STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. JOHNSON
SECRETARY

October 26, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO: Division Environmental and Construction Units

FROM: Michael A. Turchy, ECAP Group Leader
Environmental Analysis Unit

SUBJECT: Environmental Permit for the Rehabilitation of Bridge 15 on NC32 over Albemarle Sound, Washington and Chowan Counties, Division 1., **TIP: HB-0016**

Please find enclosed the following permit for this project:

Agency	Permit Type	Permit Expiration
US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit	Nationwide 3 [non-notifying]	March 15, 2031
NC Division of Water Resources Section 401 Water Quality Certification	General Certification No. 4236 [NW3] [non-notifying]	March 15, 2031

Work is authorized by the above referenced permit provided it is accomplished in strict accordance with the permitted plans.

The Environmental Coordination and Permitting Group or the Division Environmental Office must be consulted if any deviation from the permit(s) is required.

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS UNIT
1598 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH NC 27699-1598

Telephone: (919) 707-6000
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968
Website: www.ncdot.gov

Location:
1000 BIRCH RIDGE DRIVE
RALEIGH NC 27610

Nationwide Permit 3
Maintenance

Effective Date: March 15, 2026 / Expiration Date: March 15, 2031
Authority: Section 10/Section 404

3. Maintenance. (a) The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized, currently serviceable structure or fill, or of any currently serviceable structure or fill authorized by 33 CFR 330.3, provided that the structure or fill is not to be put to uses differing from those uses specified or contemplated for it in the original permit or the most recently authorized modification. Minor deviations in the structure's configuration or filled area, including those due to changes in materials, construction techniques, requirements of other regulatory agencies, or current construction codes or safety standards that are necessary to make the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement are authorized. This NWP also authorizes the removal of previously authorized structures or fills. Any stream channel modification is limited to the minimum necessary for the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of the structure or fill; such modifications, including the removal of material from the stream channel, must be immediately adjacent to the project. This NWP also authorizes the removal of accumulated sediment and debris within, and in the immediate vicinity of, the structure or fill. This NWP also authorizes the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of those structures or fills destroyed or damaged by storms, floods, fire or other discrete events, provided the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement is commenced, or is under contract to commence, within two years of the date of their destruction or damage. In cases of catastrophic events, such as hurricanes or tornadoes, this two-year limit may be waived by the district engineer, provided the permittee can demonstrate funding, contract, or other similar delays.

(b) This NWP also authorizes the removal of accumulated sediments and debris outside the immediate vicinity of existing structures (e.g., bridges, culverted road crossings, water intake structures, etc.). The removal of sediment is limited to the minimum necessary to restore the waterway in the vicinity of the structure to the approximate dimensions that existed when the structure was built, but cannot extend farther than 200 feet in any direction from the structure. This 200 foot limit does not apply to maintenance dredging to remove accumulated sediments blocking or restricting outfall and intake structures or to maintenance dredging to remove accumulated sediments from canals associated with outfall and intake structures. All dredged or excavated materials must be deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization.

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

(d) This NWP does not authorize maintenance dredging for the primary purpose of navigation. This NWP does not authorize beach restoration. This NWP does not authorize new stream channelization or stream relocation projects.

Notification: For activities authorized by paragraph (b) of this NWP, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see general condition 32). The pre-construction notification must include information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of the outfalls, intakes, small impoundments, and canals. (Authorities: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Note: This NWP authorizes the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized structure or fill that does not qualify for the Clean Water Act Section 404(f) exemption for maintenance.

Nationwide Permit General Conditions

Note: To qualify for NWP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following general conditions, as applicable, in addition to any regional or case-specific conditions imposed by the division engineer or district engineer. Prospective permittees should contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine if regional conditions have been imposed on an NWP. Prospective permittees should also contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine the status of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Act consistency for an NWP. Every person who may wish to obtain permit authorization under one or more NWPs, or who is currently relying on an existing or prior permit authorization under one or more NWPs, has been and is on notice that all of the provisions of 33 CFR 330.1 through 330.6 apply to every NWP authorization. Note especially 33 CFR 330.5 relating to the modification, suspension, or revocation of any NWP authorization.

1. **Navigation.**

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

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

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

2. **Aquatic Life Movements.** No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert

cannot be used, then the crossing should be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements.

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

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

5. **Shellfish Beds.** No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWPs 4 and 48, or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by NWP 27.

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

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

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

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

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

11. **Equipment.** Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance. If mats are used to minimize soil disturbance, the affected areas must be returned to pre-construction elevations, and revegetated as appropriate. In circumstances where the use of mats has caused significant soil compaction, efforts using techniques (e.g., soil reaeration techniques) to break up the compaction should be employed to return the soil to a pre-construction state prior to returning to pre-construction elevations.

12. **Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.** Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary

high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow, or during low tides.

13. **Removal of Temporary Structures and Fills.** Temporary structures must be removed, to the maximum extent practicable, after their use has been discontinued. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

14. **Proper Maintenance.** Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable NWP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an NWP authorization.

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

16. **Wild and Scenic Rivers.**

(a) No NWP 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.

(b) If a proposed NWP activity will 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, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification (see general condition 32). The district engineer will coordinate the PCN with the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river. Permittees shall not begin the NWP activity until notified by the district engineer that the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river has determined in writing that the proposed NWP activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(c) Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency responsible for the designated Wild and Scenic River or study river (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Information on these rivers is also available at: http://www.rivers.gov/.

17. **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.

18. **Endangered Species.**

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to directly or indirectly 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 directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation. No activity is authorized under any NWP which “may affect” a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7

consultation addressing the consequences of the proposed activity on listed species or critical habitat has been completed. See 50 CFR 402.02 for the definition of “effects of the action” for the purposes of ESA section 7 consultation.

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed activity, the federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation has not been submitted, additional ESA section 7 consultation may be necessary for the activity and the respective federal agency would be responsible for fulfilling its obligation under section 7 of the ESA.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity “may affect” or will have “no effect” to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-federal applicant of the Corps’ determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. For activities where the non-federal applicant has identified listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification that the proposed activity will have “no effect” on listed species (or species proposed for listing or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), or until ESA section 7 consultation or conference has been completed. If the non-federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

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

(e) Authorization of an activity by an 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 FWS or the NMFS, the Endangered Species Act prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word “harm” in the definition of “take" means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by

significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) If the non-federal permittee has a valid ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan for a project or a group of projects that includes the proposed NWP activity, the non-federal permittee should provide a copy of that ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit with the PCN required by paragraph (c) of this general condition. The district engineer will coordinate with the agency that issued the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to determine whether the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation conducted for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. If that coordination results in concurrence from the agency that the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, the district engineer does not need to conduct a separate ESA section 7 consultation for the proposed NWP activity. The district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit covers the proposed NWP activity or whether additional ESA section 7 consultation is required.

(g) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS and NMFS or their web pages at http://www.fws.gov/ or http://www.fws.gov/ipac and http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/ respectively.

19. **Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles.** The permittee is responsible for ensuring that an action authorized by an NWP complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee is responsible for contacting the appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what measures, if any, are necessary or appropriate to reduce adverse effects to migratory birds or eagles, including whether "incidental take" permits are necessary and available under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for a particular activity.

20. **Historic Properties.**

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which may have the potential to cause effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed NWP activity, the federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted, then additional consultation under section 106 may be necessary. The respective federal agency is responsible for fulfilling its obligation to comply with section 106.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects on any historic properties listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for

listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the pre-construction notification must state which historic properties might have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of, or potential for, the presence of historic properties can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or designated tribal representative, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). When reviewing pre-construction notifications, district engineers will comply with the current procedures for addressing the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts commensurate with potential impacts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and/or field survey. Based on the information submitted in the PCN and these identification efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed NWP activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. Section 106 consultation is not required when the district engineer determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). Section 106 consultation is required when the district engineer determines that the activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The district engineer will conduct consultation with consulting parties identified under 36 CFR 800.2(c) when he or she makes any of the following effect determinations for the purposes of section 106 of the NHPA: no historic properties affected, no adverse effect, or adverse effect.

(d) Where the non-federal applicant has identified historic properties on which the proposed NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects and has so notified the Corps, the non-federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects on historic properties or that NHPA section 106 consultation has been completed. For non-federal permittees, the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA section 106 consultation is required. If NHPA section 106 consultation is required, the district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant that he or she cannot begin the activity until section 106 consultation is completed. If the non-federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306113) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties

of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

21. **Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts.** Permittees that discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activities authorized by NWPs, must immediately notify the district engineer of what they have found, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The district engineer will initiate the federal, tribal, and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 57 and 58 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, and 54, notification is required in accordance with general condition 32, for any activity proposed by permittees in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after she or he determines that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

23. **Mitigation.** The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal:

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

(b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects.

(d) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all losses of stream bed that exceed 3/100-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. This compensatory mitigation requirement may be satisfied through the restoration or enhancement of riparian areas next to streams in accordance with paragraph (e) of this general condition. For losses of stream bed of 3/100-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects. Compensatory mitigation for losses of streams should be provided, if practicable, through stream rehabilitation, enhancement, or preservation, because streams are difficult-to-replace resources (see 33 CFR 332.3(e)(3)).

(e) Compensatory mitigation plans for NWP activities in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the restoration or enhancement, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, the restoration or maintenance/protection of riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. If restoring riparian areas involves planting vegetation, only native species should be planted. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. If it is not possible to restore or maintain/protect a riparian area on both sides of a stream, or if the waterbody is a lake or coastal waters, then restoring or maintaining/protecting a riparian area along a single bank or shoreline may be sufficient. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of minimization or compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(f) Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR part 332.

(1) The prospective permittee is responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation option if compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. For the NWPs, the preferred mechanism for providing compensatory mitigation is mitigation bank credits or in-lieu fee program credits (see 33 CFR 332.3(b)(2) and (3)). However, if an appropriate number and type of mitigation bank or in-lieu credits are not available at the time the PCN is submitted to the district engineer, the district engineer may approve the use of permittee-responsible mitigation.

(2) The amount of compensatory mitigation required by the district engineer must be sufficient to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see 33 CFR 330.1(e)(3)). (See also 33 CFR 332.3(f).)

