this project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Chris Underwood at <a href="mailto:csunderwood@dot.state.nc.us">csunderwood@dot.state.nc.us</a> or (919) 715-1451.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Thorpe, Ph.D., Environmental Management Director Project Development and Environmental Analysis Branch

#### Cc: W/attachment

Mr. John Hennessy, NCDWQ (5 copies)

Mr. Travis Wilson, NCWRC

Mr. Gary Jordan, USFWS

Mr. Ron Sechler, NMFS

Mr. Michael Street, NCDMF

Dr. David Chang, P.E., Hydraulics

Mr. Greg Perfetti, P.E., Structure Design

Mr. Mark Staley, Roadside Environmental

Mr. C.E. Lassiter, P.E., Division 2 Engineer

Mr. Jay Johnson, Division 2 Environmental Officer

### Cc: W/o attachments

Mr. Scott McLendon, USACE, Wilmington

Mr. Jay Bennett, P.E., Roadway Design

Mr. Majed Alghandour, P.E., Programming and TIP

Mr. Art McMillan, P.E., Highway Design

Ms. Beth Harmon, EEP

Mr. Todd Jones, NCDOT External Audit Branch

Mr. Michele James, PDEA Project Planning Engineer

Office	Use	se Only:	Form Version March 05
USAC	E A	Action ID No.	DWQ No
,		(If any particular item is not applicable to this project	, please enter "Not Applicable" or "N/A".)
I.	Pr	rocessing	
	1.	. Check all of the approval(s) requested for this  ☐ Section 404 Permit ☐ Section 10 Permit ☐ 401 Water Quality Certification ☐	project: Riparian or Watershed Buffer Rules Isolated Wetland Permit from DWQ Express 401 Water Quality Certification
	<u>2.</u>	. Nationwide, Regional or General Permit Num	ber(s) Requested: NWP 14 and 33
	3.	. If this notification is solely a courtesy copy be is not required, check here:	cause written approval for the 401 Certification
	4.	. If payment into the North Carolina Ecosyster for mitigation of impacts, attach the acceptar and check here:	n Enhancement Program (NCEEP) is proposed ace letter from NCEEP, complete section VIII,
	5.	. If your project is located in any of North Ca 4), and the project is within a North Carol Environmental Concern (see the top of page 2	ina Division of Coastal Management Area of
II.	Ap	applicant Information	
	1.	. Owner/Applicant Information Name:	nvironmental Analysis Branch/ Greg Thorpe Raleigh, NC 27699-1548
		Telephone Number: 919-733-3141 E-mail Address:	Fax Number: 919-733-9794
	2.	must be attached if the Agent has signatory at	
		Telephone Number:E-mail Address:	

# III. Project Information

Attach a **vicinity map** clearly showing the location of the property with respect to local landmarks such as towns, rivers, and roads. Also provide a detailed **site plan** showing property boundaries and development plans in relation to surrounding properties. Both the vicinity map and site plan must include a scale and north arrow. The specific footprints of all buildings, impervious surfaces, or other facilities must be included. If possible, the maps and plans should include the appropriate USGS Topographic Quad Map and NRCS Soil Survey with the property boundaries outlined. Plan drawings, or other maps may be included at the applicant's discretion, so long as the property is clearly defined. For administrative and distribution purposes, the USACE requires information to be submitted on sheets no larger than 11 by 17-inch format; however, DWQ may accept paperwork of any size. DWQ prefers full-size construction drawings rather than a sequential sheet version of the full-size plans. If full-size plans are reduced to a small scale such that the final version is illegible, the applicant will be informed that the project has been placed on hold until decipherable maps are provided.

1. Name of project: Widening of SR 1708 (Fire Tower Road) from NC 11-903 (Memorial

	Drive) to SR 1709 (Corey Road)
2.	T.I.P. Project Number or State Project Number (NCDOT Only): <u>U-3613B</u>
3.	Property Identification Number (Tax PIN):
4.	County: Pitt Nearest Town: Greenville Subdivision name (include phase/lot number): Directions to site (include road numbers/names, landmarks, etc.): US 264 E to Greenville, continue east on US 264 BUS to NC 11-903 (Memorial Drive), follow NC 11-903 south to intersection with SR 1708 (Fire Tower Road) (projects western terminus). Continue east on SR 1708 (Fire Tower Road) to SR 1709 (Corey Road) (projects eastern terminus).
5.	Site coordinates (For linear projects, such as a road or utility line, attach a sheet that separately lists the coordinates for each crossing of a distinct waterbody.)  Decimal Degrees (6 digits minimum): 39° 36' 52" °N 28° 20' 77" °W
6.	Property size (acres): N/A
7.	Name of nearest receiving body of water: Fork Swamp (Class C, Sw, NSW)
8.	River Basin: Neuse  (Note – this must be one of North Carolina's seventeen designated major river basins. The River Basin map is available at <a href="http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/admin/maps/">http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/admin/maps/</a> .)
9.	Describe the existing conditions on the site and general land use in the vicinity of the project

at the time of this application: 3-lane, two-way road on 60-foot right-of-way

10.	Describe the overall project in detail, including the type of equipment to be used:
	From NC 11-903 (Memorial Drive) to SR 1709 (Corey Road) - widen existing SR 1708
	(Fire Tower Road) to a multi-lane facility. The proposed improvements will be
	constructed on 100-foot right-of-way and includes typical sections of five-lane curb and
	gutter as well as a four-lane, curb and gutter divided section. Typical roadway
	construction equipment (excavators, bull dozers, dump trucks, graders, etc.) will be
	utilized.

11. Explain the purpose of the proposed work: <u>To provide additional travel lanes to alleviate</u> current and future traffic congestion and improve safety along Fire Tower Road (SR 1708).

# IV. Prior Project History

If jurisdictional determinations and/or permits have been requested and/or obtained for this project (including all prior phases of the same subdivision) in the past, please explain. Include the USACE Action ID Number, DWQ Project Number, application date, and date permits and certifications were issued or withdrawn. Provide photocopies of previously issued permits, certifications or other useful information. Describe previously approved wetland, stream and buffer impacts, along with associated mitigation (where applicable). If this is a NCDOT project, list and describe permits issued for prior segments of the same T.I.P. project, along with construction schedules. N/A

# V. Future Project Plans

Are any future permit requests anticipated for this project? If so, describe the anticipated work, and provide justification for the exclusion of this work from the current application.

The project was divided into three sections: Section A, from Davenport Road to NC 11-903 (Memorial Drive), Section B, from NC 11-903 (Memorial Drive) to SR 1700 (Old Tar Road), and Section C, from SR 1700 (Old Tar Road) to SR 1709 (Corey Road). Section A is currently unfunded, and is scheduled for construction in Post Years, therefore this permit request is for construction activities for sections B and C.

# VI. Proposed Impacts to Waters of the United States/Waters of the State

It is the applicant's (or agent's) responsibility to determine, delineate and map all impacts to wetlands, open water, and stream channels associated with the project. Each impact must be listed separately in the tables below (e.g., culvert installation should be listed separately from riprap dissipater pads). Be sure to indicate if an impact is temporary. All proposed impacts, permanent and temporary, must be listed, and must be labeled and clearly identifiable on an accompanying site plan. All wetlands and waters, and all streams (intermittent and perennial)

should be shown on a delineation map, whether or not impacts are proposed to these systems. Wetland and stream evaluation and delineation forms should be included as appropriate. Photographs may be included at the applicant's discretion. If this proposed impact is strictly for wetland or stream mitigation, list and describe the impact in Section VIII below. If additional space is needed for listing or description, please attach a separate sheet.

1. Provide a written description of the proposed impacts: 277 linear feet of perennial stream impacts due to culvert replacements and extensions; 147 feet of temporary stream impact to allow for dewatering of the site during construction and stream relocation. No jurisdictional wetlands are located in the project.

2. Individually list wetland impacts. Types of impacts include, but are not limited to mechanized clearing, grading, fill, excavation, flooding, ditching/drainage, etc. For dams,

separately list impacts due to both structure and flooding.

Wetland Impact Site Number (indicate on map)	Type of Impact	Type of Wetland (e.g., forested, marsh, herbaceous, bog, etc.)	Located within 100-year Floodplain (yes/no)	Distance to Nearest Stream (linear feet)	Area of Impact (acres)
No Impacts					
	, (+ <del></del>				
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			77	
	Total	Wetland Impact (acres)			

3. List the total acreage (estimated) of all existing wetlands on the property: N/A

4. Individually list all intermittent and perennial stream impacts. Be sure to identify temporary impacts. Stream impacts include, but are not limited to placement of fill or culverts, dam construction, flooding, relocation, stabilization activities (e.g., cement walls, rip-rap, crib walls, gabions, etc.), excavation, ditching/straightening, etc. If stream relocation is proposed, plans and profiles showing the linear footprint for both the original and relocated streams

must be included. To calculate acreage, multiply length X width, then divide by 43,560.

Stream Impact Number (indicate on map)	Stream Name	Type of Impact	Perennial or Intermittent?	Average Stream Width Before Impact	Impact Length (linear feet)	Area of Impact (acres)
1	UT to Fork Swamp	1@10' x 8' RCBC	Perennial	5 feet	196	0.02
1	UT to Fork Swamp	Temp. – stream transition/ dewatering	Perennial	5 feet	77	0.01
2	UT to Fork Swamp	2@11'x7'1" pipe arch extension	Perennial	10 feet	81	0.02
2 ·	UT to Fork Swamp	Temp dewatering	Perennial	10 feet	70	0.02
	Total Stream Impact (by length and acreage)					0.07

Ocean and any other water of the U.S.). Open water impacts include, but are not limited fill, excavation, dredging, flooding, drainage, bulkheads, etc.  Open Water Impact Site Number (if applicable)  Name of Waterbody (if applicable)  Type of Impact (lake, pond, estuary, sound, bay, ocean, etc.)  Type of Impact (lake, pond, estuary, sound, bay, ocean, etc.)	of
Open Water Impact Site Number (indicate on map)  Name of Waterbody (if applicable)  Type of Impact  Type of Waterbody (lake, pond, estuary, sound, bay, ocean, etc.)  (acree	- 1
Site Number (if applicable)  Type of Impact (lake, pond, estuary, sound, bay, ocean, etc.)  Impact (lake, pond, estuary, sound, bay, ocean, etc.)	- 1
	1
No Impacts	
Total Open Water Impact (acres)	
6. List the cumulative impact to all Waters of the U.S. resulting from the project:	
Stream Impact (acres): 0.04 permanent impact	
0.03 temporary impact	
Wetland Impact (acres): 0	
Open Water Impact (acres): 0	
Total Impact to Waters of the U.S. 0.07	
(acres)	
Total Stream Impact (linear feet): 277 If permanent impact	
147 lf temporary impact	
7. Isolated Waters	
Do any isolated waters exist on the property? Yes No	
Describe all impacts to isolated waters, and include the type of water (wetland or stream)	and
the size of the proposed impact (acres or linear feet). Please note that this section of	nlv
applies to waters that have specifically been determined to be isolated by the USACE.	5
N/A	
8. Pond Creation	
If construction of a pond is proposed, associated wetland and stream impacts should	be
included above in the wetland and stream impact sections. Also, the proposed pond sho	uld
be described here and illustrated on any maps included with this application.	1
Pond to be created in (check all that apply): uplands stream wetlan	
Pond to be created in (check all that apply):  uplands  stream wetland Describe the method of construction (e.g., dam/embankment, excavation, installation	
Pond to be created in (check all that apply): uplands stream wetlan	of

# VII. Impact Justification (Avoidance and Minimization)

Current land use in the vicinity of the pond: N/A Size of watershed draining to pond:

Specifically describe measures taken to avoid the proposed impacts. It may be useful to provide information related to site constraints such as topography, building ordinances, accessibility, and

Expected pond surface area:\_

financial viability of the project. The applicant may attach drawings of alternative, lower-impact site layouts, and explain why these design options were not feasible. Also discuss how impacts were minimized once the desired site plan was developed. If applicable, discuss construction techniques to be followed during construction to reduce impacts.

Two stream impacts will occur due to culvert construction (site 1) and extension (site 2). With the addition of lanes due to widening, culvert improvements are unavoidable. Because the project consists of widening and existing facilility, the project will have less impact than a project on new location. The existing hydraulic structures have been retained and widened where feasible (site 2). Disturbances of stream and buffers up and downstream of the project will be minimized as much as possible. The reinforced concrete box culvert (site 1) will be buried one foot below the streambed to allow for natural aquatic life passage. The extension of the pipe arches (site 2) will maintain normal stream flow and channel characteristics by diverting low flow into one of the pipe arches and keeping the pipe inverts buried below the stream channel.

# VIII. Mitigation

DWQ - In accordance with 15A NCAC 2H .0500, mitigation may be required by the NC Division of Water Quality for projects involving greater than or equal to one acre of impacts to freshwater wetlands or greater than or equal to 150 linear feet of total impacts to perennial streams.

USACE – In accordance with the Final Notice of Issuance and Modification of Nationwide Permits, published in the Federal Register on January 15, 2002, mitigation will be required when necessary to ensure that adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal. Factors including size and type of proposed impact and function and relative value of the impacted aquatic resource will be considered in determining acceptability of appropriate and practicable mitigation as proposed. Examples of mitigation that may be appropriate and practicable include, but are not limited to: reducing the size of the project; establishing and maintaining wetland and/or upland vegetated buffers to protect open waters such as streams; and replacing losses of aquatic resource functions and values by creating, restoring, enhancing, or preserving similar functions and values, preferable in the same watershed.

If mitigation is required for this project, a copy of the mitigation plan must be attached in order for USACE or DWQ to consider the application complete for processing. Any application lacking a required mitigation plan or NCEEP concurrence shall be placed on hold as incomplete. An applicant may also choose to review the current guidelines for stream restoration in DWQ's Draft Technical Guide for Stream Work in North Carolina, available at <a href="http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/ncwetlands/strmgide.html">http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/ncwetlands/strmgide.html</a>.

1. Provide a brief description of the proposed mitigation plan. The description should provide as much information as possible, including, but not limited to: site location (attach directions and/or map, if offsite), affected stream and river basin, type and amount (acreage/linear feet) of mitigation proposed (restoration, enhancement, creation, or preservation), a plan view, preservation mechanism (e.g., deed restrictions, conservation easement, etc.), and a

description of the current site conditions and proposed method of construction. Please attach a separate sheet if more space is needed.

Proposed permanent stream impacts equal 277 feet for the crossings of two unnamed tributaries of Swamp Fork. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) will provide the compensatory mitigation required for this project.

2. Mitigation may also be made by payment into the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NCEEP). Please note it is the applicant's responsibility to contact the NCEEP at (919) 715-0476 to determine availability, and written approval from the NCEEP indicating that they are will to accept payment for the mitigation must be attached to this form. For additional information regarding the application process for the NCEEP, check the NCEEP website at <a href="http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/wrp/index.htm">http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/wrp/index.htm</a>. If use of the NCEEP is proposed, please check the appropriate box on page five and provide the following information:

Amount of stream mitigation requested (linear feet): 277 lf
Amount of buffer mitigation requested (square feet): 34,569 sf Zone I; 17,716 sf Zone II
Amount of Riparian wetland mitigation requested (acres): N/A
Amount of Non-riparian wetland mitigation requested (acres): N/A
Amount of Coastal wetland mitigation requested (acres): N/A

# IX. Environmental Documentation (required by DWQ)

- 1. Does the project involve an expenditure of public (federal/state/local) funds or the use of public (federal/state) land? Yes No
- 2. If yes, does the project require preparation of an environmental document pursuant to the requirements of the National or North Carolina Environmental Policy Act (NEPA/SEPA)? Note: If you are not sure whether a NEPA/SEPA document is required, call the SEPA coordinator at (919) 733-5083 to review current thresholds for environmental documentation. Yes
- 3. If yes, has the document review been finalized by the State Clearinghouse? If so, please attach a copy of the NEPA or SEPA final approval letter. Yes No

# X. Proposed Impacts on Riparian and Watershed Buffers (required by DWQ)

It is the applicant's (or agent's) responsibility to determine, delineate and map all impacts to required state and local buffers associated with the project. The applicant must also provide justification for these impacts in Section VII above. All proposed impacts must be listed herein, and must be clearly identifiable on the accompanying site plan. All buffers must be shown on a map, whether or not impacts are proposed to the buffers. Correspondence from the DWQ Regional Office may be included as appropriate. Photographs may also be included at the applicant's discretion.

1.	Will the project impact protected riparian buffers identified within 15A NCAC 2B .0233
	(Neuse), 15A NCAC 2B .0259 (Tar-Pamlico), 15A NCAC 02B .0243 (Catawba) 15A NCAC
	2B .0250 (Randleman Rules and Water Supply Buffer Requirements), or other (please
	identify)? Yes \( \sum \) No \( \sum \)

2. If "yes", identify the square feet and acreage of impact to each zone of the riparian buffers. If buffer mitigation is required calculate the required amount of mitigation by applying the buffer multipliers.

Zone*	Impact (square feet)	Multiplier	Required Mitigation
1	34,569	3 (2 for Catawba)	103,707
2	17,716	1.5	26,574
Total	52,285		130,281

<sup>\*</sup> Zone 1 extends out 30 feet perpendicular from the top of the near bank of channel; Zone 2 extends an additional 20 feet from the edge of Zone 1.

3. If buffer mitigation is required, please discuss what type of mitigation is proposed (i.e., Donation of Property, Riparian Buffer Restoration / Enhancement, or Payment into the Riparian Buffer Restoration Fund). Please attach all appropriate information as identified within 15A NCAC 2B .0242 or .0244, or .0260. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) will provide the compensatory mitigation required for this project.