(3) Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, aquatic resource restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered for permittee-responsible mitigation.

(4) If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, the prospective permittee is responsible for submitting a mitigation plan. A conceptual or detailed mitigation plan may be used by the district engineer to make the decision on the NWP verification request, but a final mitigation plan that addresses the applicable requirements of 33 CFR 332.4(c)(2) through (14) must be approved by the district engineer before the permittee begins work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation (see 33 CFR 332.3(k)(3)). If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, and the proposed compensatory mitigation site is located on land in which another federal agency holds an easement, the district engineer will coordinate with that federal agency to determine if proposed compensatory mitigation project is compatible with the terms of the easement.

(5) If mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program credits are the proposed option, the mitigation plan needs to address only the baseline conditions at the impact site and the number of credits to be provided (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(6) Compensatory mitigation requirements (e.g., resource type and amount to be provided as compensatory mitigation, site protection, ecological performance standards, monitoring requirements) may be addressed through conditions added to the NWP authorization, instead of components of a compensatory mitigation plan (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(g) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWPs. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2-acre, it cannot be used to authorize any NWP activity resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that an NWP activity already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the no more than minimal impact requirement for the NWPs.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee programs, or permittee-responsible mitigation. When developing a compensatory mitigation proposal, the permittee must consider appropriate and practicable options consistent with the framework at 33 CFR 332.3(b). For activities resulting in the loss of marine or estuarine resources, permittee-responsible mitigation may be environmentally preferable if there are no mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs in the area that have marine or estuarine credits available for sale or transfer to the permittee. For permittee-responsible mitigation, the special conditions of the NWP verification must clearly indicate the party or parties responsible for the implementation and performance of the compensatory mitigation project, and, if required, its long-term management.

(i) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected by a regulated activity, such as discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that will convert a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may

be required to reduce the adverse environmental effects of the activity to the no more than minimal level.

24. **Safety of Impoundment Structures.** To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state or federal, dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The district engineer may also require documentation that the design has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

25. **Water Quality.**

(a) Where the certifying authority (state, authorized tribe, or EPA, as appropriate) has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, a CWA section 401 water quality certification for the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a water quality certification previously issued by the certifying authority for the issuance of the NWP, then the permittee must obtain a water quality certification or waiver for the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP.

(b) If the NWP activity requires pre-construction notification and the certifying authority has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, the proposed activity which may result in any discharge from a point source into waters of the United States is not authorized by an NWP until water quality certification is obtained or waived. If the certifying authority issues a water quality certification for the proposed discharge into waters of the United States, the permittee must submit a copy of the certification to the district engineer. The discharge into waters of the United States is not authorized by an NWP until the district engineer has notified the permittee that the water quality certification requirement has been satisfied (i.e., by the issuance of a water quality certification or a waiver and completion of the Section 401(a)(2) process).

(c) The district engineer or certifying authority may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

26. **Coastal Zone Management.** In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a coastal zone management consistency concurrence previously issued by the state, then the permittee must obtain an individual coastal zone management consistency concurrence or presumption of concurrence in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP. The district engineer or a state may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

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

28. **Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.** The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is authorized, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) The total acreage loss of waters of the United States for a single and complete project cannot exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit when multiple NWPs are used to authorize an activity.

(b) If only one of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has a specified acreage limit, the acreage loss of waters of the United States for that single and complete project cannot exceed that specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14 (which has an acreage limit of 1/3 acre in tidal waters), with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13 (which does not have a specified acreage limit), the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1⁄3-acre.

(c) If two or more of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project have specified acreage limits, the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by each of those NWPs cannot exceed the specified acreage limits of each of those NWPs. For example, if a commercial development is constructed under NWP 39 (which as a 1/2-acre limit), and the single and complete project includes the filling of a ditch authorized by NWP 46 (which has a 1-acre limit), the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the construction of the commercial development under NWP 39 cannot exceed 1/2-acre, and the total acreage loss of waters of United States caused by the combination of the NWP 39 and NWP 46 activities cannot exceed 1 acre.

29. **Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications.** If the permittee sells the property associated with a nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:

“When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.”

_____

(Transferee)

_____

(Date)

30. **Compliance Certification.** Each permittee who receives an NWP verification letter from the Corps must provide a signed certification documenting completion of the authorized activity and implementation of any required compensatory mitigation. The successful completion of any required permittee-responsible mitigation, including the

achievement of ecological performance standards, will be addressed separately by the district engineer. The Corps will provide the permittee the certification document with the NWP verification letter. The certification document will include:

(a) A statement that the authorized activity was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;

(b) A statement that the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions. If credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program are used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements, the certification must include the documentation required by 33 CFR 332.3(l)(3) to confirm that the permittee secured the appropriate number and resource type of credits; and

(c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the activity and mitigation.

The completed certification document must be submitted to the district engineer within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity or the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation, whichever occurs later.

31. **Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States.** If an NWP activity also requires review by, or permission from, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project (a "USACE project"), the prospective permittee must submit a pre-construction notification. See paragraph (b)(10) of general condition 32. An activity that requires section 408 permission and/or review is not authorized by an NWP until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission or completes its review to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written NWP verification.

32. **Pre-Construction Notification.**

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

(1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or

(2) 45 calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might

be affected or are in the vicinity of the activity, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 20 that the activity might have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that there is “no effect” on listed species or “no potential to cause effects” on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) has been completed. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee may not begin the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. Subsequently, the permittee’s right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

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

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

(2) Location of the proposed activity;

(3) Identify the specific NWP or NWP(s) the prospective permittee wants to use to authorize the proposed activity;

(4)

(i) A description of the proposed activity; the activity’s purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause, including the anticipated amount of loss of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters expected to result from the NWP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; a description of any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental effects caused by the proposed activity; and 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, including other separate and distant crossings for linear projects that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification. The description of the proposed activity and any proposed mitigation measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures.

(ii) For linear projects where one or more single and complete crossings require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include the quantity of anticipated losses of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters (including those single and complete crossings authorized by an NWP but do not require PCNs). This information will be used by the district engineer to evaluate the cumulative adverse environmental effects of the proposed linear project, and does not change those non-PCN NWP activities into NWP PCNs.

(iii) Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the activity and when provided results in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans);

(5) The PCN must include a delineation of waters, wetlands, and other special aquatic sites on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, as appropriate. For NWP 27 activities that require PCNs because of other general conditions or regional conditions imposed by division engineers, see Note 2 of that NWP;

(6) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the compensatory mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.

(7) For non-federal permittees, if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act;

(8) For non-federal permittees, if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property might have the potential to be affected by the proposed activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;

(9) For an activity that will 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, the PCN must identify the Wild and Scenic River or the “study river” (see general condition 16); and

(10) For an NWP activity that requires permission from, or review by, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, the pre-

construction notification must include a statement confirming that the project proponent has submitted a written request for section 408 permission from, or review by, the Corps office having jurisdiction over that USACE project.

(c) *Form of Pre-Construction Notification*: The nationwide permit pre-construction notification form (Form ENG 6082) should be used for NWP PCNs. A letter containing the required information may also be used. Applicants may provide electronic files of PCNs and supporting materials if the district engineer has established tools and procedures for electronic submittals.

(d) *Agency Coordination*:

(1) The district engineer will consider any comments from federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the activity's adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal.

(2) Agency coordination is required for:

(i) all NWP activities that require pre-construction notification and result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States;

(ii) NWP 13 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, fills greater than one cubic yard per running foot, or involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; and

(iii) NWP 54 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, or that extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes.

(3) When agency coordination is required, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via e-mail, facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the complete PCN to the appropriate federal or state offices (FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to notify the district engineer via telephone, facsimile transmission, or e-mail that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. The comments must explain why the agency believes the adverse environmental effects will be more than minimal. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the pre-construction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs, including the need for mitigation to ensure that the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The district engineer will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 37, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.

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

(5) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps with either electronic files or multiple copies of pre-construction notifications to expedite agency coordination.

District Engineer's Decision

1. In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. If a project proponent requests authorization by a specific NWP, the district engineer should issue the NWP verification for that activity if it meets the terms and conditions of that NWP, unless he or she determines, after considering mitigation, that the proposed activity will result in more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment and other aspects of the public interest and exercises discretionary authority to require an individual permit for the proposed activity. For a linear project, this determination will include an evaluation of the single and complete crossings of waters of the United States that require PCNs to determine whether they individually satisfy the terms and conditions of the NWP(s), as well as the cumulative effects caused by all of the crossings of waters of the United States authorized by an NWP. If an applicant requests a waiver of an applicable limit, as provided for in NWPs 13, 36, or 54, the district engineer will only grant the waiver upon a written determination that the NWP activity will result in only minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

2. When making minimal adverse environmental effects determinations the district engineer will consider the direct and indirect effects caused by the NWP activity. He or she will also consider the cumulative adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by an NWP and whether those cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal. The district engineer will also consider site specific factors, such as the environmental setting in the vicinity of the NWP activity, the type of resource that will be affected by the NWP activity, the functions provided by the aquatic resources that will be affected by the NWP activity, the degree or magnitude to which the aquatic resources perform those functions, the extent that aquatic resource functions will be lost as a result of the NWP activity (e.g., partial or complete loss), the duration of the adverse effects (temporary or permanent), the importance of the aquatic resource functions to the region (e.g., watershed or ecoregion), and mitigation required by the district engineer. If an appropriate functional or condition assessment method is available and practicable to use, that assessment method may be used by the district engineer to assist in the minimal adverse environmental effects determination. The district engineer may add activity-specific conditions to the NWP authorization to address site-specific environmental concerns.

3. If the proposed NWP activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for NWP activities with smaller impacts, or for impacts to other types of waters. However, compensatory mitigation shall not be required for activities authorized by NWP 27 because those activities must result in net increases in aquatic resource

functions and services (see the text of NWP 27). The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures the applicant has included in the proposal when determining whether the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed NWP activity are no more than minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the proposed activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any activity-specific conditions in the NWP verification the district engineer deems necessary. Conditions for compensatory mitigation requirements must comply with the appropriate provisions at 33 CFR 332.3(k). The district engineer must approve the final mitigation plan before the permittee commences work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation. 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 proposed compensatory mitigation plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure that the NWP activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. If the net adverse environmental effects of the NWP activity (after consideration of the mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be no more than minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the NWP activity can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP, including any activity-specific conditions added to the NWP authorization by the district engineer.

4. If the district engineer determines that the adverse environmental effects of the proposed NWP activity are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either:

(a) that the activity does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit;

(b) that the activity is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant’s submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal; or

(c) that the activity 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 environmental effects, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN review period (unless additional time is required to comply with general conditions 16, 18, 20, and/or 31), with activity-specific conditions that state the mitigation requirements. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or detailed mitigation plan or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal. When compensatory mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan or has determined that prior approval of a final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation.

Further Information

1. District engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.

2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.

3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.

4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project (see general condition 31).

Nationwide Permit Definitions

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

Compensatory mitigation: The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

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

Direct effects: Effects that are caused by the activity and occur at the same time and place.

Discharge: The term “discharge” means any discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Ecological reference: A model used to plan and design an aquatic ecosystem restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity under NWP 27. An ecological reference may be based on: (1) the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic ecosystem type or a riparian area type that currently exists in the region; (2) the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic ecosystem type or riparian area type that existed in the region in the past; and/or (3) indigenous and local ecological knowledge that apply to the aquatic ecosystem type or riparian area type (i.e., a cultural ecosystem). Cultural ecosystems are ecosystems that have developed under the joint influence of natural processes and human management activities (e.g., fire stewardship). An ecological reference takes into account the range of variation of the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type in the region.

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

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

High Tide Line: The line of intersection of the land with the water's surface at the maximum height reached by a rising tide. The high tide line may be determined, in the absence of actual data, by a line of oil or scum along shore objects, a more or less continuous deposit of fine shell or debris on the foreshore or berm, other physical markings or characteristics, vegetation lines, tidal gages, or other suitable means that delineate the general height reached by a rising tide. The line encompasses spring high tides and other high tides that occur with periodic frequency but does not include storm surges in which there is a departure from the normal or predicted reach of the tide due to the piling up of water against a coast by strong winds such as those accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm.

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

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

Indirect effects: Effects that are caused by the activity and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.

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

Nature-based solutions: Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

Navigable waters: Waters subject to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. These waters are defined at 33 CFR part 329.

Non-tidal wetland: A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. Non-tidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).

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

Ordinary High Water Mark: The term ordinary high water mark means that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

Perennial stream: A perennial stream has surface water flowing continuously year-round during a typical year.

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

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

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

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

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

Restoration: The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic

resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: re-establishment and rehabilitation.

Riffle and pool complex: Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a 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.

Riparian areas: Riparian areas are lands next to streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, through which surface and subsurface hydrology connects riverine, lacustrine, estuarine, and marine waters with their adjacent wetlands, non-wetland waters, or uplands. Riparian areas provide a variety of ecological functions and services and help improve or maintain local water quality. (See general condition 23.)

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

Single and complete linear project: A linear project is a project constructed for the purpose of getting people, goods, or services from a point of origin to a terminal point, which often involves multiple crossings of one or more waterbodies at separate and distant locations. The term “single and complete project” is defined as that portion of the total linear project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers that includes all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single or multiple waterbodies several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

Single and complete non-linear project: For non-linear projects, the term “single and complete project” is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. A single and complete non-linear project must have independent utility (see definition of “independent utility”). Single and complete non-linear projects may not be “piecemealed” to avoid the limits in an NWP authorization.

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

Stormwater management facilities: Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and best management practices, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or

improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.

Stream bed: The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. The substrate may also be comprised, in part, of organic matter, such as large or small wood fragments, leaves, algae, and other organic materials. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

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

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

Tidal wetland: A tidal wetland is a jurisdictional wetland that is inundated by tidal waters. 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.

Tribal lands: Any lands title to which is either: 1) held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or 2) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restrictions by the United States against alienation.

Tribal rights: Those rights legally accruing to a tribe or tribes by virtue of inherent sovereign authority, unextinguished aboriginal title, treaty, statute, judicial decisions, executive order or agreement, and that give rise to legally enforceable remedies.

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

Waterbody: For purposes of the NWPs, a waterbody is a "water of the United States." If a wetland is adjacent to a waterbody determined to be a water of the United States, that waterbody and any adjacent wetlands are considered together as a single aquatic unit (see 33 CFR 328.4(c)(2)).

REGIONAL CONDITIONS:

A. BACKGROUND

1. The following Regional Conditions have been approved by the Wilmington District for the Nationwide Permits (NWP) published in the June 18th, 2025, Federal Register. As specified, under NWP General Condition #27, Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions: The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its Section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

2. Note: The acronym "PCN" used throughout this document refers to *Pre-Construction Notification* as further defined in NWP General Condition #32.

3. The following regional conditions will provide additional protection for the aquatic environment that is necessary to ensure that the NWPs authorize only those activities with no more than minimal adverse environmental effects.

B. EXCLUDED WATERS AND/OR AREAS

1. **Anadromous Fish Spawning Areas.** Work in waters of the U.S. designated by either the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) as anadromous fish spawning areas are prohibited from February 15th through June 30th, without prior written approval from the Corps and the appropriate wildlife agencies (NCDMF, NCWRC and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)). Work in waters of the U.S. designated by NCWRC as primary nursery areas in inland waters are prohibited from February 15th through September 30th, without prior written approval from the Corps and the appropriate wildlife agencies. Work in waters of the U.S. designated by NCDMF as primary nursery areas shall be coordinated with NCDMF prior to being authorized by this NWP. Coordination with NCDMF may result in a required construction moratorium during periods of significant biological productivity or critical life stages.

2. **Trout Waters Moratorium.** Work in waters of the U.S. in the designated trout watersheds of North Carolina are prohibited from October 15th through April 15th without prior written approval from the NCWRC, or from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Fisheries and Wildlife Management (FWM) office if the project is located on EBCI trust land. (See Section C.3. below for information on the designated trout watersheds).

3. **Sturgeon Spawning Areas.** No in-water work shall be conducted in waters of the U.S. designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service as Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat from February 1st through June 30th. No in-water work shall be conducted in waters of the U.S. in the Roanoke River designated as Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat from February 1st through June 30th, and August 1st through October 31st, without prior written approval from NMFS.

4. **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation.** Impacts to Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) are not authorized by any NWP, except NWP 48, NWP 55 and NWP 56, unless Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation has been completed pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Permittees shall submit a PCN (see NWP General Condition 32) to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity if the project would affect SAV. The permittee may not begin work until notified by the Corps that the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act have been satisfied, and that the activity is verified.

C. REGIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL NWPs

1. **Critical Habitat in Western NC.** For proposed activities within waters of the U.S. that require a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) and are located in the thirteen counties listed below, permittees must provide a copy of the PCN to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 and the Corps Asheville Regulatory Field Office. Please see General Condition 18 for specific PCN requirements related to the Endangered Species Act and the below website for information on the location of designated critical habitat.

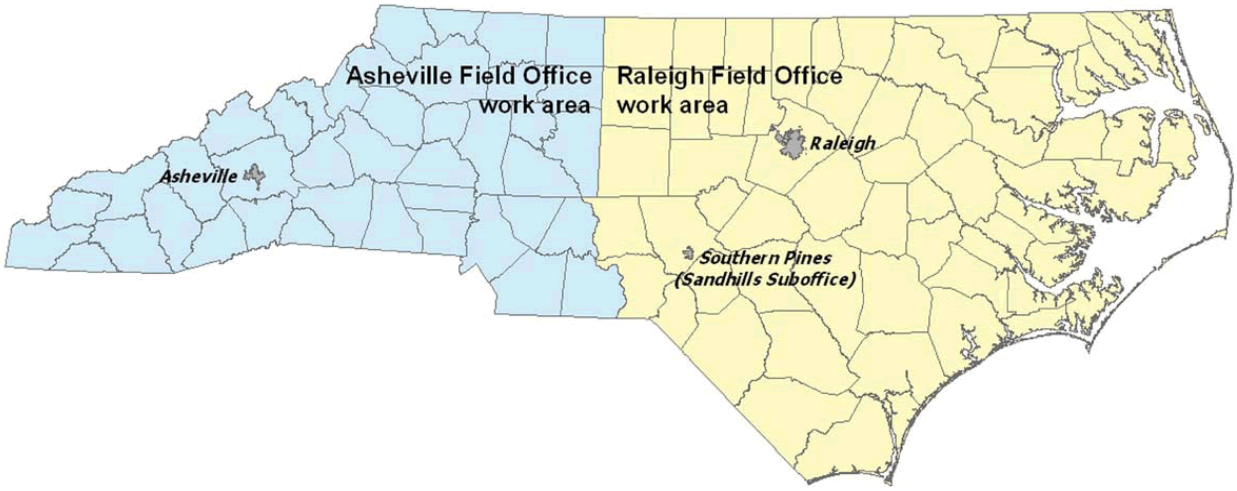
   Counties with tributaries that drain to designated critical habitat that require notification to the Asheville U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Avery, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Union and Yancey.

   Website and office addresses for Endangered Species Act Information:

   The Wilmington District has developed the following website for permittees which provides guidelines on how to review linked websites and maps in order to fulfill NWP General Condition 18 (Endangered Species) requirements: https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/North-Carolina/#endangered-species-and-critical-habitat.

   Permittees who do not have internet access may contact the appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices listed below or Corps at (704) 510-1441.