# XI. Stormwater (required by DWQ)

Describe impervious acreage (existing and proposed) versus total acreage on the site. Discuss stormwater controls proposed in order to protect surface waters and wetlands downstream from the property. If percent impervious surface exceeds 20%, please provide calculations demonstrating total proposed impervious level.

The Neuse River Riparian Buffer rules for stormwater management requirements were followed in the design of the project (see attached stormwater management plan). Diffuse flow will be maintained in the riparian buffer by disbursing concentrated flows and reestablishing vegetation. Grass swales and pre-formed scour holes will be utilized throughout the project to provide treatment of runoff before it is discharged into receiving waters.

# XII. Sewage Disposal (required by DWQ)

Clearly detail the ultimate treatment methods and disposition (non-discharge or discharge) of wastewater generated from the proposed project, or available capacity of the subject facility.

-		-	-	•	•	•	-	•	J	-
N/A										
17/2										
	· ·									
		•								

XIII.	Violations (required by DWQ)
	Is this site in violation of DWQ Wetland Rules (15A NCAC 2H .0500) or any Buffer Rules?  Yes No No
	Is this an after-the-fact permit application? Yes \( \subseteq \text{No } \subseteq \)
XIV.	Cumulative Impacts (required by DWQ)
	Will this project (based on past and reasonably anticipated future impacts) result in additional development, which could impact nearby downstream water quality? Yes No If yes, please submit a qualitative or quantitative cumulative impact analysis in accordance with the most recent North Carolina Division of Water Quality policy posted on our website at <a href="http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/ncwetlands">http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/ncwetlands</a> . If no, please provide a short narrative description:
XV.	Other Circumstances (Optional):
	It is the applicant's responsibility to submit the application sufficiently in advance of desired construction dates to allow processing time for these permits. However, an applicant may choose to list constraints associated with construction or sequencing that may impose limits on work schedules (e.g., draw-down schedules for lakes, dates associated with Endangered and Threatened Species, accessibility problems, or other issues outside of the applicant's control). N/A
	Peh SIJ = 2/23/06
	Applicant/Agent's Signature Date
	(Agent's signature is valid only if an authorization letter from the applicant is provided.)



November 7, 2005

Mr. William Wescott
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Regulatory Field Office
P. O. Box 1000
Washington, North Carolina 27889-1000

Dear Mr. Wescott:

Subject:

EEP Mitigation Acceptance Letter:

**U-3613B,** Widening of SR 1708 (Fire Tower Road) from NC 11/903 (Memorial Drive) to SR 1709 (Corey Road) in Greenville; Neuse River Basin (Cataloging Unit 03020202); Northern Inner

Coastal Plain (NICP) Eco-Region

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) will provide the compensatory stream mitigation and buffer mitigation for the unavoidable impacts associated with the above referenced project. As indicated in the NCDOT's mitigation request letter dated October 26, 2005, the project will impact 277 feet of stream.

Also, this project will impact buffers located in CU 03020202 of the Neuse River Basin. The total buffer impacts are 34,569 square feet in Zone 1 and 17,716 square feet in Zone 2. The NCDOT estimated buffer impacts in the 7-year Impact Projection Database submitted to EEP in May 2005. The buffer mitigation required for the NCDOT's impact projections was incorporated into EEP's biennial budget that was approved in June 2005 by the NCDOT. However, EEP intends to continue managing all of the NCDOT's buffer mitigation requests and approvals through the In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program's Buffer Fund. Any buffer impact associated with projects located in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River Basins, and portions of the Cape Fear and Catawba River Basins are automatic acceptances by the EEP, per the agreement with the NCDWQ.

The NCDOT will be responsible to ensure that the appropriate compensation for the buffer mitigation will be provided in the agreed upon method of fund transfer. Upon receipt of the NCDWQ's Buffer Certification, the NCDOT will provide the EEP a copy of the Certification along with a letter verifying the buffer impact/mitigation amounts and

#### **NATIONWIDE PERMIT 14**

# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FINAL NOTICE OF ISSUANCE AND MODIFICATION OF NATIONWIDE PERMITS FEDERAL REGISTER AUTHORIZED MARCH 18, 2002

Linear Transportation Projects. Activities required for the construction, expansion, modification, or improvement of linear transportation crossings (e.g., highways, railways, trails, and airport runways and taxiways) in waters of the United States, including wetlands, if the activity meets the following criteria:

- 1. This nationwide permit is subject to the following acreage and linear limits:
- a. For linear transportation projects in non-tidal waters, provided the discharge does not cause the loss of greater than \1/2\ acre of waters of the United States; or
- b. For linear transportation projects in tidal waters, provided the discharge does not cause the loss of greater than \1/3\ acre of waters of the United States.
- 2. The permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13 if any of the following criteria are met:
- a. The discharge causes the loss of greater than 1/10 acre of waters of the United States; or
  - b. There is a discharge in a special aquatic site, including wetlands;
- c. The notification must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset permanent losses of waters of the United States to ensure that those losses result only in minimal adverse effects to the aquatic environment and a statement describing how temporary losses of waters will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable;
- d. For discharges in special aquatic sites, including wetlands and stream riffle and pool complexes, the notification must include a delineation of the affected special aquatic sites;
  - e. The width of the fill is limited to the minimum necessary for the crossing;
- f. This permit does not authorize stream channelization, and the authorized activities must not cause more than minimal changes to the hydraulic flow characteristics of the stream, increase flooding, or cause more than minimal degradation of water quality of any stream (see General Conditions 9 and 21);

- g. This permit cannot be used to authorize non-linear features commonly associated with transportation projects, such as vehicle maintenance or storage buildings, parking lots, train stations, or aircraft hangars; and
- h. The crossing is a single and complete project for crossing a water of the United States. Where a road segment (i.e., the shortest segment of a road with independent utility that is part of a larger project) has multiple crossings of streams (several single and complete projects) the Corps will consider whether it should use its discretionary authority to require an individual permit. (Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** Some discharges for the construction of farm roads, forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining equipment may be eligible for an exemption from the need for a Section 404 permit (see 33 CFR 323.4).

## **NATIONWIDE PERMIT GENERAL CONDITIONS**

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

- 1. Navigation. No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.
- 2. Proper Maintenance. Any structure or fill authorized shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Equipment. Heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.
- 6. 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 or tribe in its Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.
- 7. 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).
- 8. 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.

## 9. Water Quality.

- a. In certain states and tribal lands an individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (See 33 CFR 330.4(c)).
- b. For NWPs 12, 14, 17, 18, 32, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44, where the state or tribal 401 certification (either generically or individually) does not require or approve water quality management measures, the permittee must provide water quality management measures that will ensure that the authorized work does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality (or the Corps determines that compliance with state or local standards, where applicable, will ensure no more than minimal adverse effect on water quality). An important component of water quality management includes stormwater management that minimizes degradation of the downstream aquatic system, including water quality (refer to General Condition 21 for stormwater management requirements). Another important component of water quality management is the establishment and maintenance of vegetated buffers next to open waters, including streams (refer to General Condition 19 for vegetated buffer requirements for the NWPs).

This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect water quality. While appropriate measures must be taken, in most cases it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or to require monitoring.

10. Coastal Zone Management. In certain states, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)).

#### 11. Endangered Species.

- a. No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened 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. 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 is located in the 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 may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the 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. 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 NWPs.
- b. 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 USFWS 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 USFWS and NMFS or their World Wide Web pages at http://www.fws.gov/r9endspp/endspp.html and http://www.nfms.noaa.gov/prot res/overview/es.html respectively.

12. Historic Properties. No activity that may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places is authorized, until the District Engineer has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR part 325, Appendix C. The prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer if the authorized activity may affect any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible, or which the prospective permittee has reason to believe may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and shall not begin the activity until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. Information on the location and existence of historic resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the notification must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property.

# 13. Notification.

- a. Timing; where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer with a preconstruction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The District Engineer must determine if the notification is complete within 30 days of the date of receipt and can 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 notification 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 notified in writing by the District or Division Engineer that an Individual Permit is required; or
- 3. Unless 45 days have passed from the District Engineer's receipt of the complete notification and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the District or Division Engineer. 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 Notification: The notification 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. Brief 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. 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. For NWPs 7, 12, 14, 18, 21, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43, the PCN must also include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands, vegetated shallows (e.g., submerged aquatic vegetation, seagrass beds), and riffle and pool complexes (see paragraph 13(f));
- 5. For NWP 7 (Cutfall Structures and Maintenance), the PCN must include information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of those areas of the facility where maintenance dredging or excavation is proposed;
- 6. For NWP 14 (Linear Transportation Projects), the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset permanent losses of waters of the US and a statement describing how temporary losses of waters of the US will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable;
- 7. For NWP 21 (Surface Coal Mining Activities), the PCN must include an Office of Surface Mining (OSM) or state-approved mitigation plan, if applicable. To be authorized by this NWP, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively and must notify the project sponsor of this determination in writing:
- 8. For NWP 27 (Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities), the PCN must include documentation of the prior condition of the site that will be reverted by the permittee;
  - 9. For NWP 29 (Single-Family Housing), the PCN must also include:
- i. Any past use of this NWP by the Individual Permittee and/or the permittee's spouse;
- ii. A statement that the single-family housing activity is for a personal residence of the permittee;

- iii. A description of the entire parcel, including its size, and a delineation of wetlands. For the purpose of this NWP, parcels of land measuring \1/4\-acre or less will not require a formal on-site delineation. However, the applicant shall provide an indication of where the wetlands are and the amount of wetlands that exists on the property. For parcels greater than \1/4\-acre in size, formal wetland delineation must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. (See paragraph 13(f));
- iv. A written description of all land (including, if available, legal descriptions) owned by the prospective permittee and/or the prospective permittee's spouse, within a one mile radius of the parcel, in any form of ownership (including any land owned as a partner, corporation, joint tenant, co-tenant, or as a tenant-by-the-entirety) and any land on which a purchase and sale agreement or other contract for sale or purchase has been executed;
- 10. For NWP 31 (Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities), the prospective permittee must either notify the District Engineer with a PCN prior to each maintenance activity or submit a five-year (or less) maintenance plan. In addition, the PCN must include all of the following:
- i. Sufficient baseline information identifying the approved channel depths and configurations and existing facilities. Minor deviations are authorized, provided the approved flood control protection or drainage is not increased;
  - ii. A delineation of any affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands; and,
  - iii. Location of the dredged material disposal site;
- 11. For NWP 33 (Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering), the PCN must also include a restoration plan of reasonable measures to avoid and minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources;
- 12. For NWPs 39, 43 and 44, the PCN must also include a written statement to the District Engineer explaining how avoidance and minimization for losses of waters of the US were achieved on the project site;
- 13. For NWP 39 and NWP 42, the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US or justification explaining why compensatory mitigation should not be required. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;

- 14. For NWP 40 (Agricultural Activities), the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of greater than 300 linear feet of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams unless, for drainage ditches constructed in intermittent nontidal streams, the District Engineer waives this criterion in writing, and the District Engineer has determined that the project complies with all terms and conditions of this NWP, and that any adverse impacts of the project on the aquatic environment are minimal, both individually and cumulatively;
- 15. For NWP 43 (Stormwater Management Facilities), the PCN must include, for the construction of new stormwater management facilities, a maintenance plan (in accordance with state and local requirements, if applicable) and a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;
- 16. For NWP 44 (Mining Activities), the PCN must include a description of all waters of the US adversely affected by the project, a description of measures taken to minimize adverse effects to waters of the US, a description of measures taken to comply with the criteria of the NWP, and a reclamation plan (for all aggregate mining activities in isolated waters and non-tidal wetlands adjacent to headwaters and any hard rock/mineral mining activities);
- 17. For activities that may adversely affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species, the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work; and
- 18. For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, 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.
- c. Form of Notification: The standard Individual Permit application form (Form ENG 4345) may be used as the notification but must clearly indicate that it is a PCN and must include all of the information required in (b) (1)-(18) of General Condition 13. A letter containing the requisite information may also be used.
- d. 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. The prospective permittee may submit a proposed mitigation plan with the PCN to expedite the process. 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. 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 is required to submit a compensatory mitigation proposal with the PCN, the proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. 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 days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the conceptual or specific 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 proposal 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 proposal that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level. When conceptual mitigation is included, or a mitigation plan is required under item (2) above, no work in waters of the US will occur until the District Engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan.
- e. Agency Coordination: 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.

For activities requiring notification to the District Engineer that result in the loss of greater than \1/2\-acre of waters of the US, the District Engineer will provide immediately (e.g., via facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy to the appropriate Federal or state offices (USFWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), 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 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 notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. As required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the District Engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations. Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps multiple copies of notifications to expedite agency notification.

- f. Wetland Delineations: Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps (For NWP 29 see paragraph (b)(9)(iii) for parcels less than (\1/4\-acre in size). The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic site. There may be some delay if the Corps does the delineation. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the wetland delineation has been completed and submitted to the Corps, where appropriate.
- 14. Compliance Certification. Every permittee who has received NWP verification from the Corps will submit a signed certification regarding the completed work and any required mitigation. The certification will be forwarded by the Corps with the authorization letter and will include:
- a. A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the Corps 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.
- 15. 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 US authorized by the NWPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit (e.g. 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 US for the total project cannot exceed \ 1/3\-acre).

- 16. Water Supply Intakes. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake except where the activity is for repair of the public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.
- 17. Shellfish Beds. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWP 4.
- 18. Suitable Material. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may consist of unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.) and material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see section 307 of the CWA).
- 19. Mitigation. The District Engineer will consider the factors discussed below when determining the acceptability of appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to offset adverse effects on the aquatic environment that are more than minimal.
- a. The project must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects to waters of the US 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 impacts requiring a PCN, 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. Consistent with National policy, the District Engineer will establish a preference for restoration of wetlands as compensatory mitigation, with preservation used only in exceptional circumstances.
- d. Compensatory mitigation (i.e., replacement or substitution of aquatic resources for those impacted) will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of some of the NWPs. For example, \1/4\-acre of wetlands cannot be created to change a,\3/4\acre loss of wetlands to a \1/2\-acre loss associated with NWP 39 verification. However, \1/2\-acre of created wetlands can be used to reduce the impacts of a \1/2\-acre loss of wetlands to the minimum impact level in order to meet the minimal impact requirement associated with NWPs.
- e. To be practicable, the mitigation must be available and capable of being done considering costs, existing technology, and logistics in light of the overall project purposes. Examples of mitigation that may be appropriate and practicable include, but are not limited to: reducing the size of the project; establishing and maintaining wetland or upland vegetated buffers to protect open waters such as streams; and replacing losses of aquatic resource functions

and values by creating, restoring, enhancing, or preserving similar functions and values, preferably in the same watershed.

- 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., easements, deed restrictions) of vegetated buffers to open waters. In many cases, vegetated buffers will be the only compensatory mitigation required. Vegetated buffers should consist of native species. The width of the vegetated buffers required will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the vegetated buffer will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the District Engineers may require slightly wider vegetated buffers to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the Corps will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., stream buffers or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment or, a watershed basis. In cases where vegetated buffers 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 impacts.
- g. Compensatory mitigation proposals submitted with the "notification" may be either conceptual or detailed. If conceptual plans are approved under the verification, then the Corps will condition the verification to require detailed plans be submitted and approved by the Corps prior to construction of the authorized activity in waters of the US.
- h. Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee arrangements or separate activity-specific compensatory mitigation. In all cases that require compensatory mitigation, the mitigation provisions will specify the party responsible for accomplishing and/or complying with the mitigation plan.
- 20. Spawning Areas. Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., excavate, fill, or smother downstream by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.
- 21. Management of Water Flows. To the maximum extent practicable, the activity must be designed to maintain preconstruction downstream flow conditions (e.g., location, capacity, and flow rates). Furthermore, the activity must not permanently restrict or impede the passage of normal or expected high flows (unless the primary purpose of the fill is to impound waters) and the structure or discharge of dredged or fill material must withstand expected high flows. The activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, provide for retaining excess flows from the site, provide for maintaining surface flow rates from the site similar to preconstruction conditions, and provide for not increasing water flows from the project site, relocating water, or redirecting water flow beyond preconstruction conditions. Stream channelizing will be reduced to the minimal amount necessary, and the activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, reduce adverse effects such as flooding or erosion downstream and upstream of the project site, unless the activity is part of a larger system designed to manage water flows. In most cases, it

will not be a requirement to conduct detailed studies and monitoring of water flow.

This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect waterflows. While appropriate measures must be taken, it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or require monitoring to ensure their effectiveness. Normally, the Corps will defer to state and local authorities regarding management of water flow.

- 22. Adverse Effects From Impoundments. If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to the acceleration of the passage of water, and/or the restricting its flow shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. This includes structures and work in navigable waters of the US, or discharges of dredged or fill material.
- 23. Waterfowl Breeding Areas. Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, into breeding areas for migratory waterfowl must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
- 24. Removal of Temporary Fills. Any temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to their preexisting elevation.
- 25. Designated Critical Resource Waters. Critical resource waters include, NOAA-designated marine sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, critical habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species, coral reefs, 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. Except as noted below, discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters. Discharges of dredged or fill materials into waters of the US may be authorized by the above NWPs in National Wild and Scenic Rivers if the activity complies with General Condition 7. Further, such discharges may be authorized in designated critical habitat for Federally listed threatened or endangered species if the activity complies with General Condition 11 and the USFWS or the NMFS has concurred in a determination of compliance with this condition.
- 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 13, 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.
- 26. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains. For purposes of this General Condition, 100-year floodplains will be identified through the existing Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps or FEMA-approved local floodplain maps.