   Below is a map of the USFWS Field Office Boundaries:



Asheville U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office counties: All counties west of and including Anson, Stanly, Davidson, Forsyth and Stokes Counties.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Asheville Field Office
160 Zillicoa Street
Asheville, NC 28801
Telephone: (828) 258-3939

Raleigh U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office counties: All counties east of and including Richmond, Montgomery, Randolph, Guilford, and Rockingham Counties.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Raleigh Field Office
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726
Telephone: (919) 856-4520

2. **Special Designation Waters.** Prior to the use of any NWP that involves a discharge of dredged or fill material in any of the following identified waters and/or adjacent wetlands in North Carolina, permittees shall submit a PCN to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity (see General Condition 32). The North Carolina waters and wetlands that require additional PCN requirements are:

"Primary Nursery Areas" (PNA), including inland PNA, as designated by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission and/or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The definition of and designated PNA waters can be found in the North Carolina State Administrative Code at Title 15A, Subchapters 3R and 10C (15A NCAC 03R .0103; 15A NCAC 10C .0502; and 15A NCAC 10C .0503) and at the following web page: http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac.asp?folderName=%5CTitle%2015A%20-%20Environmental%20Quality

3. **Trout Waters.** Prior to any discharge of dredge or fill material into streams, waterbodies, or wetlands within the currently designated trout watersheds of North Carolina, the permittee shall submit a PCN (see General Condition 32) to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity. Current designated trout waters can be found at this link: https: https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/North-Carolina/#western-north-carolina-trout-watersheds. (These maps are periodically updated as new trout distribution and habitat data become available). The permittee shall also provide a copy of the PCN to the appropriate NCWRC office, or to the EBCI FWM Office (if the project is located on EBCI trust land), to facilitate the determination of any potential impacts to designated Trout Waters.

   NCWRC and NC Trout Watersheds:

NCWRC Contact**	**Counties that may have trout waters**	
Mountain Coordinator 645 Fish Hatchery Rd., Building B Marion, NC 28752 (828) 400-4223 For NCDOT Projects: Western NCDOT Coordinator, 20830 Great Smoky Mountain Expressway, Waynesville, NC 28786 (828) 476-1966	Alleghany Ashe Avery Graham Haywood Burke Buncombe Caldwell Cherokee Clay Henderson Madison McDowell Mitchell Polk Rutherford Surry Wilkes Yancey	Jackson Macon Swain Transylvania Watauga
EBCI Contact**	**Counties that are within Trout Watersheds***	
Office of Natural Resources P.O. Box 1747, Cherokee, NC 28719 (828) 359-6113	Qualla Boundary and non-contiguous tracts of trust land located in portions of Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Graham and Cherokee Counties.	

*NOTE: To determine PCN requirements, contact the Corps Asheville Regulatory Field Office at (828) 271-7980 or view maps showing trout

watersheds in each County at the following webpage: https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/North-Carolina/#western-north-carolina-trout-watersheds.

**If a project is located on EBCI trust land, submit the PCN in accordance with Regional Condition C.16. Contact the Corps Asheville Regulatory Field Office at (828) 271-7980 with questions.

4. **Western NC Waters and Corridors.** The permittee shall submit a PCN (see General Condition 32) to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity in waters of the U.S. if the activity will occur within any of the following identified waters in western North Carolina, within 0.5 mile on either side of these waters, or within 0.75 mile of the Little Tennessee River, as measured from the top of the bank of the respective water (i.e., river, stream, or creek):

   Brasstown Creek
   Burningtown Creek
   Cane River
   Caney Fork
   Cartoogechaye Creek
   Chattooga River
   Cheoah River
   Cowee Creek
   Cullasaja River
   Deep Creek
   Ellijay Creek
   French Broad River
   Garden Creek
   Hiwassee River
   Hominy Creek
   Iotla Creek
   Little Tennessee River (within the river or within 0.75 mile on either side of this river)
   Nantahala River
   Nolichucky River
   North Fork French Broad River
   North Toe River
   Nottley River
   Oconaluftee River (portion not located on trust/EBCI land)
   Peachtree Creek
   Shooting Creek
   Snowbird Creek
   South Toe River
   Stecoah Creek
   Swannanoa River
   Sweetwater Creek
   Tuckasegee River (also spelled Tuckaseegee or Tuckaseigee)
   Valley River
   Watauga Creek
   Watauga River

Wayah Creek
West Fork French Broad River

To determine PCN requirements, contact the Corps Asheville Regulatory Field Office at (828) 271-7980 or view maps for all corridors at the following webpage: https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/North-Carolina/#designated-waters.

5. **Limitation of Loss of Stream Bed.** NWPs may not be used for activities that may result in the loss of more than 0.05 acre of stream bed, except for NWP 32.

6. **Pre-Construction Notification for Loss of Stream Bed Exceeding 0.02 acre.** The permittee shall submit a PCN to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity (see General Condition 32) prior to the use of any NWP for any activity that results in the loss of more than 0.02 acre of stream bed. This applies to NWPs that do not have PCN requirements as well as those NWPs that require a PCN.

7. **Mitigation for Loss of Stream Bed.** For any NWP that results in a loss of more than 0.02 acre of stream bed, the permittee shall provide a mitigation proposal to compensate for more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse impacts to the aquatic environment, unless the District Engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate, or the adverse effects of the proposed activity are minimal. For stream bed losses of 0.02 acre or less that require a PCN, the District Engineer may determine, on a case-by-case basis, that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effect on the aquatic environment.

8. **Riprap.** For all NWPs that allow for the use of riprap material for bank stabilization, the following conditions shall be applied:

   a. Filter cloth must be placed underneath the riprap as an additional requirement of its use in North Carolina waters. The placement of filter fabric is not required if the riprap will be pushed or “keyed” into the bank of the waterbody. A waiver from the specifications in this Regional Condition must be requested in writing.

   b. Riprap shall be placed only on the stream banks, or, if it is necessary to be placed in the stream bed, the finished top elevation of the riprap should not exceed that of the original stream bed.

9. **Culvert Placement.** For all NWPs that allow for culvert placement, the following conditions shall be applied:

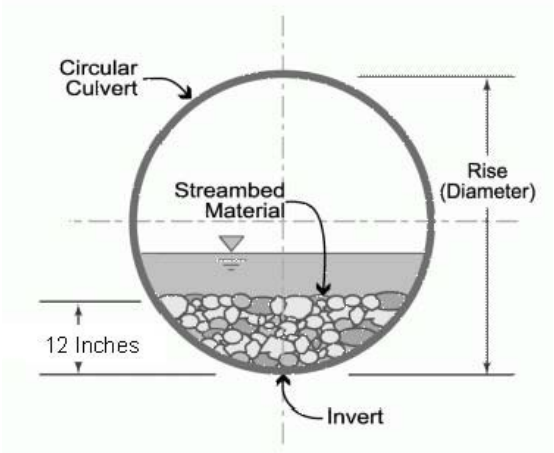
   a. For all NWPs that involve the construction/installation of culverts, measures shall be included in the construction/installation that will promote the safe passage of fish and other aquatic organisms.

   Placement of culverts and other structures in streams shall be 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 or equal to 48 inches. If the culvert outlet is submerged within a pool or scour hole and designed to provide for aquatic passage, then culvert burial into the streambed is not required.

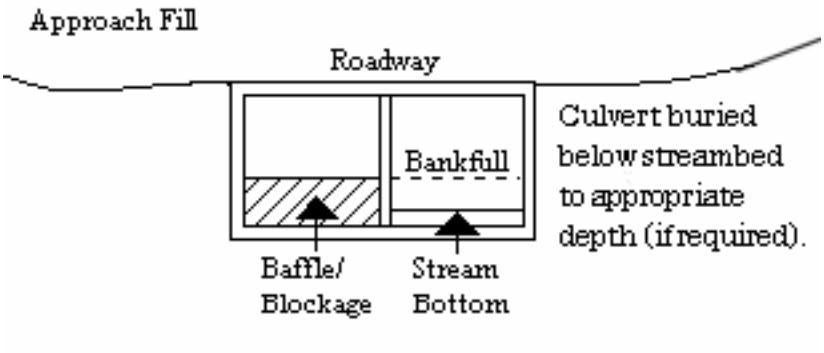
Culvert burial is not required for structures less than 72-inch diameter/width, where the slope of the culvert will be greater than 2.5 percent, provided that all alternative options for flattening the slope have been investigated and aquatic life movement/connectivity has been provided when possible (e.g., rock ladders, cross vanes, sills, baffles etc.). Culvert burial is not required when bedrock is present in culvert locations.

Installation of culverts in wetlands shall ensure continuity of water movement and be designed to adequately accommodate high water or flood conditions. When roadways, causeways, or other fill projects are constructed across FEMA-designated floodways or wetlands, openings such as culverts or bridges shall be provided to maintain the natural hydrology of the system as well as prevent constriction of the floodway that may result in destabilization of streams or wetlands.



A waiver from the depth specifications in this condition may be requested, in writing, by the permittee and issued by the Corps. This waiver request must be specific as to the reasons(s) for the request. The waiver will be issued if it can be demonstrated that the proposed design would result in less impacts to the aquatic environment. Culverts placed across wetland fills purely for the purposes of equalizing surface water do not have to be buried, but the culverts must be of adequate size and/or number to ensure unrestricted transmission of water.

b**.** Bank-full flows (or less) shall be accommodated through maintenance of the existing bank-full channel cross sectional area. Additional culverts or culvert barrels at such crossings shall be allowed only to receive bank-full flows.



c. Culverts shall be designed and installed in such a manner that the original stream profiles are not altered and allow for aquatic life movement during low flows. The dimension, pattern, and profile of the stream above and below a pipe or culvert shall not be modified by widening the stream channel or by reducing the depth of the stream in connection with the construction activity. The width, height, and gradient of a proposed culvert shall be such as to pass the average historical low flow and spring flow without adversely altering flow velocity. If the width of the culvert is wider than the stream channel, the culvert shall include multiple boxes/pipes, baffles, benches and/or sills to maintain the natural width of the stream channel. If multiple culverts/pipes/barrels are used, low flows shall be accommodated in one culvert/pipe and additional culverts/pipes shall be installed such that they receive only flows above bankfull.

10. **Utility Lines.** For all NWPs that allow for the construction and installation of utility lines, the following conditions shall be applied:

a. Utility lines consisting of aerial electric power transmission lines crossing navigable waters of the U.S. (which are defined at 33 CFR part 329) must comply with the applicable minimum clearances specified in 33 CFR 322.5(i).

b. The work area authorized by this permit, including temporary and/or permanent fills, will be minimized to the greatest extent practicable. Justification for work corridors exceeding forty (40) feet in width is required and will be based on pipeline diameter and length, size of equipment required to construct the utility line, and other construction information deemed necessary to support the request. The permittee is required to provide this information to the Corps with the initial PCN package.

c. A plan to restore and re-vegetate wetland areas cleared for construction must be submitted with the required PCN. Cleared wetland areas shall be re-vegetated, as appropriate, with species of canopy, shrub, and herbaceous species. The permittee shall not use fescue grass, or any other species identified as invasive or exotic species by the NC Native Plant Society (NCNPS): https://ncwildflower.org/invasive-exotic-species-list/.

d. Any permanently maintained corridor along the utility right of way within forested wetlands shall be considered a loss of aquatic function. A compensatory mitigation plan will be required for all such impacts associated with the requested activity if the activity requires a PCN and the cumulative total of permanent conversion of forested wetlands exceeds 0.1 acre, unless the District Engineer

determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate, or the adverse effects of the proposed activity are minimal.