- a. Discharges in Floodplain; Below Headwaters. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the mapped 100year floodplain, below headwaters (i.e. five cfs), resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWPs 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44.
- b. Discharges in Floodway; Above Headwaters. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the FEMA or locally mapped floodway, resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWPs 39, 40, 42, and 44.
- c. The permittee must comply with any applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.
- 27. Construction Period. For activities that have not been verified by the Corps and the project was commenced or under contract to commence by the expiration date of the NWP (or modification or revocation date), the work must be completed within 12-months after such date (including any modification that affects the project).

For activities that have been verified and the project was commenced or under contract to commence within the verification period, the work must be completed by the date determined by the Corps.

For projects that have been verified by the Corps, an extension of a Corps approved completion date maybe requested. This request must be submitted at least one month before the previously approved completion date.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

- 1. District Engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of a 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**

<u>Best Management Practices (BMPs)</u>: BMPs are 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 nonstructural. A BMP policy may affect the limits on a development.

<u>Compensatory Mitigation</u>: For purposes of Section 10/404, compensatory mitigation is the restoration, creation, enhancement, or in exceptional circumstances, preservation of wetlands and/or other aquatic resources for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable adverse impacts, which remain, after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

<u>Creation</u>: The establishment of a wetland or other aquatic resource where one did not formerly exist.

<u>Enhancement</u>: Activities conducted in existing wetlands or other aquatic resources that increase one or more aquatic functions.

<u>Ephemeral Stream</u>: 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. Runnoff from rainfall is the primary source of water for stream flow.

*Farm Tract*: A unit of contiguous land under one ownership that is operated as a farm or part of a farm.

<u>Flood Fringe</u>: That portion of the 100-year floodplain outside of the floodway (often referred to as "floodway fringe").

<u>Floodway</u>: The area regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated amount (not to exceed one foot as set by the National Flood Insurance Program) within the 100-year floodplain.

<u>Independent Utility</u>: 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 multiphase 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.

<u>Intermittent Stream</u>: 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 US: Waters of the US that include the filled area and other waters that are permanently adversely affected by flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent above-grade, at-grade, or below-grade fills 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 US is the threshold measurement of the impact to existing waters for determining whether a project may qualify for a 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 values. The loss of stream bed includes the linear feet of stream bed that is filled or excavated. Waters of the US temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to preconstruction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the US. Impacts to ephemeral waters are only not included in the acreage or linear foot measurements of loss of waters of the US or loss of stream bed, for the purpose of determining compliance with the threshold limits of the NWPs.

Non-tidal Wetland: An area that, during a year with normal patterns of precipitation has standing or flowing water for sufficient duration to establish an ordinary high water mark. 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. The term "open water" includes rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. For the purposes of the NWPs, this term does not include ephemeral waters.

<u>Perennial Stream</u>: A perennial stream has flowing water year-round during a typical year. The water table is located above the stream bed for the 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.

<u>Permanent Above-grade Fill</u>: A discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, that results in a substantial increase in ground elevation and permanently converts part or all of the waterbody to dry land. Structural fills authorized by NWPs 3, 25, 36, etc. are not included.

<u>Preservation</u>: The protection of ecologically important wetlands or other aquatic resources in perpetuity through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation may include protection of upland areas adjacent to wetlands as necessary to ensure protection and/or enhancement of the overall aquatic ecosystem.

<u>Restoration</u>: Re-establishment of wetland and/or other aquatic resource characteristics and function(s) at a site where they have ceased to exist, or exist in a substantially degraded state.

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 course 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.

<u>Single and Complete Project</u>: 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 (see definition of independent utility). For linear projects, the "single and complete project" (i.e., a single and complete crossing) will apply to each crossing of a separate water of the US (i.e., a single waterbody) at that location. An exception is 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.

<u>Stormwater Management</u>: 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.

<u>Stormwater Management Facilities</u>: Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and BMPs, 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.

<u>Stream Channelization</u>: The manipulation of a stream channel to increase the rate of water flow through the stream channel. Manipulation may include deepening, widening, straightening, armoring, or other activities that change the stream cross-section or other aspects of stream channel geometry to increase the rate of water flow through the stream channel. A channelized stream remains a water of the US, despite the modifications to increase the rate of water flow.

<u>Tidal Wetland</u>: A tidal wetland is a wetland (i.e., water of the US) 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 (i.e., spring high tide line) and are inundated by tidal waters two times per lunar month, during spring high tides.

<u>Vegetated Buffer</u>: A vegetated upland or wetland area next to rivers, streams, lakes, or other open waters, which separates the open water from developed areas, including agricultural land. Vegetated buffers provide a variety of aquatic habitat functions and values (e.g., aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, moderation of water temperature changes, and detritus for aquatic food webs) and help improve or maintain local water quality. A vegetated buffer can be established by maintaining an existing vegetated area or planting native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants on land next to openwaters. Mowed lawns are not considered vegetated buffers because they provide little or no aquatic habitat functions and values. The establishment and maintenance of vegetated buffers I a method of compensatory mitigation that can be used in conjunction with the restoration, creation, enhancement or preservation of aquatic habitats to ensure that activities authorized by NWPs result in minimal adverse effects to the aquatic environment. (See General Condition 19.)

<u>Vegetated Shallows</u>: 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.

<u>Waterbody</u>: A waterbody is any area that in a normal year has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that evidence of an ordinary high water mark is established. Wetlands contiguous to the waterbody are considered part of the waterbody.

# FINAL REGIONAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMITS IN THE WILMINGTON DISTRICT

- 1. Waters Excluded from NWP or Subject to Additional Notification Requirements:
  - a. The Corps identified waters that will be excluded from use of this NWP. These waters are:
- 1. Discharges into Waters of the United States designated by either the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) as anadromous fish spawning area are prohibited during the period between February 15 and June 30, without prior written approval from NCDMF or NCWRC and the Corps.
- 2. Discharges into Waters of the United States designated as sturgeon spawning areas are prohibited during the period between February 1 and June 30, without prior written approval from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
- b. The Corps identified waters that will be subject to additional notification requirements for activities authorized by this NWP. These waters are:

- 1. Prior to the use of any NWP in any of the following North Carolina designated waters, applicants must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant must furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions of the applicable Nationwide Permit. The North Carolina designated waters that require additional notification requirements are "Outstanding Resource Waters" (ORW) and "High Quality Waters" (HQW) (as defined by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality), or "Inland Primary Nursery Areas" (IPNA) (as defined by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission), or contiguous wetlands (as defined by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality), or "Primary Nursery Areas" (PNA) (as defined by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries).
- 2. Applicants for any NWP in a designated "Area of Environmental Concern" (AEC) in the twenty (20) coastal counties of Eastern North Carolina covered by the North Carolina Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), must also obtain the required CAMA permit. Construction activities may not commence until a copy of the approved CAMA permit is furnished to the appropriate Wilmington District Regulatory Field Office (Wilmington Field Office P.O. Box 1890, Wilmington, NC 28402 or Washington Field Office P.O. Box 1000, Washington, NC 27889) for authorization to begin work.
- 3. Prior to the use of any NWP on a Barrier Island of North Carolina, applicants must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable Nationwide Permit.
- 4. Prior to the use of any NWP in a "Mountain or Piedmont Bog" of North Carolina, applicants shall comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable NWP.

Note: The following wetland community types identified in the N.C. Natural Heritage Program document, "Classification of Natural communities of North Carolina (Michael P. Schafale and Alan S. Weakley, 1990), are subject to this regional condition.

#### Mountain Bogs

Swamp Forest-Bog Complex Swamp Forest-Bog Complex (Spruce Subtype) Southern Appalachian Bog (Northern Subtype) Southern Appalachian Bog (Southern Subtype) Southern Appalachian Fen <u>Piedmont Bogs</u> Upland Depression Swamp Forest

5. Prior to the use of any NWP in Mountain Trout Waters within twenty-five (25) designated counties of North Carolina, applicants shall comply with Nationwide General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable NWP. Notification will include a letter of comments and recommendations from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), the

location of work, a delineation of wetlands, a discussion of alternatives to working in the Mountain Trout Waters, why other alternatives were not selected, and a plan to provide compensatory mitigation for all unavoidable adverse impacts to the Mountain Trout Waters. To facilitate coordination with the NCWRC, the proponent may provide a copy of the notification to the NCWRC concurrent with the notification to the District Engineer. The NCWRC will respond both to the proponent and directly to the Corps of Engineers.

The twenty-five (25) designated counties are:

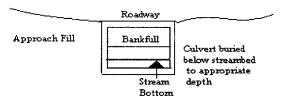
Alleghany	Ashe	Avery	Yancey
Buncombe	Burke	Caldwell	Wilkes
Cherokee	Clay	Graham	Swain
Haywood	Henderson	Jackson	Surry
Macon	Madison	McDowell	Stokes
Mitchell	Polk	Rutherford	
Transylvania	Watauga		

6. Applicants shall notify the NCDENR Shellfish Sanitation Section prior to dredging in or removing sediment from an area closed to shell fishing where the effluent may be released to an area open for shell fishing or swimming in order to avoid contamination of the disposal area and allow a temporary shellfish closure to be made. Any disposal of sand to the beach should occur between November 1 and April 30 when recreational usage is low. Only clean sand should be used and no dredged sand from closed shell fishing areas. If beach disposal was to occur at times other than stated above or if sand from a closed shell fishing area is to be used, a swim advisory shall be posted and a press release shall be made. NCDENR Shellfish Sanitation Section must be notified before commencing this activity.

## 2. List of Final Corps Regional Modifications and Conditions for All Nationwide Permits

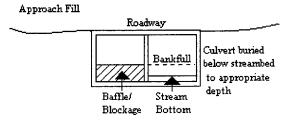
- a. Individual or multiple NWPs may not be used for activities that result in the cumulative loss or degradation of greater than 300 total linear feet of perennial streambed or intermittent streambed that exhibits important aquatic function(s).
- b. Prior to the use of any NWP (except 13, 27, and 39) for any activity that has more than a total of 150 total linear feet of perennial streambed impacts or intermittent streambed impacts (if the intermittent stream has important aquatic function), the applicant must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable NWP. Compensatory mitigation is typically required for any impact that requires such notification. [Note: The Corps uses the Intermittent Channel Evaluation Form, located with Permit Information on the Regulatory Program Web Site, to aid in the determination of the intermittent channel stream status. Also, NWPs 13, 27 and 39 have specific reporting requirements.]

- c. For all Nationwide Permits which allow the use of concrete as a building material, measures will be taken to prevent live or fresh concrete, including bags of uncured concrete, from coming into contact with waters of the state until the concrete has hardened.
- d. For all Nationwide Permits that allow for the use of riprap material for bank stabilization, filter cloth must be placed underneath the riprap as an additional requirement of its use in North Carolina waters.
- e. For all NWPs that involve the construction of culverts, measures will be included in the construction that will promote the safe passage of fish and other aquatic organisms. All culverts in the 20 CAMA coastal counties must be buried to a depth of one foot below the



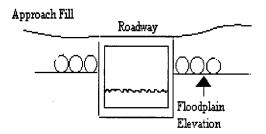
bed of the stream or wetland. For all culvert construction activities, the dimension, pattern, and profile of the stream, (above and below a pipe or culvert), should not be modified by widening the stream channel or by reducing the depth of the stream. Culvert inverts will be buried at least one foot below the bed of the stream for culverts greater than 48 inches in diameter. For culverts 48 inches in diameter or smaller, culverts must be buried below the bed of the stream to a depth equal to or greater than 20 percent of the diameter of the culvert. Bottomless arch culverts will satisfy this condition. A waiver from the depth specifications in this Regional Condition may be requested in writing. The waiver will only be issued if it can be demonstrated that the impacts of complying with this Regional Condition would result in more adverse impacts to the aquatic environment.

- 3. Additional Regional Conditions Applicable to this Specific Nationwide Permit.
- a. Natural channel design must be applied to the maximum extent practicable for stream relocations. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the N.C. Division of Water Quality provides Guidelines that are available to assist in the planning and design.
  - b. Bank-full flows (or less) shall be accommodated through maintenance of the



existing bank-full channel cross sectional area. Additional culverts at such crossings shall be allowed **only** to receive flows exceeding bank-full.

- c. Flows exceeding bank-full shall be accommodated by installing culverts at the floodplain elevation where adjacent floodplain is available.
  - d. NWP 14 cannot be used for private projects located in tidal waters or tidal wetlands.
- e. The activities associated with NWP 14 require a pre-construction notification if they will result in the loss of greater than 150 total linear feet of perennial streambed or intermittent stream that exhibits important aquatic function(s).



# NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY GENERAL CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS

For the most recent General Certification conditions, call the NC Division of Water Quality, Wetlands/401 Certification Unit at (919) 733-1786 or access the following website:

http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/ncwetlands/certs.html

# NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT STATE CONSISTENCY

#### Consistent.

#### Citations:

2002 Nationwide Permits - Federal Register Notice 15 Jan 2002

2002 Nationwide Permits Corrections - Federal Register Notice 13 Feb 2002

2002 Regional Conditions – Authorized 17 May 2002

#### **NATIONWIDE PERMIT 33**

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FINAL NOTICE OF ISSUANCE AND MODIFICATION OF NATIONWIDE PERMITS
FEDERAL REGISTER
AUTHORIZED MARCH 18, 2002

Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering: Temporary structures, work and discharges, including cofferdams, necessary for construction activities or access fills or dewatering of construction sites; provided that the associated primary activity is authorized by the Corps of Engineers or the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), or for other construction activities not subject to the Corps or USCG regulations. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain near normal downstream flows and to minimize flooding. Fill must be of materials, and placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. The use of dredged material may be allowed if it is determined by the District Engineer that it will not cause more than minimal adverse effects on aquatic resources. Temporary fill must be entirely removed to upland areas, or dredged material returned to its original location, following completion of the construction activity, and the affected areas must be restored to the pre-project conditions. Cofferdams cannot be used to dewater wetlands or other aquatic areas so as to change their use. Structures left in place after cofferdams are removed require a section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the United States. (See 33 CFR part 322). The permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with the "Notification" general condition. The notification must also include a restoration plan of reasonable measures to avoid and minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources. The District Engineer will add special conditions, where necessary, to ensure environmental adverse effects is minimal. Such conditions may include: Limiting the temporary work to the minimum necessary; requiring seasonal restrictions; modifying the restoration plan; and requiring alternative construction methods (e.g., construction mats in wetlands where practicable.). (Sections 10 and 404)

#### **NATIONWIDE PERMIT GENERAL CONDITIONS**

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

- 1. Navigation. No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.
- 2. Proper Maintenance. Any structure or fill authorized shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Equipment. Heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.
- 6. 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 or tribe in its Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.
- 7. 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).
- 8. 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.
  - 9. Water Quality.

- a. In certain states and tribal lands an individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (See 33 CFR 330.4(c)).
- b. For NWPs 12, 14, 17, 18, 32, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44, where the state or tribal 401 certification (either generically or individually) does not require or approve water quality management measures, the permittee must provide water quality management measures that will ensure that the authorized work does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality (or the Corps determines that compliance with state or local standards, where applicable, will ensure no more than minimal adverse effect on water quality). An important component of water quality management includes stormwater management that minimizes degradation of the downstream aquatic system, including water quality (refer to General Condition 21 for stormwater management requirements). Another important component of water quality management is the establishment and maintenance of vegetated buffers next to open waters, including streams (refer to General Condition 19 for vegetated buffer requirements for the NWPs).

This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect water quality. While appropriate measures must be taken, in most cases it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or to require monitoring.

10. Coastal Zone Management. In certain states, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)).

#### 11. Endangered Species.

- a. No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened 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. 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 is located in the 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 may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the 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. 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 NWPs.
- b. 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 USFWS 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 USFWS and NMFS or their World Wide

Web pages at http://www.fws.gov/r9endspp/endspp.html and http://www.nfms.noaa.gov/prot res/overview/es.html respectively.

12. Historic Properties. No activity that may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places is authorized, until the District Engineer has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR part 325, Appendix Complied with the provisions of 33 CFR part 325, Appendix Complied with the provisions of 33 CFR part 325, Appendix Complied to the District Engineer if the authorized activity may affect any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible, or which the prospective permittee has reason to believe may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and shall not begin the activity until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. Information on the location and existence of historic resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the notification must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property.

## 13. Notification.

- a. Timing; where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer with a preconstruction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The District Engineer must determine if the notification is complete within 30 days of the date of receipt and can 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 notification 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 notified in writing by the District or Division Engineer that an Individual Permit is required; or
- 3. Unless 45 days have passed from the District Engineer's receipt of the complete notification and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the District or Division Engineer. 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 Notification: The notification 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. Brief 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. 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. For NWPs 7, 12, 14, 18, 21, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43, the PCN must also include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands, vegetated shallows (e.g., submerged aquatic vegetation, seagrass beds), and riffle and pool complexes (see paragraph 13(f));
- 5. For NWP 7 (Cutfall Structures and Maintenance), the PCN must include information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of those areas of the facility where maintenance dredging or excavation is proposed;
- 6. For NWP 14 (Linear Transportation Projects), the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset permanent losses of waters of the US and a statement describing how temporary losses of waters of the US will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable;
- 7. For NWP 21 (Surface Coal Mining Activities), the PCN must include an Office of Surface Mining (OSM) or state-approved mitigation plan, if applicable. To be authorized by this NWP, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively and must notify the project sponsor of this determination in writing;
- 8. For NWP 27 (Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities), the PCN must include documentation of the prior condition of the site that will be reverted by the permittee;
  - 9. For NWP 29 (Single-Family Housing), the PCN must also include:
- i. Any past use of this NWP by the Individual Permittee and/or the permittee's spouse;
- ii. A statement that the single-family housing activity is for a personal residence of the permittee;
- iii. A description of the entire parcel, including its size, and a delineation of wetlands. For the purpose of this NWP, parcels of land measuring \1/4\-acre or less will not require a formal on-site delineation. However, the applicant shall provide an indication of where the wetlands are and the amount of wetlands that exists on the property. For parcels greater than \1/4\-acre in size, formal wetland delineation must be prepared in accordance with the current

method required by the Corps. (See paragraph 13(f));

- iv. A written description of all land (including, if available, legal descriptions) owned by the prospective permittee and/or the prospective permittee's spouse, within a one mile radius of the parcel, in any form of ownership (including any land owned as a partner, corporation, joint tenant, co-tenant, or as a tenant-by-the-entirety) and any land on which a purchase and sale agreement or other contract for sale or purchase has been executed;
- 10. For NWP 31 (Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities), the prospective permittee must either notify the District Engineer with a PCN prior to each maintenance activity or submit a five-year (or less) maintenance plan. In addition, the PCN must include all of the following:
- i. Sufficient baseline information identifying the approved channel depths and configurations and existing facilities. Minor deviations are authorized, provided the approved flood control protection or drainage is not increased;
  - ii. A delineation of any affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands; and,
  - iii. Location of the dredged material disposal site;
- 11. For NWP 33 (Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering), the PCN must also include a restoration plan of reasonable measures to avoid and minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources;
- 12. For NWPs 39, 43 and 44, the PCN must also include a written statement to the District Engineer explaining how avoidance and minimization for losses of waters of the US were achieved on the project site;
- 13. For NWP 39 and NWP 42, the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US or justification explaining why compensatory mitigation should not be required. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;
- 14. For NWP 40 (Agricultural Activities), the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of greater than 300 linear feet of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams unless, for drainage ditches constructed in intermittent nontidal streams, the District Engineer waives this criterion in writing, and the District Engineer has determined that the project complies with all terms and conditions of this NWP, and that any adverse impacts of the project on the aquatic environment are minimal, both individually and cumulatively;

- 15. For NWP 43 (Stormwater Management Facilities), the PCN must include, for the construction of new stormwater management facilities, a maintenance plan (in accordance with state and local requirements, if applicable) and a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;
- 16. For NWP 44 (Mining Activities), the PCN must include a description of all waters of the US adversely affected by the project, a description of measures taken to minimize adverse effects to waters of the US, a description of measures taken to comply with the criteria of the NWP, and a reclamation plan (for all aggregate mining activities in isolated waters and non-tidal wetlands adjacent to headwaters and any hard rock/mineral mining activities);
- 17. For activities that may adversely affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species, the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work; and
- 18. For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, 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.
- c. Form of Notification: The standard Individual Permit application form (Form ENG 4345) may be used as the notification but must clearly indicate that it is a PCN and must include all of the information required in (b) (1)-(18) of General Condition 13. A letter containing the requisite information may also be used.
- d. 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. The prospective permittee may submit a proposed mitigation plan with the PCN to expedite the process. 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. 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 is required to submit a compensatory mitigation proposal with the PCN, the proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. 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 days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the conceptual or specific 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 proposal 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 proposal that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level. When conceptual mitigation is included, or a mitigation plan is required under item (2) above, no work in waters of the US will occur until the District Engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan.
- e. Agency Coordination: 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.

For activities requiring notification to the District Engineer that result in the loss of greater than \1/2\-acre of waters of the US, the District Engineer will provide immediately (e.g., via facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy to the appropriate Federal or state offices (USFWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), 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 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 notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. As required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens

Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the District Engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations. Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps multiple copies of notifications to expedite agency notification.

- f. Wetland Delineations: Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps (For NWP 29 see paragraph (b)(9)(iii) for parcels less than (\1/4\-acre in size). The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic site. There may be some delay if the Corps does the delineation. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the wetland delineation has been completed and submitted to the Corps, where appropriate.
- \*14. Compliance Certification. Every permittee who has received NWP verification from the Corps will submit a signed certification regarding the completed work and any required mitigation. The certification will be forwarded by the Corps with the authorization letter and will include:
- a. A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the Corps 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.
- 15. 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 US authorized by the NWPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit (e.g. 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 US for the total project cannot exceed \ 1/3\-acre).
- 16. Water Supply Intakes. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake except where the activity is for repair of the public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.
- 17. Shellfish Beds. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWP 4.
- 18. Suitable Material. No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may consist of unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.) and material used for construction or discharged must be free

from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see section 307 of the CWA).

- 19. Mitigation. The District Engineer will consider the factors discussed below when determining the acceptability of appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to offset adverse effects on the aquatic environment that are more than minimal.
- a. The project must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects to waters of the US 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 impacts requiring a PCN, 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. Consistent with National policy, the District Engineer will establish a preference for restoration of wetlands as compensatory mitigation, with preservation used only in exceptional circumstances.
- d. Compensatory mitigation (i.e., replacement or substitution of aquatic resources for those impacted) will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of some of the NWPs. For example, \1/4\-acre of wetlands cannot be created to change a,\3/4\acre loss of wetlands to a \1/2\-acre loss associated with NWP 39 verification. However, \1/2\-acre of created wetlands can be used to reduce the impacts of a \1/2\-acre loss of wetlands to the minimum impact level in order to meet the minimal impact requirement associated with NWPs.
- e. To be practicable, the mitigation must be available and capable of being done considering costs, existing technology, and logistics in light of the overall project purposes. Examples of mitigation that may be appropriate and practicable include, but are not limited to: reducing the size of the project; establishing and maintaining wetland or upland vegetated buffers to protect open waters such as streams; and replacing losses of aquatic resource functions and values by creating, restoring, enhancing, or preserving similar functions and values, preferably in the same watershed.
- 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., easements, deed restrictions) of vegetated buffers to open waters. In many cases, vegetated buffers will be the only compensatory mitigation required. Vegetated buffers should consist of native species. The width of the vegetated buffers required will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the vegetated buffer will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the District Engineers may require slightly wider vegetated buffers to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the Corps will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., stream buffers or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic

environment or, a watershed basis. In cases where vegetated buffers 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 impacts.

- g. Compensatory mitigation proposals submitted with the "notification" may be either conceptual or detailed. If conceptual plans are approved under the verification, then the Corps will condition the verification to require detailed plans be submitted and approved by the Corps prior to construction of the authorized activity in waters of the US.
- h. Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee arrangements or separate activity-specific compensatory mitigation. In all cases that require compensatory mitigation, the mitigation provisions will specify the party responsible for accomplishing and/or complying with the mitigation plan.
- 20. Spawning Areas. Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., excavate, fill, or smother downstream by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.
- 21. Management of Water Flows. To the maximum extent practicable, the activity must be designed to maintain preconstruction downstream flow conditions (e.g., location, capacity, and flow rates). Furthermore, the activity must not permanently restrict or impede the passage of normal or expected high flows (unless the primary purpose of the fill is to impound waters) and the structure or discharge of dredged or fill material must withstand expected high flows. The activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, provide for retaining excess flows from the site, provide for maintaining surface flow rates from the site similar to preconstruction conditions, and provide for not increasing water flows from the project site, relocating water, or redirecting water flow beyond preconstruction conditions. Stream channelizing will be reduced to the minimal amount necessary, and the activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, reduce adverse effects such as flooding or erosion downstream and upstream of the project site, unless the activity is part of a larger system designed to manage water flows. In most cases, it will not be a requirement to conduct detailed studies and monitoring of water flow.

This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect waterflows. While appropriate measures must be taken, it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or require monitoring to ensure their effectiveness. Normally, the Corps will defer to state and local authorities regarding management of water flow.

- 22. Adverse Effects From Impoundments. If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to the acceleration of the passage of water, and/or the restricting its flow shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. This includes structures and work in navigable waters of the US, or discharges of dredged or fill material.
  - 23. Waterfowl Breeding Areas. Activities, including structures and work in navigable

waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, into breeding areas for migratory waterfowl must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

- 24. Removal of Temporary Fills. Any temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to their preexisting elevation.
- 25. Designated Critical Resource Waters. Critical resource waters include, NOAA-designated marine sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, critical habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species, coral reefs, 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. Except as noted below, discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters. Discharges of dredged or fill materials into waters of the US may be authorized by the above NWPs in National Wild and Scenic Rivers if the activity complies with General Condition 7. Further, such discharges may be authorized in designated critical habitat for Federally listed threatened or endangered species if the activity complies with General Condition 11 and the USFWS or the NMFS has concurred in a determination of compliance with this condition.
- 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 13, 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.
- 26. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains. For purposes of this General Condition, 100-year floodplains will be identified through the existing Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps or FEMA-approved local floodplain maps.
- a. Discharges in Floodplain; Below Headwaters. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the mapped 100year floodplain, below headwaters (i.e. five cfs), resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWPs 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44.
- b. Discharges in Floodway; Above Headwaters. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the FEMA or locally mapped floodway, resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWPs 39, 40, 42, and 44.
- c. The permittee must comply with any applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.
  - 27. Construction Period. For activities that have not been verified by the Corps and the

project was commenced or under contract to commence by the expiration date of the NWP (or modification or revocation date), the work must be completed within 12-months after such date (including any modification that affects the project).

For activities that have been verified and the project was commenced or under contract to commence within the verification period, the work must be completed by the date determined by the Corps.

For projects that have been verified by the Corps, an extension of a Corps approved completion date maybe requested. This request must be submitted at least one month before the previously approved completion date.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

- 1. District Engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of a 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**

<u>Best Management Practices (BMPs)</u>: BMPs are 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 nonstructural. A BMP policy may affect the limits on a development.

<u>Compensatory Mitigation</u>: For purposes of Section 10/404, compensatory mitigation is the restoration, creation, enhancement, or in exceptional circumstances, preservation of wetlands and/or other aquatic resources for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable adverse impacts, which remain, after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

<u>Creation</u>: The establishment of a wetland or other aquatic resource where one did not formerly exist.

**Enhancement:** Activities conducted in existing wetlands or other aquatic resources that increase

one or more aquatic functions.

<u>Ephemeral Stream</u>: 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. Runnoff from rainfall is the primary source of water for stream flow.

*Farm Tract*: A unit of contiguous land under one ownership that is operated as a farm or part of a farm.

*Flood Fringe*: That portion of the 100-year floodplain outside of the floodway (often referred to as "floodway fringe").

<u>Floodway</u>: The area regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated amount (not to exceed one foot as set by the National Flood Insurance Program) within the 100-year floodplain.

<u>Independent Utility</u>: 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 multiphase 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.

<u>Intermittent Stream</u>: 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 US: Waters of the US that include the filled area and other waters that are permanently adversely affected by flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent above-grade, at-grade, or below-grade fills 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 US is the threshold measurement of the impact to existing waters for determining whether a project may qualify for a 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 values. The loss of stream bed includes the linear feet of stream bed that is filled or excavated. Waters of the US temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to preconstruction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the US. Impacts to ephemeral waters are only not included in the acreage or linear foot measurements of loss of waters of the US or loss of stream bed, for the purpose of determining compliance with the threshold limits of the NWPs.

Non-tidal Wetland: An area that, during a year with normal patterns of precipitation has

standing or flowing water for sufficient duration to establish an ordinary high water mark. 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. The term "open water" includes rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. For the purposes of the NWPs, this term does not include ephemeral waters.

<u>Perennial Stream</u>: A perennial stream has flowing water year-round during a typical year. The water table is located above the stream bed for the 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.

<u>Permanent Above-grade Fill</u>: A discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, that results in a substantial increase in ground elevation and permanently converts part or all of the waterbody to dry land. Structural fills authorized by NWPs 3, 25, 36, etc. are not included.

<u>Preservation</u>: The protection of ecologically important wetlands or other aquatic resources in perpetuity through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation may include protection of upland areas adjacent to wetlands as necessary to ensure protection and/or enhancement of the overall aquatic ecosystem.

<u>Restoration</u>: Re-establishment of wetland and/or other aquatic resource characteristics and function(s) at a site where they have ceased to exist, or exist in a substantially degraded state.

<u>Riffle and Pool Complex</u>: 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 course 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.

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 (see definition of independent utility). For linear projects, the "single and complete project" (i.e., a single and complete crossing) will apply to each crossing of a separate water of the US (i.e., a single waterbody) at that location. An exception is 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.

<u>Stormwater Management</u>: 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.

<u>Stormwater Management Facilities</u>: Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and BMPs, 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.

<u>Stream Channelization</u>: The manipulation of a stream channel to increase the rate of water flow through the stream channel. Manipulation may include deepening, widening, straightening, armoring, or other activities that change the stream cross-section or other aspects of stream channel geometry to increase the rate of water flow through the stream channel. A channelized stream remains a water of the US, despite the modifications to increase the rate of water flow.

<u>Tidal Wetland</u>: A tidal wetland is a wetland (i.e., water of the US) 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 (i.e., spring high tide line) and are inundated by tidal waters two times per lunar month, during spring high tides.

<u>Vegetated Buffer</u>: A vegetated upland or wetland area next to rivers, streams, lakes, or other open waters, which separates the open water from developed areas, including agricultural land. Vegetated buffers provide a variety of aquatic habitat functions and values (e.g., aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, moderation of water temperature changes, and detritus for aquatic food webs) and help improve or maintain local water quality. A vegetated buffer can be established by maintaining an existing vegetated area or planting native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants on land next to openwaters. Mowed lawns are not considered vegetated buffers because they provide little or no aquatic habitat functions and values. The establishment and maintenance of vegetated buffers I a method of compensatory mitigation that can be used in conjunction with the restoration, creation, enhancement or preservation of aquatic habitats to ensure that activities authorized by NWPs result in minimal adverse effects to the aquatic environment. (See General Condition 19.)

<u>Vegetated Shallows</u>: 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.

<u>Waterbody</u>: A waterbody is any area that in a normal year has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that evidence of an ordinary high water mark is established. Wetlands contiguous to the waterbody are considered part of the waterbody.

## FINAL REGIONAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMITS IN THE WILMINGTON DISTRICT

- 1. Waters Excluded from NWP or Subject to Additional Notification Requirements:
  - a. The Corps identified waters that will be excluded from use of this NWP. These waters are:
- 1. Discharges into Waters of the United States designated by either the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) as anadromous fish spawning area are prohibited during the period between February 15 and June 30, without prior written approval from NCDMF or NCWRC and the Corps.
- 2. Discharges into Waters of the United States designated as sturgeon spawning areas are prohibited during the period between February 1 and June 30, without prior written approval from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
- b. The Corps identified waters that will be subject to additional notification requirements for activities authorized by this NWP. These waters are:
- 1. Prior to the use of any NWP in any of the following North Carolina designated waters, applicants must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant must furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions of the applicable Nationwide Permit. The North Carolina designated waters that require additional notification requirements are "Outstanding Resource Waters" (ORW) and "High Quality Waters" (HQW) (as defined by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality), or "Inland Primary Nursery Areas" (IPNA) (as defined by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission), or contiguous wetlands (as defined by the North Carolina Division of Water Quality), or "Primary Nursery Areas" (PNA) (as defined by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries).
- 2. Applicants for any NWP in a designated "Area of Environmental Concern" (AEC) in the twenty (20) coastal counties of Eastern North Carolina covered by the North Carolina Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), must also obtain the required CAMA permit. Construction activities may not commence until a copy of the approved CAMA permit is furnished to the appropriate Wilmington District Regulatory Field Office (Wilmington Field Office P.O. Box 1890, Wilmington, NC 28402 or Washington Field Office P.O. Box 1000, Washington, NC 27889) for authorization to begin work.
- 3. Prior to the use of any NWP on a Barrier Island of North Carolina, applicants must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable Nationwide Permit.

4. Prior to the use of any NWP in a "Mountain or Piedmont Bog" of North Carolina, applicants shall comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable NWP.

Note: The following wetland community types identified in the N.C. Natural Heritage Program document, "Classification of Natural communities of North Carolina (Michael P. Schafale and Alan S. Weakley, 1990), are subject to this regional condition.

#### **Mountain Bogs**

Piedmont Bogs

Swamp Forest-Bog Complex

Upland Depression Swamp Forest

Swamp Forest-Bog Complex (Spruce Subtype) Southern Appalachian Bog (Northern Subtype) Southern Appalachian Bog (Southern Subtype)

Southern Appalachian Fen

5. Prior to the use of any NWP in Mountain Trout Waters within twenty-five (25) designated counties of North Carolina, applicants shall comply with Nationwide General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable NWP. Notification will include a letter of comments and recommendations from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), the location of work, a delineation of wetlands, a discussion of alternatives to working in the Mountain Trout Waters, why other alternatives were not selected, and a plan to provide compensatory mitigation for all unavoidable adverse impacts to the Mountain Trout Waters. To facilitate coordination with the NCWRC, the proponent may provide a copy of the notification to the NCWRC concurrent with the notification to the District Engineer. The NCWRC will respond both to the proponent and directly to the Corps of Engineers.

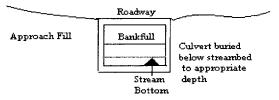
The twenty-five (25) designated counties are:

Ashe	Avery	Yancey
Burke	Caldwell	Wilkes
Clay	Graham	Swain
Henderson	Jackson	Surry
Madison	McDowell	Stokes
Polk	Rutherford	
Watauga		
	Burke Clay Henderson Madison Polk	Burke Caldwell Clay Graham Henderson Jackson Madison McDowell Polk Rutherford

6. Applicants shall notify the NCDENR Shellfish Sanitation Section prior to dredging in or removing sediment from an area closed to shell fishing where the effluent may be released to an area open for shell fishing or swimming in order to avoid contamination of the disposal area and allow a temporary shellfish closure to be made. Any disposal of sand to the beach should occur between November 1 and April 30 when recreational usage is low. Only clean sand should be used and no dredged sand from closed shell fishing areas. If beach disposal was to occur at times other than stated above or if sand from a closed shell fishing area is to be used, a

swim advisory shall be posted and a press release shall be made. NCDENR Shellfish Sanitation Section must be notified before commencing this activity.