Where permanently maintained corridor within forested wetlands is 0.1 acre or less, the District Engineer may determine, on a case-by-case basis, that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment.

e. When directional boring or horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under waters of the U.S., including wetlands, permittees shall closely monitor the project for hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." Any discharge from hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, shall be reported to the appropriate Corps Regulatory Field Office within 48 hours. Restoration and/or compensatory mitigation may be required as a result of any unintended discharges.

11. **Temporary Access Fills.** The permittee shall submit a PCN to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity if the activity will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material into more than 0.1 acre of wetlands or 0.02 acre of stream channel for the construction of temporary access fills and/or temporary road crossings. The PCN must include a restoration plan that thoroughly describes how all temporary fills will be removed, how pre-project conditions will be restored, and include a timetable for all restoration activities.

12. **Federal Navigation Channel Setbacks.** Authorized structures and fills located in or adjacent to Federally authorized waterways must be constructed in accordance with the latest setback criteria established by the Wilmington District Engineer. You may review the setback policy at: https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Setbacks/. This general permit does not authorize the construction of hardened or permanently fixed structures within the Federally Authorized Channel Setback, unless the activity is approved by the Corps. The permittee shall submit a PCN (see General Condition 32) to the District Engineer to obtain a written verification prior to the construction of any structures or fills within the Federally Authorized Channel Setback.

13. **Endangered and Threatened Species**. The NWP General Condition 18 (Endangered Species) states that no activity is authorized under any NWP which ''may affect'' a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7 consultation addressing the consequences of the proposed activity on listed species or critical habitat has been completed. The Wilmington District uses numerous Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES) and Programmatic Biological Opinions (PBOs) to ensure compliance with General Condition 18. These SLOPES/PBOs have been developed in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or other appropriate state and federal agencies. All current SLOPES/PBOs are listed on the Wilmington District website and will be used, where appropriate, to facilitate/determine ESA Section 7 compliance. All PBOs can be found on our website at:

https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/North-Carolina/#endangered-species-and-critical-habitat.

14. **West Indian Manatee Protection.** In order to protect the endangered West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) the Permittee shall implement the USFWS' Manatee Guidelines and strictly adhere to all requirements therein. The guidelines can be found at: https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Manatee%20guidelines%20NC.pdf.

15. **ESA Programmatic Biological Opinions.** The Wilmington District, USFWS, NCDOT, and the FHWA have conducted programmatic Section 7(a)(2) consultation for a number of federally listed species and designated critical habitat (DCH), and programmatic consultation concerning other federally listed species and/or DCH may occur in the future. The result of completed programmatic consultation is a Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) issued by the USFWS. These PBOs contain mandatory terms and conditions to implement the reasonable and prudent measures that are associated with "incidental take" of whichever species or critical habitat is covered by a specific PBO. Authorization under NWPs is conditional upon the permittee's compliance with all the mandatory terms and conditions associated with incidental take of the applicable PBO (or PBOs), which are incorporated by reference in the NWPs. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions associated with incidental take of an applicable PBO, where a take of the federally listed species occurs, would constitute an unauthorized take by the permittee, and would also constitute permittee non-compliance with the authorization under the NWPs. If the terms and conditions of a specific PBO (or PBOs) apply to a project, the Corps will include this/these requirements in any NWP verification that may be issued for a project. For an activity/project that does not require a PCN, the terms and conditions of the applicable PBO(s) also apply to that non-notifying activity/project. The USFWS is the appropriate authority to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of its PBO and the ESA. All PBOs can be found on our website at: https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/North-Carolina/#endangered-species-and-critical-habitat.

16. **Work on Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian Land.**

Notifying NWPs - All PCNs submitted for activities in waters of the U.S. on Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) trust land (i.e., Qualla Boundary and non-contiguous tracts of trust land located in portions of Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Graham and Cherokee Counties), must comply with the requirements of the latest MOU between the Wilmington District and the EBCI.

Non-notifying NWPs - Prior to the use of any non-notifying NWP for activities in waters of the U.S. on EBCI trust land (i.e., Qualla Boundary and non-contiguous tracts of trust land located in portions of Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Graham and Cherokee Counties), all prospective permittees must comply with the requirements of the latest MOU between the Wilmington District and the EBCI; this includes coordinating the proposed project with the

EBCI Natural Resources Program and obtaining a Tribal Approval Letter from the Tribe.

The EBCI MOU can be found at the following URL: https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/North-Carolina/#cultural-resources.

17. **Sedimentation and Erosion Control Structures and Measures.**

All PCNs will identify and describe sedimentation and erosion control structures and measures proposed for placement in waters of the U.S. The structures and measures should be depicted on maps, surveys or drawings showing location and impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and streams.

D. REGIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO NWP 3

1. In designated trout watersheds, a PCN is not required for impacts to a maximum of 0.02 acre for temporary dewatering) of streams and waterbodies when conducting maintenance activities. Minor deviations in an existing structure's configuration, temporary structures and temporary fills are authorized as part of the maintenance activity. In designated trout watersheds, the permittee shall submit a PCN (see Regional Condition C.3 above and General Condition 32) to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity if: 1) impacts (other than temporary dewatering to work in dry conditions) to streams or waterbodies exceed 0.008 acre, 2) temporary impacts to streams or waterbodies associated with dewatering to work in dry conditions exceeds 0.02 acre, 3) the project will involve impacts to wetlands, 4) the project involves the replacement of a bridge or spanning structure with a culvert or non-spanning structure in waters of the United States, or 5) the activity will be constructed during the trout waters moratorium (October 15 through April 15).

E. ACTIVITY SPECIFIC REGIONAL CONDITIONS

N/A.

F. SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND/OR COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION CONDITIONS

WQC: North Carolina Division of Water Resources (NCDWR)

- Denied WQCs for NWPs: 17, 21, 34, 38, 43, 49 and 50.

- The Wilmington District did not request WQC for NWPs 1, 2 ,8, 9, 10, 11, 24, 28, 35 and 55. NCDWR did not issue a WQC for NWPs 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 24, 28 and 55. However, NCDWR denied a certification for NWP 9 and issued a WQC with conditions for NWP 35.

- Issued WQCs with conditions for NWPs: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 46, 48, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59 and 60 (A). These WQC conditions are

incorporated as Regional Conditions and the Permittee is responsible for compliance as such.

WQC: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI)

- The Wilmington District did not request WQCs for NWPs 1, 2 ,8, 9, 10, 11, 24, 28, 35 and 55. EBCI did not issue a WQC for NWPs, 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 24, 28, 35 or 55.

- Issued WQCs with conditions for NWPs: 3, 5, 7, 13, 14, 22, 30, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 43, 45, 51, 53, 57, 58, and 59. These WQC conditions are incorporated as Regional Conditions and the Permittee is responsible for compliance as such.

- Issued a WQC with conditions and special conditions for NWP 27.

- Waived WQCs for NWPs: 4, 6, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 25, 29, 31, 32, 34, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, and 60 (A).

CZM: North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (NCDCM)

The CZMA consistency determination and all WQCs can be found at: https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/North-Carolina/#permitting.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

WATER QUALITY GENERAL CERTIFICATION NO. 8562

GENERAL CERTIFICATION FOR PROJECTS ELIGIBLE FOR US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS NATIONWIDE PERMIT NUMBER 3 (MAINTENANCE)

Water Quality General Certification Number 8562 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 Regulations in 15A NCAC 02H .0500 and 15A NCAC 02B .0200 for the discharge of fill material to surface waters and wetland areas as described in the corresponding Nationwide Permit issued pursuant to 33 CFR 330 of the US Army Corps of Engineers regulations.

The State of North Carolina certifies that the specified category of activity will comply with water quality requirements and 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.

Effective date: March 15, 2026

Signed this day: December 15, 2025

By

DocuSigned by:
Richard E. Rogers, Jr.
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Richard E. Rogers, Jr.
Director

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GENERAL CERTIFICATION COVERAGE:

Activities authorized by Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) General Permits that are eligible for US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 3 qualify for coverage under this General Certification as long as they comply with all of the Activity Specific and General Conditions of this Certification listed below.

All other activities that are eligible for US Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 3 qualify for coverage under this General Certification unless they meet one of the thresholds listed below. Activities meeting any one (1) of the thresholds or circumstances listed below are not eligible for coverage under this General Certification and therefore require *an Individual* 401 Water Quality Certification from the Division of Water Resources (DWR).

a) If any of the conditions of this General Certification cannot be met; or
b) Total permanent impacts to streams greater than or equal to 300 linear feet; or
c) Total permanent impacts to wetlands equal to or greater than one-half (1/2) acre; or
d) Total permanent impacts to open waters equal to or greater than one-half (1/2) acre; or
e) Any project proposing to satisfy compensatory mitigation through Permittee Responsible Mitigation; or
f) Any high-density project, as determined by the density thresholds and criteria specified in 15A NCAC 02H .1017(4) which triggers all of the following thresholds:
    i. Proposes to disturb one acre or more of land (including a project that disturbs less than one acre of land that is part of a larger common plan of development or sale); and
    ii. Has permanent wetland, stream, or open water impacts; and
    iii. Is proposing new built-upon area; and
    iv. Is not subject to a stormwater management plan review and approval under a state stormwater program[1] or a state-approved local government stormwater program[2], or has vested rights, exemptions, or other legacy rights or exemptions from state or locally-implemented stormwater programs or propose to satisfy state or locally-implemented stormwater programs through use of community in-lieu fee programs

For the purposes of the thresholds above (a-f), the Permittee shall account for all impacts from the Single and Complete Project (e.g. impacts from dedicated borrow and waste sites, impacts from associated infrastructure/utilities) as determined by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and all secondary indirect impacts resulting from the proposed activities.

Activities listed under Section I of this General Certification must receive a Certificate of Coverage from DWR prior to initiation of any activities covered by this General Certification.

[1] e.g. Coastal Counties, HQW, ORW, or state-implemented Phase II NPDES
[2] e.g. Delegated Phase II NPDES, Water Supply Watershed, Nutrient-Sensitive Waters, or Universal Stormwater Management Program

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I. NOTIFICATION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE:

Activities listed in this Section must obtain a Certificate of Coverage from DWR prior to initiation of any activities covered by this General Certification.

If the activity is authorized or proposed for authorization by a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Major Permit, then skip to k) in this list.

a) Total temporary and permanent new impacts and/or additions to existing structures to streams greater than or equal to 150 linear feet including any topographic/slope stabilization or in-stream stabilization needed for stream crossings; or
b) Total temporary and permanent new impacts and/or additions to existing structures to wetlands equal to or greater than one-tenth (1/10) acre; or
c) Total temporary and permanent new impacts and/or additions to existing structures to open waters and/or ditches subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) equal to or greater than one-tenth (1/10) acre; or
d) Any impacts to streams or wetlands from excavation or dredging other than excavation that is conducted as preparation for installing permanent fill or structures; or
e) Any stream restoration or relocation **except for**:
    i. Stream relocations that are conducted for the purpose of proper culvert installation, alignment, protection, repair or maintenance where the relocation length is equal to or less than 50 linear feet in length and the relocated stream is designed and installed based on current natural channel techniques; or
    ii. Repairs to previously authorized restoration or relocation projects using the same authorized design; or
f) Complete dewatering and drawdowns to a sediment layer related to pond/dam maintenance or removal unless the dewatering activity has been designed to ensure no discharge of sediment will occur into downstream waters AND has been covered by a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan Approval from the Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources (DEMLR) or a delegated local program; or
g) Any sediment and erosion control measures installed in wetlands or waters beyond the footprint of temporary and/or permanent wetland and/or waters impacts covered by this General Certification; or
h) Any impacts to SAV or significant shellfish resources as identified by the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF); or
i) Any permanent impacts to Unique Wetlands (UWL) [15A NCAC 02B .0231]; or
j) Any impacts to streams and/or open waters that are subject to state regulated riparian buffers in the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, or Catawba River Basins or in the Randleman Lake, Jordan Lake or Goose Creek Watersheds (or any other basin or watershed with State Regulated Riparian Area Protection Rules [15A NCAC 02B .0714; 15A NCAC 02B .0734; 15A NCAC 02B .0614; 15A NCAC 02B .0724; 15A NCAC 02B .0267; 15A NCAC 02B .0607] in effect at the time of application) *unless*:
    i. The activities are listed as “EXEMPT” or “DEEMED ALLOWABLE” from these rules; or

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ii. A Buffer Authorization Certificate is issued by the NC Division of Coastal Management (DCM); or

iii. A Buffer Authorization Certificate, Certificate with Exception, or Minor Variance is issued by a delegated or designated local government implementing a state riparian buffer program pursuant to 143-215.23; or

iv. Site access, equipment storage, and work is done solely from or in the water, avoiding all land disturbance in or near the buffer; or

k) Activities authorized or proposed for authorization by a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Major Permit **except for** projects that are covered by any one of the following criteria:

i. Boat Ramps and associated necessary infrastructure (i.e. roads and parking lots) that comply with all of the following:

A. Excavation or fill of wetlands and/or open water area is less than 500 square feet total; and

B. Excavation or fill of coastal wetlands (as defined in 15A NCAC 07H .0205) is equal to or less than 100 square feet;

ii. Living shorelines/marsh sills that comply with all of the following:

A. the landward edge of the sill does not extend waterward of the normal high water or normal water line more than 30 feet or five feet waterward of the existing wetlands whichever distance is greater; and

B. the activity will not involve the excavation or fill of any Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV); and

C. the activity will not involve the excavation or fill of significant shellfish resources (as identified by the Division of Marine Fisheries); and

D. the activity does not result in any fill landward of the toe of the sill alignment; or

iii. All other shoreline protection measures not covered by item ii above that comply with all of the following:

A. tie into existing bulkheads, land, or other shoreline protection measures or do not extend waterward of the normal high water or normal water line more than 10 feet; and

B. the activity will not involve the excavation or fill of any Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV); and

C. the activity will not involve the excavation or fill of significant shellfish resources (as identified by the Division of Marine Fisheries); and

D. Excavation or fill of wetlands and/or open water area is less than 500 square feet total; and

E. Excavation or fill of coastal wetlands (as defined in 15A NCAC 07H .0205) is equal to or less than 100 square feet;

iv. Piers and docks designed to accommodate up to, but not exceeding, 10 vessels that comply with all of the following:

A. the water depth is equal to or greater than two feet of water at normal low water level or normal water level (whichever is applicable); and

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B. they are not located within Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) as defined in 15A NCAC 02B .0225;

v. Any other projects that involve only shading of waters or wetlands that are not covered by item (iv) above;

vi. Maintenance dredging to restore the documented historical dimensions of the dredged channel of less than 0.5 acres of open water or non-vegetated wetlands, that comply with all of the following:
   A. the activity will not involve the excavation or fill of any Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV); and
   B. the activity will not involve the excavation or fill of significant shellfish resources (as identified by the Division of Marine Fisheries); and

vii. Utility lines as long as all impacts are temporary;

viii. New development (impacts shall include the entire project, including but not limited to: boat ramps, bulkheads or other shoreline stabilization measures) that comply with all of the following:
   A. Excavation or fill of non-coastal wetlands and/or open water area is less than 1/10 acre total; and
   B. Excavation or fill within a Coastal Shoreline Area of Environmental Concern (AEC) is no more than 2,000 square feet

For the purposes of the thresholds above (a-k), the Permittee shall account for all impacts from the Single and Complete Project (e.g. impacts from dedicated borrow and waste sites, impacts from associated infrastructure/utilities) as determined by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and all secondary indirect impacts resulting from the proposed activities.

A note: In accordance with 15A NCAC 02H .0506(c) and Session Law 2017-10, compensatory mitigation is required for losses from the entire single and complete project of greater than or equal to 300 linear feet of perennial streams and/or greater than or equal to 0.10 acre of wetlands, whether a Certificate of Coverage or an Individual is required.

II. ACTIVITY SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

1. Disturbed streambanks shall be stabilized at the end of each working day to ensure downstream water quality standards are maintained throughout construction. Streambanks shall be permanently stabilized with native riparian vegetation when practical. Temporary vegetation utilized for immediate stabilization and erosion control shall consist of native vegetation or annual vegetation such that it will not compete with permanent vegetation. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

2. All bulkhead backfill material shall be obtained from a high ground source and confined landward of the permitted bulkhead and shall consist of clean, earthen material free of any pollutants except in trace quantities. Metal products, organic materials concrete, bricks, or other non-earthen debris shall not be used. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)*

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3. The proposed bulkhead is a maximum of two (2) feet waterward of existing bulkhead, mean high water, normal high water or normal water level. (if necessary: along the most waterward alignment) *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0501 and .0502 and 15A NCAC 02H .0506 (b)(1)-(3)*

4. For living shorelines, the sills shall have at least one ten-foot opening every 100 feet and may be staggered or overlapped or left open as long as the five-foot separation between sections is maintained. Overlapping sections shall not overlap more than 10 feet. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(1) and (3); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

5. For living shorelines, the permittee shall employ all sedimentation and erosion control measures necessary to prevent an increase in sedimentation and turbidity within waters and wetlands outside the permitted area. This shall include, but is not limited to, the immediate installation of silt fencing, turbidity curtains or similar appropriate devices around all areas subject to soil disturbance. Additionally, the project must remain in full compliance with all aspects of the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act and the Mining Act of 1971. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(1) and (3); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0200*

If this Water Quality Certification is used for performing maintenance dredging on canals or boat basins, then the following Activity Specific Conditions shall apply to those impacts.

6. When performing maintenance dredging on canals or boat basins they shall not be dredged beyond their original depth and width. The area shall not be dredged to a depth deeper than the receiving water. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

7. All dredge and/or fill material shall be placed on high ground and the effluent water from the dredge spoil shall not be released into open shellfish waters unless Shellfish Sanitation (252-515-5656, ext. 0) and the DWR Washington (252-946-6481) or Wilmington (910-796-7215) Regional Office, as applicable, are notified and provide approval prior to the release. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02B .0221; 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

8. The terminal end of the pipeline from the dredge into the retention area shall be positioned at a maximum distance from spillways to allow adequate settling of suspended solids and a sufficient distance from any part of the dike so as to preclude dike erosion by the pipeline discharge. Effluent shall be released waterward of emergent marsh or tidal flats when located within these systems. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

9. A water control structure shall be installed at the intake end of the effluent leading from the retention area in order to ensure maximum settling of suspended solids and control of discharge volumes. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

10. The flow from any diked retention area shall be contained by pipe, metal or wooden trough, or similar device to a point waterward of any emergent vegetation along the shoreline unless it can be clearly shown by the permittee that a different design will result in less environmental impact. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*\

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11. Sufficient freeboard shall be maintained within the diked disposal area during the dredging operation to assure the integrity of the dike structure and the containment of the dredged material. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

12. Hydraulic dredging which utilize an upland diked disposal basin with a return pipe for the return water shall utilize the "two basin" design. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

13. The appropriate turbidity water quality standard shall not be exceeded or be above natural background conditions as stipulated in 15A NCAC 02B .0211(21) or 02B .0220(19). *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0200*

14. Disposal area dikes shall be stabilized with vegetative cover within one (1) day after construction to minimize erosion. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

If this Water Quality Certification is used for utility-related impacts, then the following Activity Specific Conditions shall apply to those impacts.

15. Any construction corridor that is parallel to a stream or open water shall not be closer than 10 feet to the top of bank or ordinary high-water mark. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

16. Where there are temporary or permanent impacts from stream crossings, underground utility lines shall cross the stream channel at a near-perpendicular direction (i.e., between 75 degrees and 105 degrees to the stream bank). Utility line replacements within existing easements or alignments may follow the existing alignments. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

17. Construction corridors in wetlands and/or across stream channels shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable and shall not exceed 40 feet wide.