- 2. List of Final Corps Regional Modifications and Conditions for All Nationwide Permits
- a. Individual or multiple NWPs may not be used for activities that result in the cumulative loss or degradation of greater than 300 total linear feet of perennial streambed or intermittent streambed that exhibits important aquatic function(s).
- b. Prior to the use of any NWP (except 13, 27, and 39) for any activity that has more than a total of 150 total linear feet of perennial streambed impacts or intermittent streambed impacts (if the intermittent stream has important aquatic function), the applicant must comply with Nationwide Permit General Condition 13. In addition, the applicant shall furnish a written statement of compliance with all of the conditions listed of the applicable NWP. Compensatory mitigation is typically required for any impact that requires such notification. [Note: The Corps uses the Intermittent Channel Evaluation Form, located with Permit Information on the Regulatory Program Web Site, to aid in the determination of the intermittent channel stream status. Also, NWPs 13, 27 and 39 have specific reporting requirements.]
- c. For all Nationwide Permits which allow the use of concrete as a building material, measures will be taken to prevent live or fresh concrete, including bags of uncured concrete, from coming into contact with waters of the state until the concrete has hardened.
- d. For all Nationwide Permits that allow for the use of riprap material for bank stabilization, filter cloth must be placed underneath the riprap as an additional requirement of its use in North Carolina waters.
- e. For all NWPs that involve the construction of culverts, measures will be included in the construction that will promote the safe passage of fish and other aquatic organisms. All culverts in the 20 CAMA coastal counties must be buried to a depth of one foot below the



bed of the stream or wetland. For all culvert construction activities, the dimension, pattern, and profile of the stream, (above and below a pipe or culvert), should not be modified by widening the stream channel or by reducing the depth of the stream. Culvert inverts will be buried at least one foot below the bed of the stream for culverts greater than 48 inches in diameter. For culverts 48 inches in diameter or smaller, culverts must be buried below the bed of the stream to a depth equal to or greater than 20 percent of the diameter of the culvert. Bottomless arch culverts will satisfy this condition. A waiver from the depth specifications in this Regional Condition may be requested in writing. The waiver will only be issued if it can be demonstrated that the impacts of complying with this Regional Condition would result in more adverse impacts to the aquatic

environment.

3. Additional Regional Conditions Applicable to this Specific Nationwide Permit.

The required restoration plan must include a timetable for restoration activities.

# NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY GENERAL CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS

For the most recent General Certification conditions, call the NC Division of Water Quality, Wetlands/401 Certification Unit at (919) 733-1786 or access the following website:

http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/ncwetlands/certs.html

# NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT STATE CONSISTENCY

Consistent.

#### Citations:

2002 Nationwide Permits - Federal Register Notice 15 Jan 2002 2002 Nationwide Permits Corrections - Federal Register Notice 13 Feb 2002 2002 Regional Conditions - Authorized 17 May 2002

William G. Ross Jr., Secretary

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Alan W. Klimek, P.E. Director Division of Water Quality



FICE **OF NATURAL ENVIRO**NMENT

OF NATURAL ENVIRU

March 31, 2006

Pitt County DWQ Project No. 20060310 SR 1708 (Fire Tower Road)

TIP Project No. U-3613B

#### APPROVAL of 401 Water Quality Certification and Neuse Buffer Authorization with Additional Conditions

Subject:

401 Water Quality Certification for the Proposed Widening of SR 1708 (Fire Tower Road)

from NC 11/903 (Memorial Drive) to SR 1709 (Corey Road) in Pitt County, Federal Project

No. MASTP-1708(1), State Project No. 8.2220901, TIP Project No. U-3613B.

Dr. Gregory J. Thorpe, PhD., Manager Planning and Environmental Branch North Carolina Department of Transportation 1548 Mail Service Center Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-1548

Dear Dr. Thorpe:

You have our approval, in accordance with the attached conditions and those listed below, to place permanent fill material, culverts, and piping in 277 linear feet of streams with 147 linear feet of temporary impact (424 linear feet total) for the purpose of widening SR 1708 in Pitt County. The stream impacts are approved as presented in the tables below.

Stream Impacts in the Neuse River Basin

Site	Stream Name	Туре	Stream Classification/ Index No.	Impact Type	Impacts (Linear Feet)
1	UT to Fork Swamp	Perennial	Class C;Sw;NSW/ 27-97-4	Permanent	196
				Temporary	77
3	UT to Fork Swamp	Perennial	Class C;Sw;NSW/ 27-97-4	Permanent	81
				Temporary	70
Total					424

Total Stream Impacts for Project: 424 linear feet



**Buffer Impacts in the Neuse river Basin** 

Site	Zone 1 Impact (sq ft)	minus Wetlands in Zone 1 (sq ft)	= Zone 1 Buffers (not wetlands) (sq ft)	Zone 1 Buffer Mitigation Required (using 3:1 ratio)	Zone 2 Impact (sq ft)	minus Wetlands in Zone 2 (sq ft)	= Zone 2 Buffers (not wetlands) (sq ft)	Zone 2 Buffer Mitigation Required (using 1.5:1 ratio)
1	15,908	0	15,908	47,724	5,386	0	5,386	8,079
2	8,134	0	8,134	24,402	6,911	0	6,911	10,367
3	10,527	0	10,527	31,581	5,419	0	5,419	8,129
Total	34,569	0	34,569	103,707	17,716	0	17,716	26,575

Total Buffer Impacts for Project: 52,285 square feet

The project shall be constructed in accordance with your application dated February 23, 2006 (received February 24, 2006). After reviewing your application, we have decided that this fill is covered by General Water Quality Certification Numbers 3404 and 3366. These certifications correspond to Nationwide Permit 14 and 33 issued by the Corps of Engineers. In addition, you should acquire any other federal, state or local permits before you proceed with your project including (but not limited to) Sediment and Erosion Control, Non-Discharge and Water Supply Watershed regulations. This approval will expire with the accompanying 404 permit, unless otherwise specified in the Water Quality Certification.

This approval is valid solely for the purpose and design described in your application (unless modified below). Should your project change, you must notify the DWQ and submit a new application. If the property is sold, the new owner must be given a copy of this Certification and approval letter, and is thereby responsible for complying with all the conditions. If total wetland fills for this project (now or in the future) exceed one acre, or of total impacts to streams (now or in the future) exceed 150 linear feet, compensatory mitigation may be required as described in 15A NCAC 2H .0506 (h) (6) and (7). For this approval to remain valid, you must adhere to the conditions listed below and in the attached certification.

- \$\formular!\text{1.} Compensatory mitigation for 196 linear feet of impact to streams and for impacts to 34,569 square feet of protected riparian buffers in Zone 1 and 17,716 square feet of protected riparian buffers in Zone 2 is required. We understand that you have chosen to perform compensatory mitigation for impacts to streams and protected buffers through the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP), and that the EEP has agreed to implement the mitigation for the project. Mitigation for unavoidable impacts to Neuse Riparian Buffers shall be provided in the Neuse River Basin and done in accordance with 15A NCAC 2B .0233. EEP has indicated in a letter dated November 7, 2005 that they will assume responsibility for satisfying the federal Clean Water Act compensatory mitigation requirements and the 15A NCAC 2B .0233 compensatory mitigation requirements for the above-referenced project, in accordance with the Tri-Party MOA signed on July 22, 2003 and the Dual-Party MOA signed on April 12, 2004.
  - 2. The dimension, pattern and profile of the stream above and below the crossings should not be modified. Disturbed floodplains and streams should be restored to natural geomorphic conditions.
  - 3. All stormwater runoff shall be directed as sheetflow through stream buffers at non-erosive velocities, unless otherwise approved by this certification.

- 4. All riparian buffers impacted by the placement of temporary fill or clearing activities shall be restored to the pre-construction contours and re-vegetated. Maintained buffers shall be permanently re-vegetated with non-woody species by the end of the growing season following completion of construction. For the purpose of this condition, maintained buffer areas are defined as areas within the transportation corridor that will be subject to regular NCDOT maintenance activities including mowing. The area with non-maintained buffers shall be permanently revegetated, with native woody species before the next growing season following completion of construction.
- 5. Pursuant to NCAC15A 2B .0233(6), sediment and erosion control devices shall not be placed in Zone 1 of any Neuse Buffer without prior approval by the NCDWQ. At this time, the NCDWQ has approved no sediment and erosion control devices in Zone 1, outside of the approved project impacts, anywhere on this project. Moreover, sediment and erosion control devices shall be allowed in Zone 2 of the buffers provided that Zone 1 is not compromised and that discharge is released as diffuse flow.
- 6. Erosion and sediment control practices must be in full compliance with all specifications governing the proper design, installation and operation and maintenance of such Best Management Practices in order to protect surface waters standards:
  - a. The erosion and sediment control measures for the project must be designed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the most recent version of the *North Carolina Sediment and Erosion Control Planning and Design Manual*.
  - b. The design, installation, operation, and maintenance of the sediment and erosion control measures must be such that they equal, or exceed, the requirements specified in the most recent version of the *North Carolina Sediment and Erosion Control Manual*. The devices shall be maintained on all construction sites, borrow sites, and waste pile (spoil) projects, including contractor-owned or leased borrow pits associated with the project.
  - c. For borrow pit sites, the erosion and sediment control measures must be designed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the most recent version of the *North Carolina Surface Mining Manual*.
  - d. The reclamation measures and implementation must comply with the reclamation in accordance with the requirements of the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act.
- 7. Sediment and erosion control measures shall not be placed in wetlands or waters to the maximum extent practical. If placement of sediment and erosion control devices in wetlands and waters is unavoidable, they shall be removed and the natural grade restored upon completion of the project.
- 8. If the Permittee proposes the use of rip-rap for stream stability, the amount of rip-rap used shall be minimized. Any rip-rap placed for stream stabilization shall be placed in stream channels in such a manner that it does not impede aquatic life passage.
- 9. If concrete is used during construction, a dry work area should be maintained to prevent direct contact between curing concrete and stream water. Water that inadvertently contacts uncured concrete should not be discharged to surface waters due to the potential for elevated pH and possible aquatic life and fish kills.
- 10. No rock, sand or other materials shall be dredged from the stream channel except where authorized by this certification.

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- 11. There shall be no excavation from or waste disposal into jurisdictional wetlands or waters associated with this permit without appropriate modification of this permit. Should waste or borrow sites be located in wetlands or stream, compensatory mitigation will be required since it is a direct impact from road construction activities.
- 12. All work in or adjacent to stream waters shall be conducted in a dry work area. Approved BMP measures from the most current version of NCDOT Construction and Maintenance Activities manual such as sandbags, rock berms, cofferdams and other diversion structures shall be used to prevent excavation in flowing water.
- 13. All fill slopes located in jurisdictional wetlands shall be placed at slopes no flatter than 3:1, unless otherwise authorized by this certification.
- 14. There shall be no excavation from, or waste disposal into, jurisdictional wetlands or waters associated with this permit without appropriate modification. Should waste or borrow sites be located in wetlands or streams, compensatory mitigation will be required since that is a direct impact from road construction activities.
- 15. Placement of culverts and other structures in waters, streams, and wetlands shall be placed below the elevation of the streambed by one foot for all culverts with a diameter greater than 48 inches, and 20 percent of the culvert diameter for culverts having a diameter less than 48 inches, to allow low flow passage of water and aquatic life. Design and placement of culverts and other structures including temporary erosion control measures shall not be conducted in a manner that may result in dis-equilibrium of wetlands or streambeds or banks, adjacent to or upstream and down stream of the above structures. The applicant is required to provide evidence that the equilibrium is being maintained if requested in writing by DWQ. If this condition is unable to be met due to bedrock or other limiting features encountered during construction, please contact the NC DWQ for guidance on how to proceed and to determine whether or not a permit modification will be required.
- 16. During the construction of the project, no staging of equipment of any kind is permitted in waters of the U.S., or protected riparian buffers.
- 17. Heavy equipment shall be operated from the banks rather than in the stream channel in order to minimize sedimentation and reduce introduction of other pollutants into the stream.
- 18. All temporary fills in wetlands and surface waters shall be removed upon completion of the project. In addition, the post-construction removal of any temporary bridge structures or fill will need to return the project site to its pre-construction contours and elevations. The re-vegetation of the impacted areas with appropriate native species will be required.
- 19. Riparian vegetation must be reestablished within the construction limits of the project by the end of the growing season following completion of construction.
- 20. All mechanized equipment operated near surface waters must be regularly inspected and maintained to prevent contamination of stream waters from fuels, lubricants, hydraulic fluids, or other toxic materials.

- 21. Discharging hydroseed mixtures and washing out hydroseeders and other equipment in or adjacent to surface waters is prohibited.
- 22. Two copies of the final construction drawings shall be furnished to NCDWQ prior to the preconstruction meeting. Written verification shall be provided that the final construction drawings comply with the attached permit drawings contained in the application dated May 11, 2004.
- 23. The outside buffer, wetland or water boundary located within the construction corridor approved by this authorization shall be clearly marked by highly visible fencing prior to any land disturbing activities. Impacts to areas within the fencing are prohibited unless otherwise authorized by this certification.
- 24. The Permittee and its authorized agents shall conduct its activities in a manner consistent with State water quality standards (including any requirements resulting from compliance with §303(d) of the Clean Water Act) and any other appropriate requirements of State and Federal law. If DWQ determines that such standards or laws are not being met (including the failure to sustain a designated or achieved use) or that State or federal law is being violated, or that further conditions are necessary to assure compliance, DWQ may reevaluate and modify this certification.
- 25. A copy of this Water Quality Certification shall be posted on the construction site at all times. In addition, the Water Quality Certification and all subsequent modifications, if any, shall be maintained with the Division Engineer and the on-site project manager.

If you do not accept any of the conditions of this certification, you may ask for an adjudicatory hearing. You must act within 60 days of the date that you receive this letter. To ask for a hearing, send a written petition that conforms to Chapter 150B of the North Carolina General Statutes to the Office of Administrative Hearings, 6714 MSC, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-6714. This certification and its conditions are final and binding unless you ask for a hearing.

This letter completes the review of the Division of Water Quality under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Wrenn at 919-733-5715 or John Hennessy at 919-733-5694.

Sincerely,

Alan W. Klimek, P.E.

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#### Attachment

cc: William Wescott, Amy Corps of Engineers Washington Regulatory Field Office Garcy Ward, DWQ Washington Regional Office Travis Wilson, NC WRC Gary Jordan, US FWS Chris Militscher, US EPA File Copy Central Files

DWQ Project No.:	County:
Applicant:	
Project Name:	
Date of Issuance of 401 Water	Quality Certification:
Rules, and any subsequent modif 401/Wetlands Unit, North Caroli 27699-1621. This form may be r	proved within the 401 Water Quality Certification or applicable Buffer fications, the applicant is required to return this certificate to the ana Division of Water Quality, 1621 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC, returned to DWQ by the applicant, the applicant's authorized agent, or cessary to send certificates from all of these.
and diligence was used in the observation be built within substantial compl	, hereby state that, to the best of my abilities, due care servation of the construction such that the construction was observed to liance and intent of the 401 Water Quality Certification and Buffer Rules, tions, and other supporting materials.
Signature:	Date:
and diligence was used in the ob- be built within substantial compl	, hereby state that, to the best of my abilities, due care servation of the construction such that the construction was observed to liance and intent of the 401 Water Quality Certification and Buffer Rules, tions, and other supporting materials.
Signature:	Date:
Engineer's Certification Partial FI, of North Carolina, having been a the project, for the Permittee here in the observation of the construct	Final, as a duly registered Professional Engineer in the State authorized to observe (periodically, weekly, full time) the construction of eby state that, to the best of my abilities, due care and diligence was used ction such that the construction was observed to be built within at of the 401 Water Quality Certification and Buffer Rules, the approved
Signature	Registration No.

## WQC #3404 312

# GENERAL CERTIFICATION FOR PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR CORPS OF ENGINEERS NATIONWIDE PERMIT NUMBER 14 (ROAD CROSSINGS) AND REGIONAL GENERAL PERMIT 198200031 (WORK ASSOCIATED WITH BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE OR REPAIR CONDUCTED BY NCDOT OR OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES) AND RIPARIAN AREA PROTECTION RULES (BUFFER RULES)

This General Certification is issued in conformity with the requirements of Section 401, Public Laws 92-500 and 95-217 of the United States and subject to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (DWQ) Regulations in 15A NCAC 2H, Section .0500 and 15A NCAC 2B .0200 for the discharge of fill material to waters and adjacent wetland areas or to wetland areas that are not a part of the surface tributary system to interstate waters or navigable waters of the United States (i.e., isolated wetlands) as described in 33 CFR 330 Appendix A (B) (14) of the Corps of Engineers regulations (Nationwide Permit No. 14 and Regional General Permit 19820031) and for the Riparian Area Protection Rules (Buffer Rules) in 15A NCAC 2B .0200. The category of activities shall include any fill activity for road crossings and is limited to fill less than one-third acre in tidal waters and less than one-half acre in non-tidal waters. This Certification replaces Water Quality Certification Number 2177 issued on November 5, 1987, Water Quality Certification Number 2666 issued on January 21, 1992, Water Quality Certification Number 3103 issued on February 11, 1997, Water Quality Certification Number 3289 issued on June 1, 2000 and Water Quality Certification Number 3375 issued March 18, 2002. This WQC is rescinded when the Corps of Engineers reauthorizes Nationwide Permit 14 or Regional General Permit 198200031or when deemed appropriate by the Director of DWQ.