    For construction corridors in wetlands and across stream channels, stumps shall be grubbed only as needed to install the utility line, and remaining stumps shall be cut off at grade level. The general stripping of topsoil within wetlands along the construction corridor is prohibited. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

18. Permanent maintained access corridors in wetlands and across stream channels shall be restricted to the minimum width practicable and shall not exceed 30 feet wide for underground utilities. For parallel adjacent lines with less than 20 feet between them, the permanent maintained corridor shall be restricted to the minimum width practicable not to exceed 15 feet from the edge of the outer most lines. Parallel adjacent lines with 20 feet or more between them shall be treated as individual lines with the access corridor the minimum width practicable, not to exceed 30 feet wide for each line. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

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19. For all utility lines constructed within wetlands, an anti-seep collar shall be placed at the downstream (utility line gradient) wetland boundary and every 150 feet up the gradient until the utility exits the wetland. Anti-seep collars may be constructed with class B concrete, compacted clay, PVC pipe, or metal collars. Wetland crossings that are directionally drilled, and perpendicular wetland crossings that are open cut and less than 150 feet long do not require anti-seep collars. The compacted clay shall have a specific infiltration of 1 X 10^{-5} cm/sec or less. A section and plan view diagram is attached for the anti-seep collars.

    The following specifications shall apply to class B concrete:

    i. Minimum cement content, sacks per cubic yard with rounded coarse aggregate 5.0
    ii. Minimum cement content, sacks per cubic yard with angular coarse aggregate 5.5
    iii. Maximum water-cement ratio gallons per sack 6.8
    iv. Slump range 2" to 4"
    v. Minimum strength - 28-day psi 2,500

    Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)

20. The permittee shall restore wetland contours to pre-construction conditions. Any excess material will be removed to a high ground disposal area.

    The mixing of topsoil and subsoils within the wetlands along utility corridors shall be minimized to the greatest extent practical. During excavation, the soils shall be placed on fabric to minimize impacts whenever possible. Topsoil excavated from utility trenches will be piled separately from subsoils and will be backfilled into the trench only after the subsoils have been placed and compacted. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

III. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. For all activities that require a Certificate of Coverage under Section I of this General Certification: The Certificate of Coverage is issued specifically for the plans, specifications, and associated application materials for the proposed project approved by DWR by the issuance of the Certificate of Coverage. Any final construction plans for a project must include or reference the application and plans submitted to the DWR. The Permittee must evaluate all other acquired permits to ensure that they are consistent with the plans submitted to the DWR, and all relative impacts are accounted for and shown on the final construction plans. Any modifications or additional impacts to streams and/or wetlands within the project require the permittee to notify the DWR and may require submission of a new application package with the appropriate fee to redetermine eligibility under this General Certification. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(2) and (3); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

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2. If the property is sold, the Permittee shall provide the new owner with a copy of this General Certification and all plans and specifications incorporated by reference for all activities that require a Certificate of Coverage under Section I of this General Certification. The Permittee may transfer a certificate of coverage issued under this General Certification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the Division with the following statement: *"At the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this 401 Individual Water Quality General Certification, including the responsibility to ensure compliance, are binding on the new owner(s) of the property."* The letter shall be signed and dated by both the transferee and the new owner. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0507(d)(2)*

3. For all projects that include multiple parcels and/or lots, including transportation and/or utility-related projects installed as infrastructure for multiple parcels and/or lots, deed notifications or similar mechanisms shall be placed on all lots/parcels that include jurisdictional wetlands, streams, open waters, and state-regulated riparian buffers within the overall project boundaries. These mechanisms shall be put in place at the time of recording of the property or individual parcels, whichever is appropriate. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0502(a); 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

4. The Permittee shall allow the Director, or an authorized representative (including an authorized contractor acting as a representative of the Director), upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to: *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0502(e); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

    a. Enter, at reasonable times, upon the Permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this certificate;
    b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this certificate;
    c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this certificate; and
    d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring certificate compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act, any substances or parameters at any location

5. In accordance with 15A NCAC 02H .0506(c) and Session Law 2017-10, compensatory mitigation is required for losses from the entire single and complete project of greater than or equal to 300 linear feet of perennial streams and/or greater than or equal to 0.10 acre of wetlands. For linear publicly owned and maintained transportation projects that have not been determined to be part of a larger common plan of development, the stream mitigation threshold is applied per perennial stream. The Compensatory Mitigation Responsibility Transfer (CMRT) Form(s) attached to the Certificate of Coverage or Individual Certificate issued for a specific project, shall be completed and provided to DWR prior to ***any*** impacts occurring. If the Mitigation Provider specified in the CMRT Form(s) changes after issuance of the Certificate of Coverage with MRT Form, then the Permittee shall request a revised CMRT Form from DWR prior to conducting any impacts. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(c); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

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6. For High Density Development projects subject to a State, or State approved Local Government Delegated Program, the Permittee shall secure an *approved* stormwater management plan (SMP) from the appropriate agency ***before any*** impacts authorized in this Certification occur. Before any permanent building or other permanent structure is occupied at the site the permanent stormwater management control measures or devices for the building and/or structures shall be constructed and operational. If any Erosion and Sediment Control devices share locations with any of the Stormwater Control Measures, the area must be restored to the approved stormwater design condition within 30 days of close-out of the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(2) and (3); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

7. For phased projects with conceptual future phases, when final design plans are completed, the Permittee shall ensure that final designs shall reflect all appropriate avoidance and minimization of impacts to wetlands, streams, and other surface waters. For projects that have been issued a Certificate of Coverage under this General Certification, the Permittee shall submit a request for a modified Certificate of Coverage if the impacts from the final design differ from those identified in the existing Certificate of Coverage. No construction activities (including temporary impacts) shall begin at such impact locations until a new Certificate of Coverage has been secured. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(2) and (3); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

8. All wetlands, streams, and surface waters located within the limits of disturbance and within 50 feet of the limits of disturbance/construction area on the project site shall be clearly marked (example- orange fabric fencing) prior to any land disturbing activities. The marking/fencing shall be maintained until the project or project phase is completed. Impacts to areas within the marked area/fencing are prohibited unless otherwise authorized by this certification. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(2); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

9. When requested by DWR, the Permittee and/or authorized agent shall schedule a pre-construction meeting with DWR, shall contact the appropriate DWR Regional Office upon project commencement of construction, shall submit a Certificate of Completion and/or shall provide as-built documentation. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0502(e); 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

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10. For projects that include draining a pond or lake, appropriate erosion and sediment control measures shall be utilized while draining the pond or lake to ensure limited impact to downstream waters as well as to native aquatic species. Such measures shall also be utilized to avoid any sediment release into downstream waters as a result of pond draining. The permittee shall observe any natural channel re-establishment, or utilize natural channel construction techniques, to ensure that the jurisdictional stream channel above and below the drained pond remain stable, and that no additional impacts occur within the natural stream channel as a result of draining the pond. The Permittee shall consult with NCWRC prior to the relocation or release of any aquatic species during pond draining or dam removal activities. During pond or lake refill, sufficient flow shall be continually released to the receiving stream to ensure aquatic life survival and maintenance of biological integrity. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(2); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

11. The permittee shall report to the appropriate DWR Regional Office any noncompliance with, and/or any violation of, stream or wetland standards [15A NCAC 02B .0200], including but not limited to sediment impacts to streams or wetlands. Information shall be provided orally within 24 hours (or the next business day if a weekend or holiday) from the time the permittee became aware of the non-compliance circumstances. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

12. A copy of this General Certification, and when applicable, the Certificate of Coverage, shall be retained on site during the construction and maintenance of this project, or with the project manager, and be available for inspection at all times. The Permittee shall require its contractors and/or agents to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit in the construction and maintenance of this project and shall provide each of its contractors and/or agents associated with the construction or maintenance of this project with a copy of this General Certification. If the Permittee becomes aware of any inability to comply with any of the conditions of this General Certification, they must notify the appropriate Regional Office within 24 hours (or the next business day if a weekend or holiday) from the time the Permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

13. No additional temporary or permanent impacts from waste, spoil, solids, fill, excavation, or staging of equipment, shall occur in wetlands or waters beyond the footprint of the impacts (including temporary impacts) identified in a Certificate of Coverage; or for projects that do not require a Certificate of Coverage; beyond the thresholds established for use of this General Certification. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506; 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

14. All activities shall be in compliance with any applicable State Regulated Riparian Buffer Rules in Chapter 2B of Title 15A in the North Carolina Administrative Code. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

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15. When applicable, all construction activities shall be performed and maintained in full compliance with G.S. Chapter 113A Article 4 (Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973). Regardless of applicability of the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act, all projects shall incorporate appropriate Best Management Practices for the control of sediment and erosion so that no violations of state water quality standards, statutes, or rules occur.

    Design, installation, operation, and maintenance of all sediment and erosion control measures shall be equal to or exceed the requirements specified in the most recent version of the *North Carolina Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual*, or the *North Carolina Department of Transportation Erosion and Sediment Control Design and Construction Manual*.

    Appropriate measures should be installed prior to any land clearing activities to protect wetlands, streams, and/or buffers from turbidity and/or sedimentation. These measures should be routinely inspected and properly maintained, and excavated materials should be contained outside wetland, stream, and/or buffer boundaries.

    For installation of bridges that involve driving or drilling activities within stream channels, open waters, or along streambanks turbidity curtains shall be installed within the surface water.

    All devices shall be maintained on all construction sites, borrow sites, and waste pile (spoil) sites, including contractor-owned or leased borrow pits associated with the project. Sufficient materials required for stabilization and/or repair of erosion control measures and stormwater routing and treatment shall be on site at all times.

    For borrow pit sites, the erosion and sediment control measures shall be designed, installed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the most recent version of the *North Carolina Surface Mining Manual*. Reclamation measures and implementation shall comply with the reclamation in accordance with the requirements of the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act and the Mining Act of 1971.