The State of North Carolina certifies that the specified category of activity will not violate applicable portions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Public Laws 92-500 and 95-217 if conducted in accordance with the conditions hereinafter set forth.

#### Conditions of Certification:

- 1. Enumerating and Reporting of Impacts:
  - Streams Impacts to streams as determined by the Division of Water Quality shall be measured as length of the centerline of the normal flow channel. Permanent and/or temporary stream impacts shall be enumerated on the entire project for all impacts regardless of which 404 Nationwide Permits are used. Stream relocations and stream bed and/or bank hardening are considered to be permanent stream impacts. Any activity that results in a loss of use of stream functions including but not limited to filling, relocating, flooding, dredging and complete shading shall be considered stream impacts. Enumeration of impacts to streams shall include streams enclosed by bottomless culverts, bottomless arches or other spanning structures when a 404 Permit is used anywhere in a project unless the entire structure (including construction impacts) spans the entire bed and both banks of the stream, is only used for a road, driveway or path crossing, and is not mitered to follow the stream pattern. Impacts for dam footprints and flooding will count toward the threshold for stream impacts, but flooding upstream of the dam will not (as long as no filling, excavation, relocation or other modification of the existing stream dimension, pattern or profile occurs) count towards mitigation requirements.
  - Wetlands Impacts to wetlands as determined by the Division of Water Quality shall be measured as area. Permanent and/or temporary wetland impacts shall be enumerated on the entire project for all impacts regardless of which 404 Nationwide Permits are used. Any activity that results in a loss of use of wetland functions including but not limited to filling, draining, and flooding shall be considered wetland impacts. Enumeration of impacts to wetlands shall include activities that change the hydrology of a wetland when a 404 Permit is used anywhere in a project.
  - Lakes and Ponds Lake and Pond Impacts Enumeration- Impacts to waters other than streams and wetlands as determined by the Division of Water Quality shall be measured as area. Permanent and/or temporary water impacts shall be enumerated on the entire project for all impacts proposed regardless of which 404 Nationwide Permits are used. Any activity that results in a loss of use of aquatic functions including but not limited to filling and dredging shall be considered waters impacts;
- 2. Proposed fill or substantial modification of wetlands or waters (including streams) under this General Certification requires application to and prior written concurrence from the Division of Water Quality;

- 3. Application to and payment of a fee to DWQ is not required for construction of a driveway to a single family lot as long as the driveway impacts less than 25 feet of stream channel including any in-stream stabilization needed for the crossing;
- 4. Impacts to any stream length in the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico or Randleman River Basins (or any other major river basins with Riparian Area Protection Rules [Buffer Rules] in effect at the time of application) requires written concurrence for this Certification from DWQ in accordance with 15A NCAC 2B.0200. Activities listed as "exempt" from these rules do not need to apply for written concurrence under this Certification. New development activities located in the protected 50-foot wide riparian areas (whether jurisdictional wetlands or not) within the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River Basins shall be limited to "uses" identified within and constructed in accordance with 15A NCAC 2B.0200. All new development shall be located, designed, constructed, and maintained to have minimal disturbance to protect water quality to the maximum extent practicable through the use of best management practices;
- 5. Irrespective of other application thresholds in this General Certification, all impacts to perennial waters and their associated buffers require written approval from DWQ since such impacts are allowable as provided in 15A NCAC 2B. 0212 (WS-I), 2B .0213 (WS-II), 2B .0214 (WS-III) and 2B .0215 (WS-IV). Only water dependent activities, public projects and structures with diminimus increases in impervious surfaces will be allowed as outlined in those rules. All other activities require a variance from the delegated local government and/or the NC Environmental Management Commission before the 401 Water Quality Certification can be processed. In addition, a 30 foot wide vegetative buffer for low density development or a 100 foot wide vegetative buffer for high density development must be maintained adjacent to all perennial waters except for allowances as provided under the Water Supply Watershed Protection Rules. For the purposes of this condition, perennial waters are defined as those shown as perennial waters on the most recent USGS 1:24,000 topographic map or as otherwise determined by local government studies:
- 6. Additional site-specific stormwater management requirements may be added to this Certification at DWQ's discretion on a case by case basis for projects that have or are anticipated to have impervious cover of greater than 30 percent. Site-specific stormwater management shall be designed to remove 85% TSS according to the latest version of DWQ's Stormwater Best Management Practices manual at a minimum.

Additionally, in watersheds within one mile and draining to 303(d) listed waters, as well as watersheds that are classified as nutrient sensitive waters (NSW), water supply waters (WS), trout waters (Tr), high quality waters (HQW), and outstanding resource waters (ORW), the Division shall require that extended detention wetlands, bio-retention areas, and ponds followed by forested filter strips (designed according to latest version of the NC DENR Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual) be constructed as part of the stormwater management plan when a site-specific stormwater management plan is required.

Alternative designs may be requested by the applicant and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Division of Water Quality.

Approval of stormwater management plans by the Division of Water Quality's other existing state stormwater programs including appropriate local programs are sufficient to satisfy this Condition as long as the stormwater management plans meet or exceed the design requirements specified in this condition. This condition applies unless more stringent requirements are in effect from other state water quality programs.

- Unless specified otherwise in the approval letter, the final, written stormwater management plan shall be approved in writing by the Division of Water Quality's Wetlands Unit before the impacts specified in this Certification occur.
- The facilities must be designed to treat the runoff from the entire project, unless otherwise explicitly approved by the Division of Water Quality.
- Also, before any permanent building or other structure is occupied at the subject site, the facilities (as approved by the Wetlands Unit) shall be constructed and operational, and the stormwater management plan (as approved by the Wetlands Unit) shall be implemented.

## WQC #3404 314

- The structural stormwater practices as approved by the Wetlands Unit as well as drainage patterns must be maintained in perpetuity.
- No changes to the structural stormwater practices shall be made without written authorization from the Division of Water Quality.
- 7. Compensatory stream mitigation shall be required at a 1:1 ratio for not only perennial but also intermittent stream impacts that require application to DWQ in watersheds classified as ORW, HQW, Tr, WS-I and WS-II unless the project is a linear, publicly-funded transportation project, which has a 150-foot per-stream impact allowance;
- 8. In accordance with North Carolina General Statute Section 143-215.3D(e), any application for a 401 Water Quality Certification must include the appropriate fee. If a project also requires a CAMA Permit, one payment to both agencies shall be submitted through the Division of Coastal Management and will be the higher of the two fees:
- 9. In accordance with 15A NCAC 2H .0506 (h) compensatory mitigation may be required for impacts to 150 linear feet or more of streams and/or one acre or more of wetlands. For linear public transportation projects, impacts equal to or exceeding 150 feet per stream may require mitigation. In addition, buffer mitigation may be required for any project with Buffer Rules in effect at the time of application for buffer impacts resulting from activities classified as "allowable with mitigation" within the "Table of Uses" section of the Buffer Rules or require a variance under the Buffer Rules. A determination of buffer, wetland and stream mitigation requirements shall be made for any Certification for this Nationwide Permit. The most current design and monitoring protocols from DWQ shall be followed and written plans submitted for DWQ approval as required in those protocols. When compensatory mitigation is required for a project, the mitigation plans must be approved by DWQ in writing before the impacts approved by the Certification occur, unless otherwise specified in the approval letter. The mitigation plan must be implemented and/or constructed before any permanent building or structure on site is occupied. In the case of public road projects, the mitigation plan must be implemented before the road is opened to the travelling public. Projects may also be implemented once payment is made to a private mitigation bank or other in-lieu fee program, as specified in the written concurrence of 401 Certification for a project. Please note that if a stream relocation is conducted as a stream restoration as defined in The Internal Technical Guide for Stream Work in North Carolina, April 2001, the restored length can be used as compensatory mitigation for the impacts resulting from the relocation;
- 10. For any project involving re-alignment of streams, a stream relocation plan must be included with the 401 application for written DWQ approval. Relocated stream designs should include the same dimensions, patterns and profiles as the existing channel, to the maximum extent practical. The new channel should be constructed in the dry and water shall not be turned into the new channel until the banks are stabilized. Vegetation used for bank stabilization shall be limited to native woody species, and should include establishment of a 30 foot wide wooded and an adjacent 20 foot wide vegetated buffer on both sides of the relocated channel to the maximum extent practical. A transitional phase incorporating coir fiber and seedling establishment is allowable. Also, rip-rap may be allowed if it is necessary to maintain the physical integrity of the stream, but the applicant must provide written justification and any calculations used to determine the extent of rip-rap coverage requested. If suitable stream mitigation is not practical on-site, then stream impact will need to be mitigated elsewhere;
- 11. Placement of culverts and other structures in waters, streams, and wetlands must be placed below the elevation of the streambed to allow low flow passage of water and aquatic life unless it can be shown to DWQ that providing passage would be impractical. Design and placement of culverts including open bottom or bottomless arch culverts and other structures including temporary erosion control measures shall not be conducted in a manner that may result in aggradation, degradation or significant changes in hydrology of wetlands or stream beds or banks, adjacent to or upstream and down stream of the above structures. The applicant is required to provide evidence that the equilibrium shall be maintained if requested to do so in writing by DWQ. Additionally, when roadways, causeways or other fill projects are constructed across FEMA-designated floodways or wetlands, openings such as culverts or bridges must be provided to maintain the natural hydrology of the system as well as prevent constriction of the floodway that may result in aggradation, degradation or significant changes in hydrology of streams or wetlands;

#### WQC #3404 315

- 12. That appropriate sediment and erosion control practices which equal or exceed those outlined in the most recent version of the "North Carolina Sediment and Erosion Control Planning and Design Manual" or the "North Carolina Surface Mining Manual" whichever is more appropriate (available from the Division of Land Resources (DLR) in the DENR Regional or Central Offices) shall be in full compliance with all specifications governing the proper design, installation and operation and maintenance of such Best Management Practices in order to assure compliance with the appropriate turbidity water quality standard;
- 13. All sediment and erosion control measures placed in wetlands and waters shall be removed and the original grade restored within two months after the Division of Land Resources has released the project;
- 14. That additional site-specific conditions may be added to projects proposed under this Certification in order to ensure compliance with all applicable water quality and effluent standards;
- 15. Measures shall be taken to prevent live or fresh concrete from coming into contact with freshwaters of the state until the concrete has hardened;
- 16. If an environmental document is required, this Certification is not valid until a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Record of Decision (ROD) is issued by the State Clearinghouse;
- 17. If this Certification is used to access building sites, all lots owned by the applicant must be buildable without additional fill beyond that explicitly allowed under other General Certifications. For road construction purposes, this Certification shall only be utilized from natural high ground to natural high ground;
- 18. When written concurrence is required, the applicant is required to use the most recent version of the Certification of Completion form to notify DWQ when all work included in the 401 Certification has been completed;
- 19. Concurrence from DWQ that this Certification applies to an individual project shall expire three years from the date of the cover letter from DWQ or on the same day as the expiration date of the corresponding Nationwide Permit 14 or Regional General Permit 198200031, whichever is sooner.

Non-compliance with or violation of the conditions herein set forth by a specific fill project may result in revocation of this Certification for the project and may also result in criminal and/or civil penalties.

The Director of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality may require submission of a formal application for Individual Certification for any project in this category of activity that requires written concurrence under this certification, if it is determined that the project is likely to have a significant adverse effect upon water quality or degrade the waters so that existing uses of the wetland or downstream waters are precluded.

Public hearings may be held for specific applications or group of applications prior to a Certification decision if deemed in the public's best interest by the Director of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality.

Effective date: 28 March 2003

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY Signed By Alan W. Klimek, P.E. Director

# GENERAL CERTIFICATION FOR PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR CORPS OF ENGINEERS NATIONWIDE PERMIT NUMBER 33 (TEMPORARYCONSTRUCTION, ACCESS AND DEWATERING) AND RIPARIAN AREA PROTECTION RULES (BUFFER RULES)

This General Certification is issued in conformity with the requirements of Section 401, Public Laws 92-500 and 95-217 of the United States and subject to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality Regulations in 15A NCAC 2H, Section .0500 and 15A NCAC 2B .0200 for the discharge of fill material to waters and wetland areas as described in 33 CFR 330 Appendix A (B) (33) of the Corps of Engineers regulations (i.e., Nationwide Permit No. 33) and for the Riparian Area Protection Rules (Buffer Rules) in 15A NCAC 2B .0200. The category of activities shall include any fill activity for temporary construction, access and de-watering. This Certification replaces Water Quality Certification Number 2727 issued on May 1, 1992 and Certification Number 3114 issued on February 11, 1997. This WQC is rescinded when the Corps of Engineers reauthorize Nationwide Permit 33 or when deemed appropriate by the Director of the DWQ.

The State of North Carolina certifies that the specified category of activity will not violate appropriate portions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Public Laws 92-500 and 95-217 if conducted in accordance with the conditions hereinafter set forth.

#### Conditions of Certification:

- 1. These activities do not require written concurrence from the Division of Water Quality as long as they comply with all conditions of this General Certification. If any condition in this Certification cannot be met, application to and written concurrence from DWQ are required. Also, Condition No. 2 is applicable to all streams in basins with riparian area protection rules;
- Impacts to any stream length in the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico and Randleman River Basins (or any other major river basins with Riparian Area Protection Rules [Buffer Rules] in effect at the time of application) requires written concurrence from DWQ in accordance with 15A NCAC 2B.0200. Activities listed as "exempt" from these rules do not need to apply for written concurrence under this Certification. New development activities located in the protected 50-foot wide riparian areas (whether jurisdictional wetlands or not) within the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Randleman and Catawba River Basins shall be limited to "uses" identified within and constructed in accordance with 15A NCAC 2B .0200. All new development shall be located, designed, constructed, and maintained to have minimal disturbance to protect water quality to the maximum extent practicable through the use of best management practices;
- 3. Appropriate sediment and erosion control practices which equal or exceed those outlined in the most recent version of the "North Carolina Sediment and Erosion Control Planning and Design Manual" or the "North Carolina Surface Mining Manual" whichever is more appropriate (available from the Division of Land Resources (DLR) in the DENR Regional or Central Offices) shall be in full compliance with all specifications governing the proper design, installation and operation and maintenance of such Best Management Practices in order to assure compliance with the appropriate turbidity water quality standard;
- 4. All sediment and erosion control measures placed in wetlands or waters shall be removed and the original grade restored within two months after the Division of Land Resources has released the project;
- 5. If an environmental document is required, this Certification is not valid until a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Record of Decision (ROD) is issued by the State Clearinghouse;
- 6. Placement of culverts and other structures in waters, streams, and wetlands must be placed below the elevation of the streambed to allow low flow passage of water and aquatic life unless it can be shown to DWQ that providing passage would be impractical. Design and placement of culverts including open bottom or bottomless arch culverts and other structures including temporary erosion control measures shall not be conducted in a manner that may result in aggradation, degradation or significant changes in hydrology of wetlands or stream beds or banks, adjacent to or upstream and down stream of the above structures. The applicant is required to provide evidence that the equilibrium shall be maintained if requested in writing by DWQ. Additionally, when roadways, causeways or other fill projects are constructed across FEMA-designated floodways or wetlands, openings such as culverts or bridges must be provided to maintain the natural hydrology of the system as well

#### WQC #3366 317

as prevent constriction of the floodway that may result in aggradation, degradation or significant changes in hydrology of streams or wetlands;

- 7. Measures shall be taken to prevent live or fresh concrete from coming into contact with waters of the state until the concrete has hardened;
- 8. All temporary fill shall be removed to the original grade after construction is complete and the site shall be stabilized to prevent erosion;
- Pipes shall be installed under the road or causeway in all streams to carry at least the 25 year storm event as outlined in the most recent edition of the "North Carolina Sediment and Erosion Control Planning and Design Manual" or the "North Carolina Surface Mining Manual" so as not to restrict stream flow during use of this Certification;
- 10. In accordance with North Carolina General Statute Section 143-215.3D(e), any request for written concurrence for a 401 Water Quality Certification must include the appropriate fee. If a project also requires a CAMA Permit, one payment to both agencies shall be submitted and will be the higher of the two fees;
- 11. Additional site-specific conditions may be added to projects for which written concurrence is required or requested under this Certification in order to ensure compliance with all applicable water quality and effluent standards;
- 12. Concurrence from DWQ that this Certification applies to an individual project shall expire three years from the date of the cover letter from DWQ or on the same day as the expiration date of these corresponding Nationwide and Regional General Permits, whichever is sooner;
- 13. When written concurrence is required, the applicant is required to use the most recent version of the Certification of Completion form to notify DWQ when all work included in the 401 Certification has been completed.

Non-compliance with or violation of the conditions herein set forth by a specific fill project shall result in revocation of this Certification for the project and may result in criminal and/or civil penalties.

The Director of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality may require submission of a formal application for individual certification for any project in this category of activity that requires written concurrence under this certification, if it is determined that the project is likely to have a significant adverse effect upon water quality or degrade the waters so that existing uses of the wetland, stream or downstream waters are precluded.

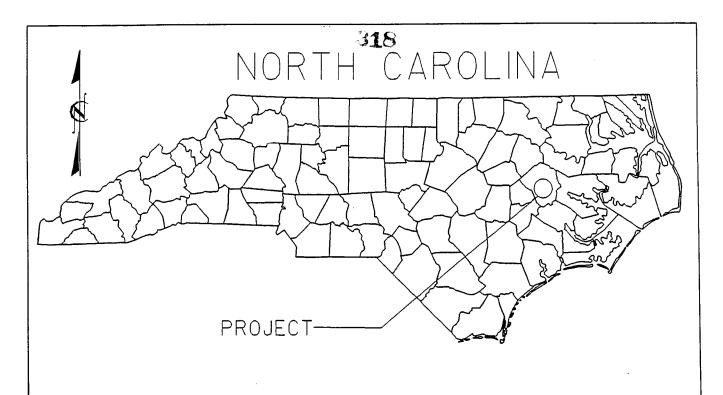
Public hearings may be held for specific applications or group of applications prior to a Certification decision if deemed in the public's best interest by the Director of the North Carolina Division of Water Quality.

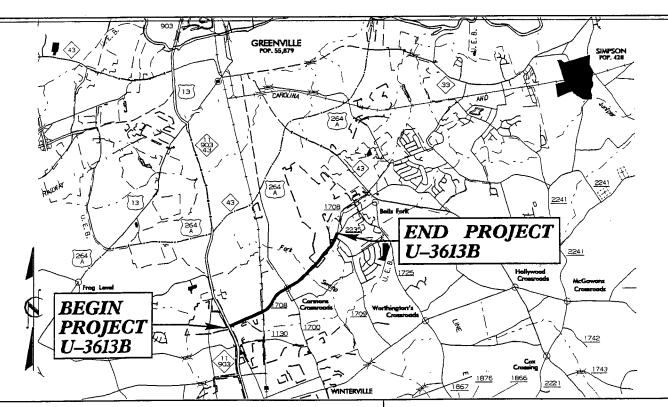
Effective date: 18 March 2002

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
By

Gregory J. Thorpe, Ph.D. Acting Director

WQC # 3366





NEUSE RIVER BUFFER

VICINITY

MAPS

#### NCDOT

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

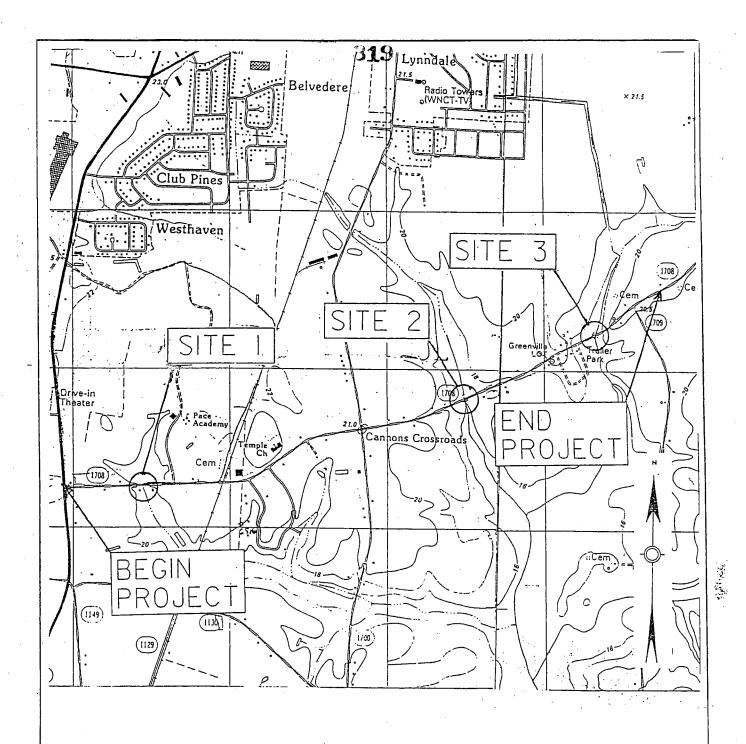
PITT COUNTY

PROJECT: 34961.1.1 (U-3613B)

SR 1708 (FIRE TOWER RD.) FROM WEST OF NC 11-903 TO EAST OF SR 1709 (COREY RD.)

Buffer Drawing 1 of 7

SHEET OF 4/4/05



NEUSE RIVER BUFFER

VICINITY

MAPS

N. C. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
PITT COUNTY

PROJECT: 8.2220901 (U3613)

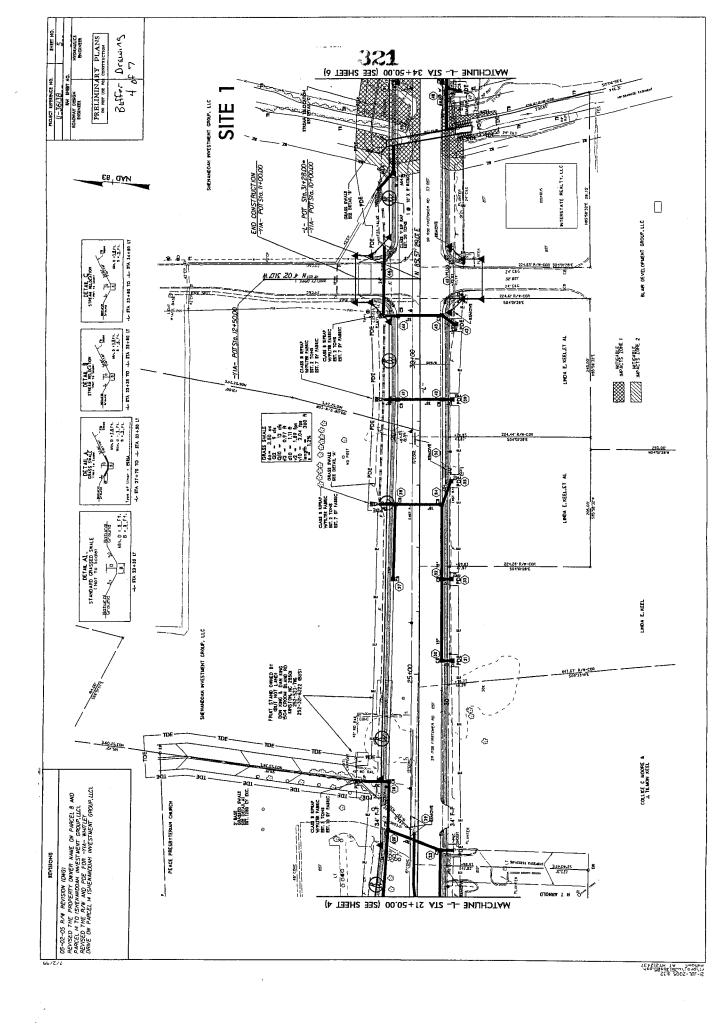
SR 1708 BETWEEN

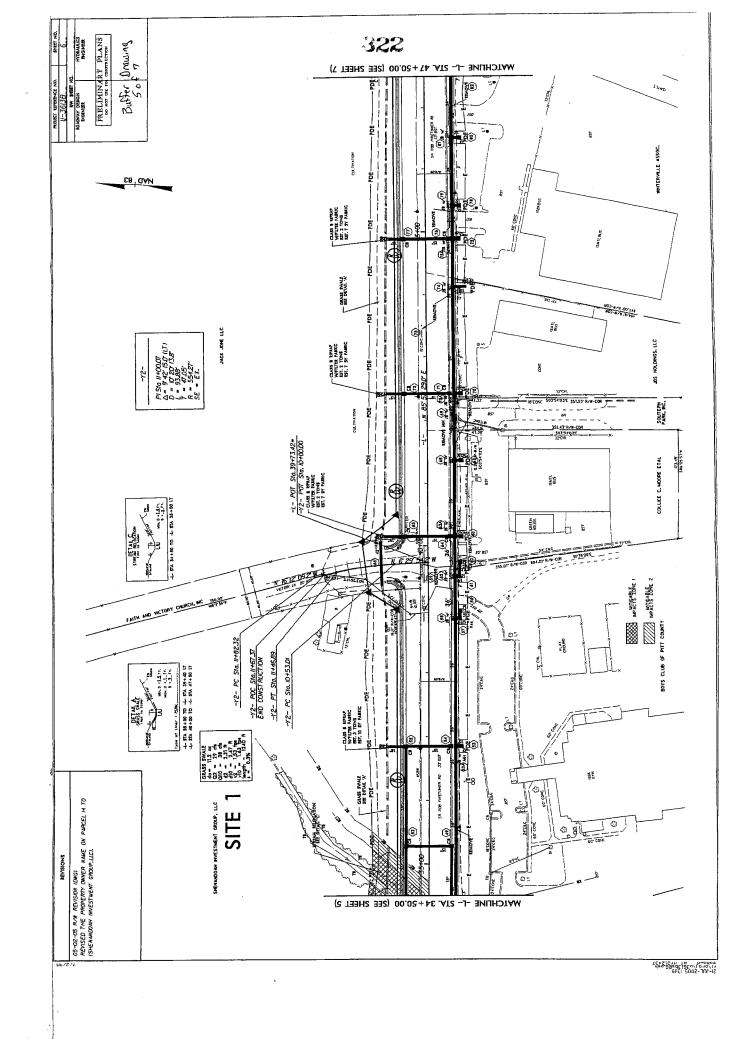
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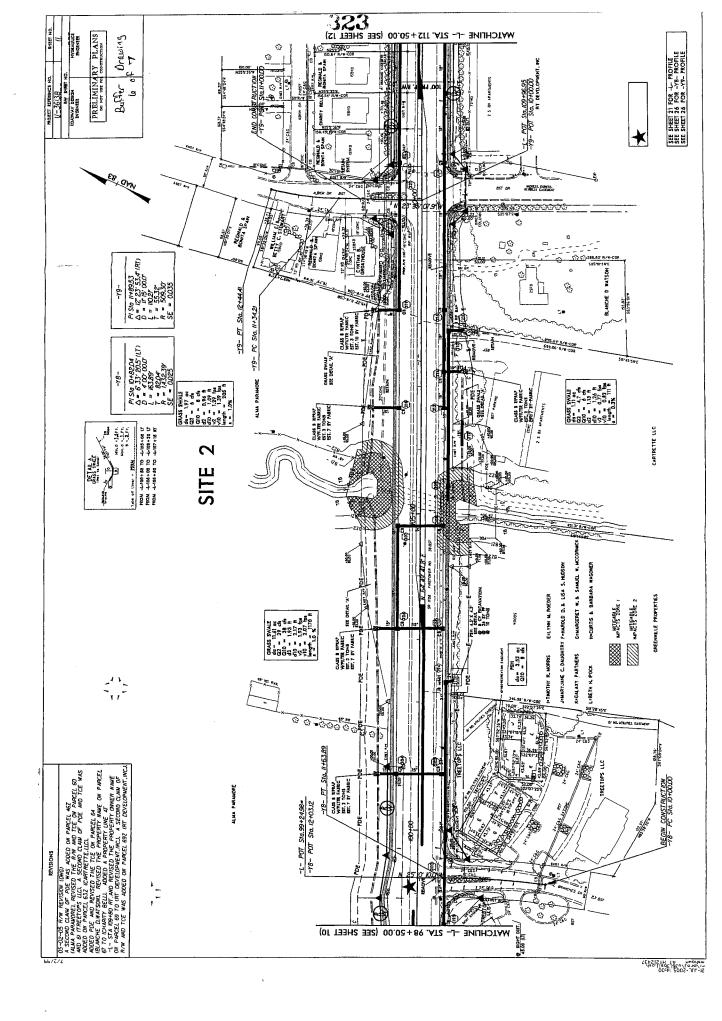
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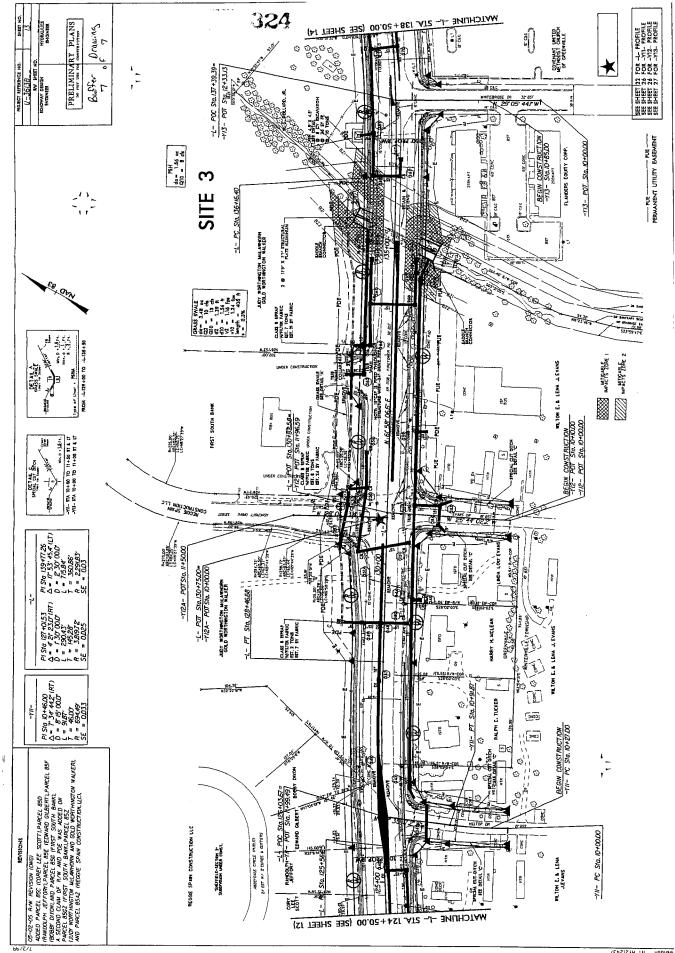
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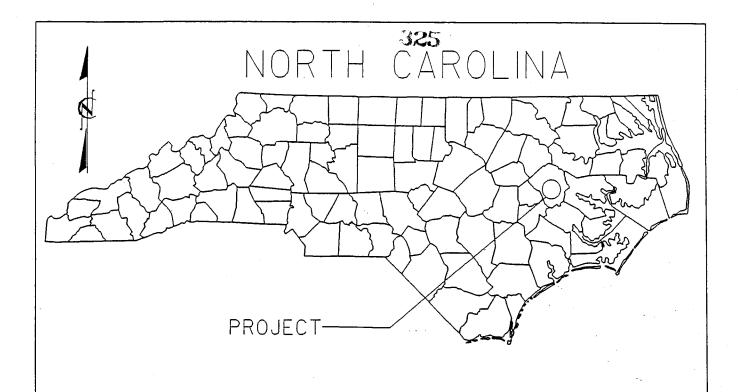


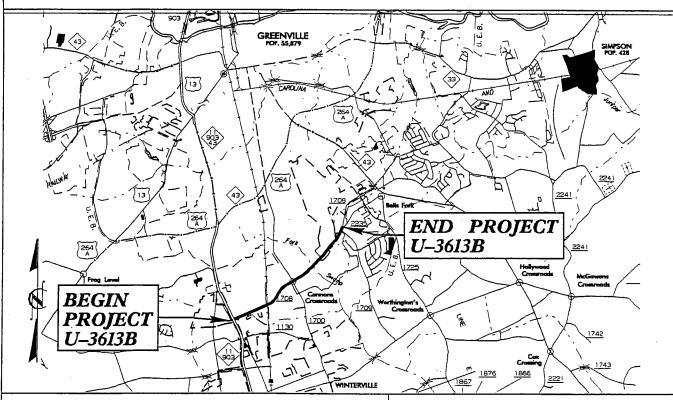






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VICINITY MAPS

#### NCDOT

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

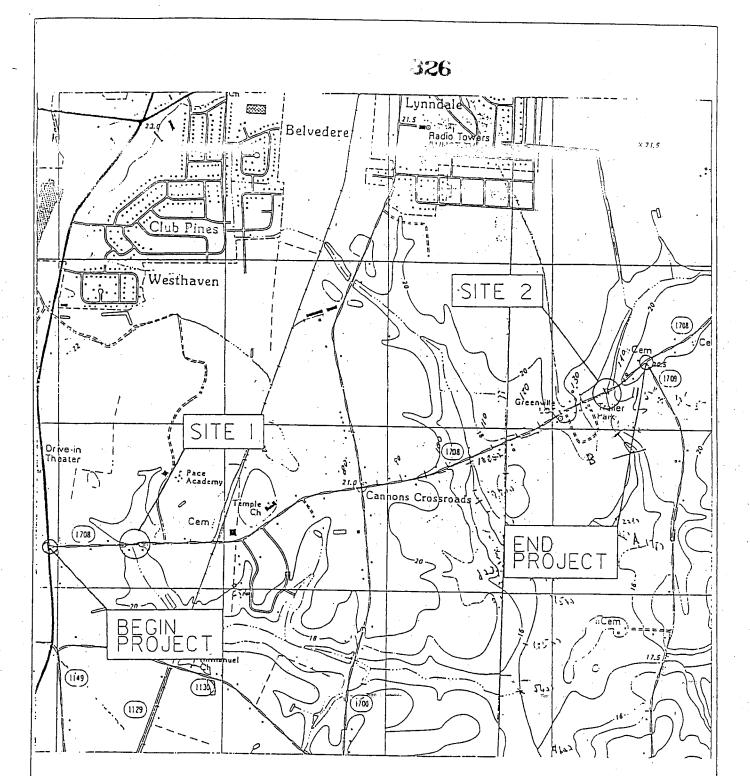
PITT COUNTY

PROJECT: 34961.1.1 (U-3613B)

SR 1708 (FIRE TOWER RD.) FROM WEST OF NC 11-903 TO EAST OF SR 1709 (COREY RD.)

Permit Drawing 1 of 12

4/4/05



## SITE MAP

#### NCDOT

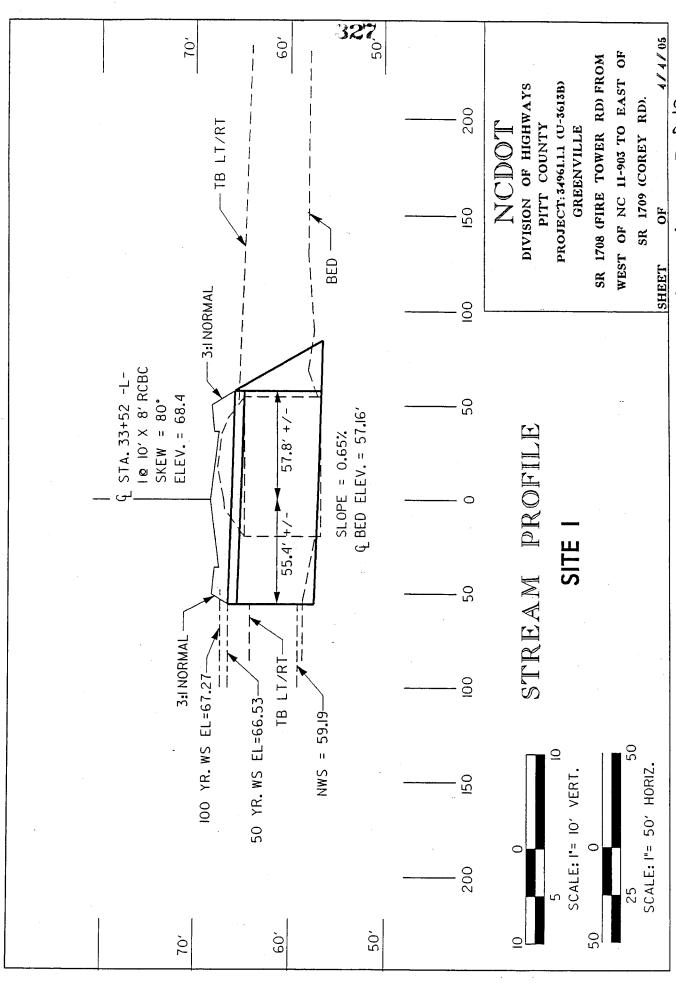
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PITT COUNTY

PROJECT: 8.2220901 (U-3613B)

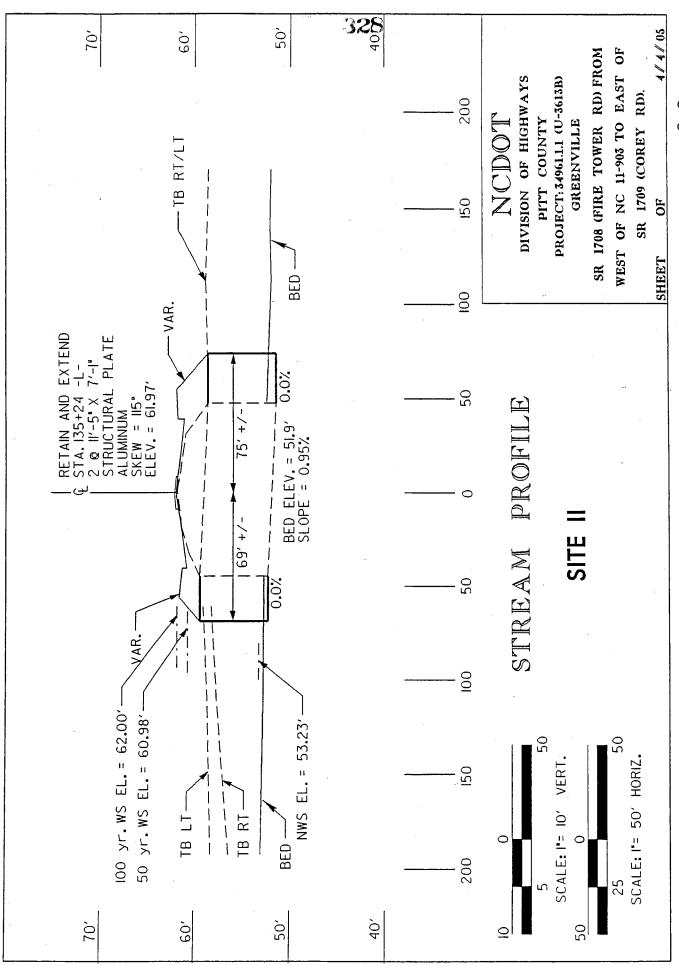
SR 1708 (FIRE TOWER RD.) FROM WEST OF NC 11-903 TO EAST OF SR 1709 (COREY RD.) Permit Orawing 2 of 12

SHEET

4-4-05



Permit Orawing 3 of 12



Permit Grawing 4 of 12

	Natural Stream Design	(ft)												*TATION	**		3B)
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IRY	Existing Channel Impacts Permanent	(ft)		81								7770	117	NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS	PITT COUNTY	WBS - 34961.1.1
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WETLAND IMPACTS UMMARY WETLAND IMPACTS	Excavation Mechanized in Clearing Wetlands	(ac)															
	Excavation in Wetlands	(ac)															
	Temp. Fill In Wetlands	(ac)															
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	Structure Size / Type	1@10'x8'RCBC	2 @ 11'5" x 7'1"	STR PLATE PIPE ARCHES								-					
	Station (From/To)	Sta 33 + 52 -L-	Sta 135 + 24 -L-	STE													
	Site No.	-	2			-			-			TOTALS:					

### PROPERTY OWNERS

NAMES AND ADDRESSES

PARCEL NO.	NAMES	ADDRESSES
11	SDC PROPERTIES	102-B EAST VICTORIA CT. GREENVILLE, NC 27858
13	INTERSTATE REALTY, LLC	P.O. BOX 809 SMITHFIELD, NC 27577
14	BOYS CLUB OF PITT COUNTY	P.O. BOX 20293 GREENVILLE, NC 27858
.71	JUDY WORTHINGTON & WALKER MCLAWHORN & ELAINE WORTHINGTON GOLD	ADDRESS UNKNOWN
72	WILTON E. & LENA J. EVANS	RR 13 BOX 196 GREENVILLE, NC 27858
73	FLANDERS EQUITY CORP.	P.O. BOX 1708 WASHINGTON, NC 27889
74	W. G. POLLARD, JR.	RR 2 BOX 42 WINTERVILLE, NC 28590

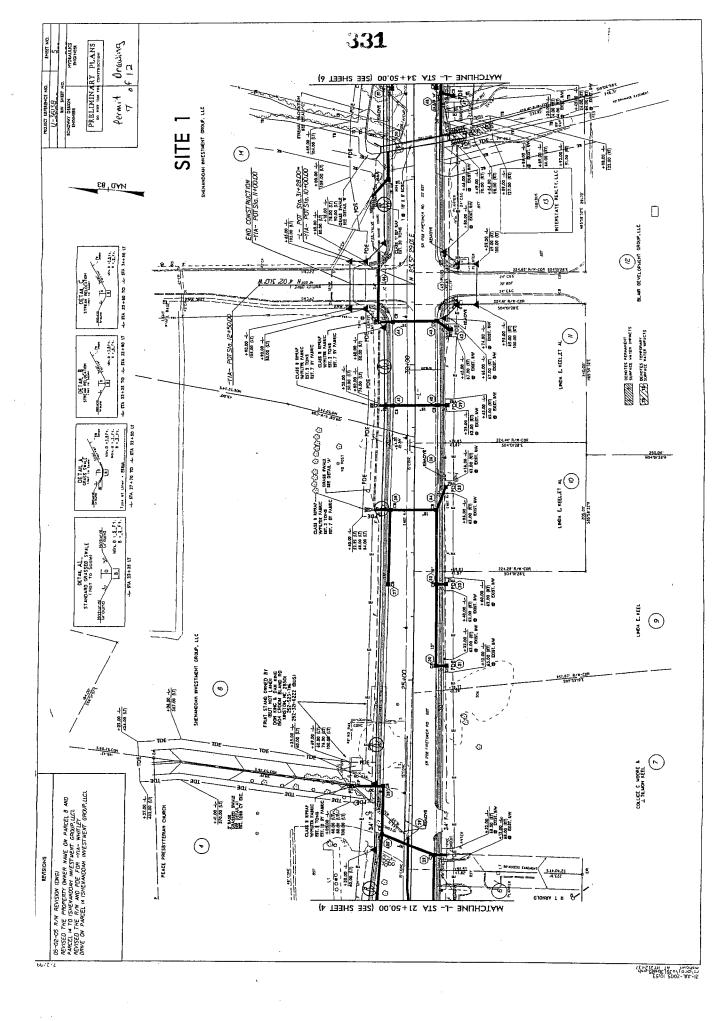
#### NCDOT

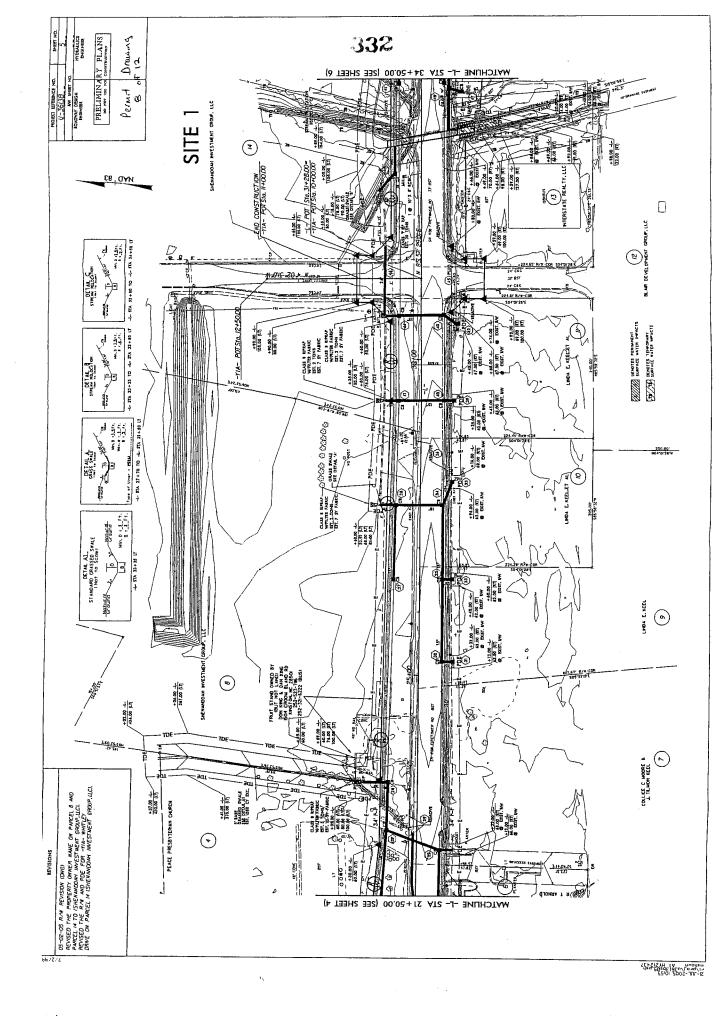
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS PITT COUNTY PROJECT: 34961.1.1 (U-3613B)

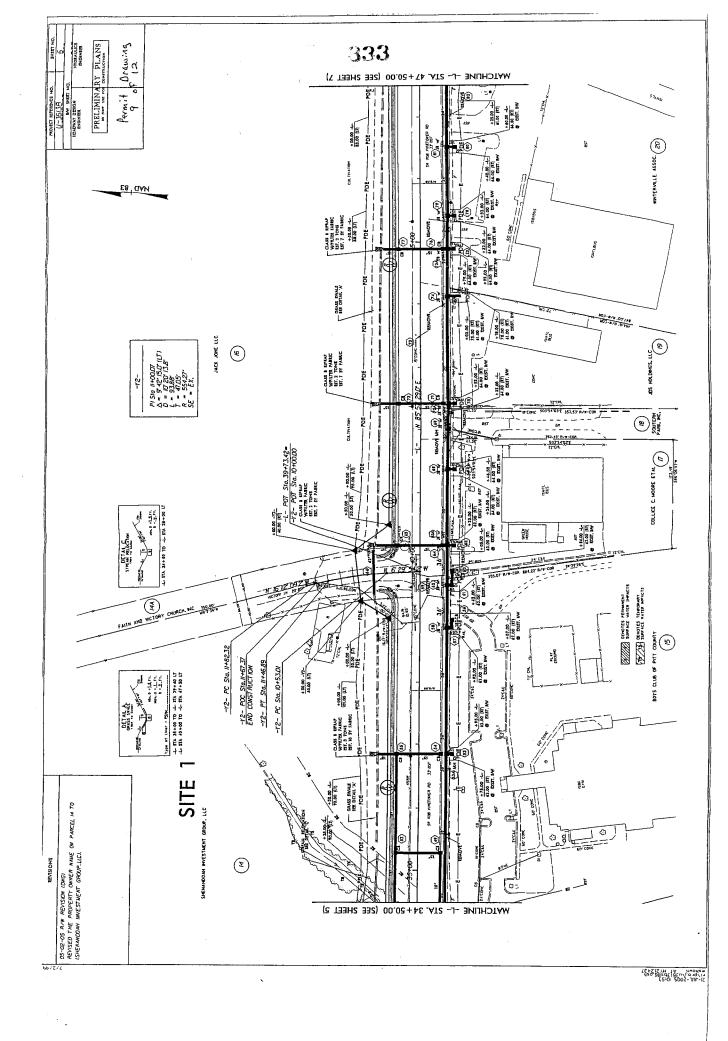
GREENVILLE

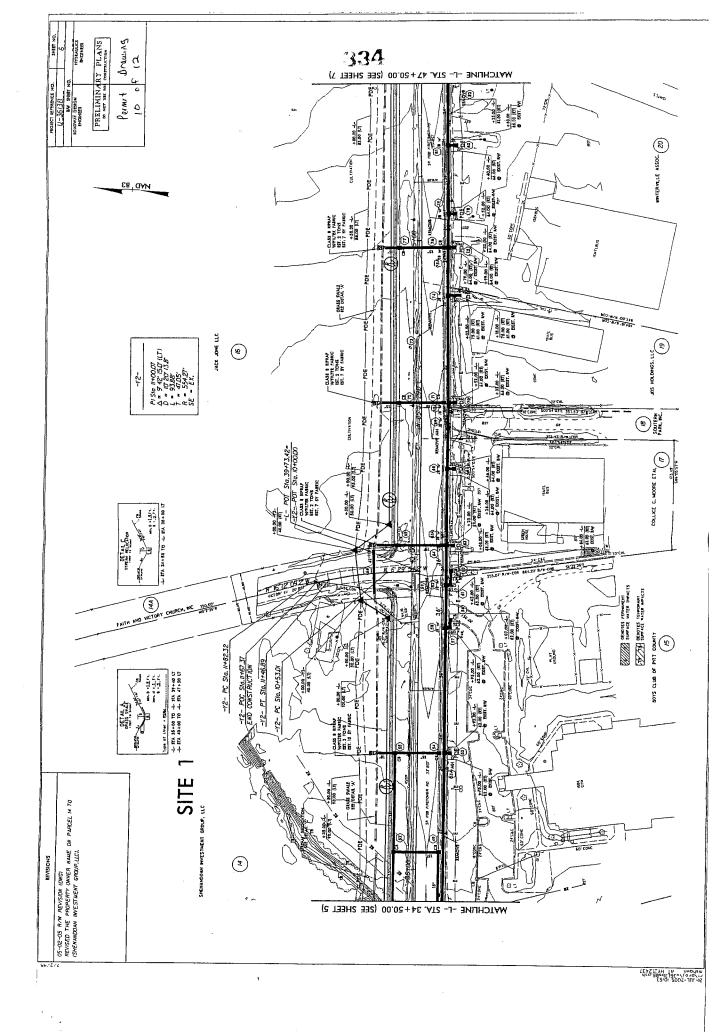
SR 1708 (FIRE TOWER RD) FROM WEST OF NC 11-903 TO EAST OF SR 1709 (COREY RD).

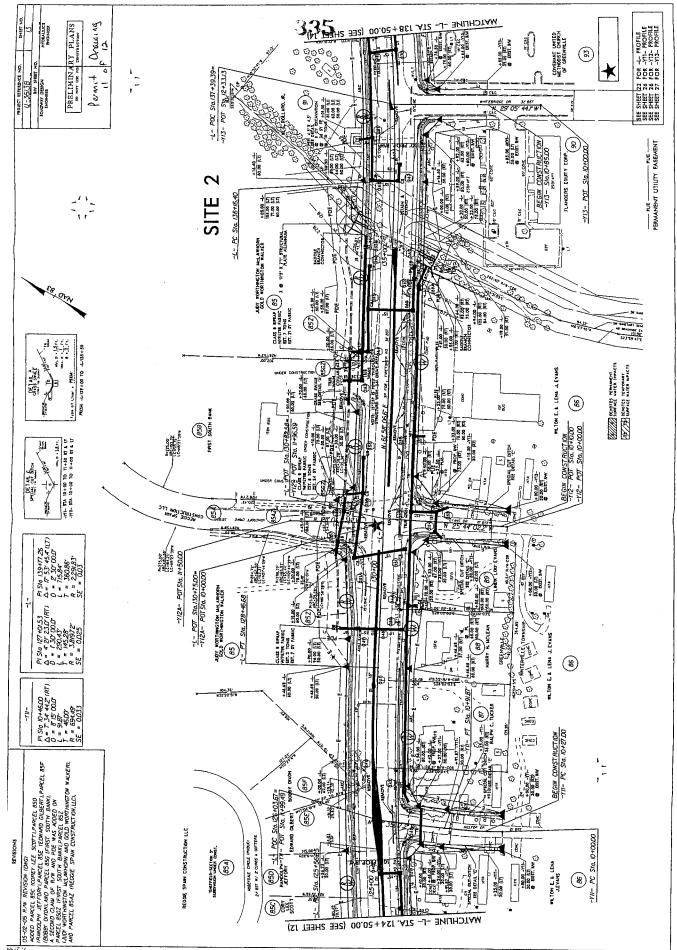
Permit Orawing 6 of 12











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