    If the project occurs in waters or watersheds classified as Primary Nursery Areas (PNAs), SA, WS-I, WS-II, High Quality Waters (HQW), or Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW), then the sedimentation and erosion control designs shall comply with the requirements set forth in 15A NCAC 04B .0124, *Design Standards in Sensitive Watersheds*. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b)(2); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0200; 15A NCAC 02B .0231*

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16. Sediment and Erosion Control Measures (S&EC) in wetlands or waters should be avoided to the maximum extent possible and any S&EC occurring in wetlands or waters shall be restored to pre-existing conditions upon completion of the project. The Permittee shall utilize sediment and erosion control measures that avoid and minimize the need for the placement of silt fence along streams at the normal water level. Where measures are placed within authorized impact areas then placement of such measures shall not be conducted in a manner that results in a loss of function of any wetlands, streambeds, or streambanks. Any erosion control measures, including silt fence, installed within wetlands shall be removed from wetlands and the natural grade restored and revegetated within two (2) months of the date the appropriate sediment and erosion control program has released the specific area within the project to ensure wetland standards are maintained upon completion of the project. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0200; 15A NCAC 02B .0231*

17. Erosion control matting shall not be placed within a stream bed. Erosion control matting that incorporates plastic mesh and/or plastic twine shall not be used along streambanks or within wetlands. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

18. If the project is covered by NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit Number NCG010000 or NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit Number NCG250000, full compliance with permit conditions including the erosion and sedimentation control plan, inspections and maintenance, self-monitoring, record keeping and reporting requirements is required. *15A NCAC 02H .0506(b) and (c); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

19. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) shall maintain full compliance with the conditions related to construction activities and post construction stormwater design, construction and maintenance, within the most recent version of their Individual NPDES Stormwater Permit Number NCS000250. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0200; 15A NCAC 02B .0231*

20. For projects impacting waters classified by the NC Environmental Management Commission as High Quality Waters (HQW), including Water Supply I or II (WSI, WSII) and/or as Outstanding Resources Waters (ORW) post construction stormwater shall be managed in accordance with 15A NCAC 02B .0224(d) or .0225 as applicable.

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21. All work in or adjacent to streams, ponds, lakes, and reservoirs shall be conducted so that the work area is isolated from surface waters. Approved best management practices from the most current version of the DEMLR *NC Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual*, or the *NC Department of Transportation Best Management Practices For Construction and Maintenance Activities Manual*, such as sandbags, rock berms, cofferdams, pump-arounds, and other diversion structures shall be used to minimize excavation in flowing water. Water that comes in contact with the work area shall be treated through an appropriate sediment/erosion control measure (sediment basin, filter bag, etc) prior to discharging to a surface water. All temporarily disturbed areas for the purpose of isolation/dewatering shall be restored to original grade, including each stream's original cross-sectional dimensions, planform pattern, and longitudinal bed profile. All temporarily impacted sites shall be restored and stabilized with native vegetation as practicable. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0200*

22. For all activities that require a Certificate of Coverage under Section I of this General Certification: *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 04B .0125*

    The Permittee shall allow NCWRC and/or DMF to implement pre-construction species surveys and relocations. The Permittee shall adhere to NCWRC and/or DMF recommended moratoria. If NCWRC and/or DMF provides recommended design modifications to protect federally/state listed aquatic species, the permittee shall implement these to the degree possible. If the recommended conditions cannot be met, a project proponent may apply for coverage under an individual 401 water quality certification.

    For all other activities:

    Work within a designated trout watershed as identified by the Wilmington District of the US Army Corps of Engineers or work within identified state or federal endangered or threatened species habitat shall be coordinated with NCWRC and/or DMF prior to initiating of project activities.

    The Permittee shall adhere to NCWRC and/or DMF recommended moratoria. Exceptions to this condition require written approval by the resource agency responsible for the given moratorium. If activities must occur during periods of high biological activity of aquatic species (e.g. sea turtle nesting, fish spawning, or bird nesting) all biological surveys, relocations, and/or monitoring requested by the state agency must be conducted.

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23. Culverts shall be designed and installed in such a manner that the original stream profiles are not altered and allows for aquatic life movement during low flows. The dimension, pattern, and profile of the stream above and below a pipe or culvert shall not be modified by widening the stream channel or by reducing the depth of the stream in connection with the construction activity. The width, height, and gradient of a proposed culvert shall be such as to pass the average historical low flow and spring flow without adversely altering flow velocity. If the width of the culvert is wider than the stream channel, the culvert shall include multiple boxes/pipes, baffles, benches and/or sills to maintain the natural width of the stream channel. If multiple culverts/pipes/barrels are used, low flows shall be accommodated in one culvert/pipe and additional culverts/pipes shall be installed such that they receive only flows above bankfull.

    Placement of culverts and other structures in streams shall also meet one of the following requirements:

    a. For structures less than 72” in diameter/width and in area where topographic constraints dictate culvert slopes will be greater than 2.5%, culverts shall be installed “at grade” such that low flow conditions in the stream are maintained provided that all alternative options for flattening the slope have been investigated and aquatic life movement/connectivity has been provided when possible (e.g. rock ladders, cross-vanes, sills, baffles etc.); or
    b. When bedrock is present in culvert locations, culvert burial is not required, provided that there is documentation of the presence of bedrock.
    c. For all other culverts:
        i. Culverts with a diameter greater than 48 inches shall be below the elevation of the streambed by one foot
        ii. Culverts with diameter less than or equal to 48 inches shall be below the streambed by 20% of the culvert diameter

    If a culvert outlet is submerged within a pool or scour hole and designed to provide for aquatic passage, then culvert burial into the streambed is not required.

    Documentation such as a location map of the culvert, culvert profile drawings, slope calculations, geotechnical reports, photographs, etc. shall be provided to DWR upon written request.

    For culvert replacements within the same location/footprint, and of similar length, culverts shall be designed and installed to meet the above requirements of this Condition unless prohibited by existing conditions on site, such as existing infrastructure or topographic constraints.

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Installation of culverts in wetlands shall ensure continuity of water movement and be designed to adequately accommodate high water or flood conditions. When roadways, causeways, or other fill projects are constructed across FEMA-designated floodways or wetlands, openings such as culverts or bridges shall be provided to maintain the natural hydrology of the system as well as prevent constriction of the floodway that may result in destabilization of streams or wetlands.

The establishment of native woody vegetation and other soft stream bank stabilization techniques shall be used where practicable instead of rip-rap or other bank hardening methods. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

24. Bridge piles and bents shall be constructed using driven piles (hammer or vibratory) or drilled shaft construction methods. More specifically, jetting or other methods of pile driving are prohibited under this General Certification. *15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0200*

25. Unless already approved by an NPDES permit, bridge deck drains shall not discharge directly into the stream. Stormwater shall be directed across the bridge and pre-treated through site-appropriate means to the maximum extent practicable (e.g. grassed swales, pre-formed scour holes, vegetated buffers, etc.) before entering the stream. This condition may be waived with prior written approval from the NCDWR. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

26. Application of fertilizer to establish planted/seeded vegetation within disturbed riparian areas and/or wetlands shall be conducted at agronomic rates and shall comply with all other Federal, State and Local regulations. Fertilizer application shall be accomplished in a manner that minimizes the risk of contact between the fertilizer and surface waters. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0231*

27. Discharging hydroseed mixtures and washing out hydroseeders and other equipment in, or adjacent to, surface waters is prohibited. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H.0506(b)*

28. If concrete is used during construction (including bulkhead components, such as deadman anchors, tie-back systems and concrete caps), then all necessary measures shall be taken to isolate the concrete from waters of the state by maintaining a dry work area to prevent direct contact between curing concrete and surface waters. Drill slurry and water that inadvertently contacts uncured concrete shall not be discharged to waters of the state. Water that inadvertently contacts uncured concrete shall not be discharged to surface waters due to the potential for elevated pH and possible aquatic life and fish kills. Any water that contacts uncured concrete shall be captured, treated, and disposed of properly. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0200; 15A NCAC 02B .0231*

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29. All temporary pipes, culverts, rip-rap pads etc. in streams shall be installed so as not to restrict stream flow or installed in such a manner that restricts aquatic life movement during low flow conditions. All temporary pipes and/or culverts shall be installed as outlined in the most recent edition of the *North Carolina Erosion and Sediment Control Planning and Design Manual* or the *North Carolina Surface Mining Manual* or the *North Carolina Department of Transportation Best Management Practices for Construction and Maintenance Activities*. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

30. All temporary fill and temporary culverts shall be removed, and the impacted area shall be returned to natural conditions, within 60 calendar days after the temporary impact is no longer necessary. The impacted areas shall be restored to original grade, including each stream's original cross-sectional dimensions, planform pattern, and longitudinal bed profile. All temporarily impacted sites shall be restored and stabilized with native vegetation when practicable. For all areas where wetlands are impacted by temporary roads constructed by temporary fill material, the Permittee shall remove the fill material and conduct activities necessary to restore preconstruction hydrology by addressing soil compaction. When temporary fill has been added to wetlands, or heavy equipment has been placed within a wetland, the Permittee shall ensure restoration of preconstruction soil conditions when restoring wetland areas. Upon restoration of the wetland, the Permittee shall inspect the area quarterly for a minimum of two years to document successful restoration. The Permittee shall provide documentation of inspections to DWR when requested. The monitoring requirement can be relieved with review and written approval by DWR. If the area is not restored to preconstruction conditions the impacts shall be considered permanent, and the Permittee shall request a modified Certificate of Coverage from DWR. With prior written approval from DWR, removal of temporary fill and temporary culverts and restoration of the impacted area may be postponed to accommodate moratorium periods. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

31. Demolition of existing structures, such as culvert or bridge removal, shall be conducted to ensure water quality standards are maintained. NCDOT activities shall adhere to NCDOT's *Best Management Practices for Construction and Maintenance Activities*. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0200*

32. Any rip-rap or other armoring materials required for proper culvert placement, stream stabilization, or restoration of temporarily disturbed areas shall be restricted to the area directly impacted by the construction activity covered by this General Certification. All rip-rap or other non-natural armoring material placed in streams shall be placed such that the original streambed elevation and streambank contours are restored, and that the finished elevation of the rip rap shall not exceed that of the original stream bed. All rip-rap or other armoring materials shall consist of clean rock or masonry material free of debris or toxic pollutants. Placement of rip-rap or other armoring materials shall not result in de-stabilization of the stream bed or banks upstream or downstream of the area or be installed in a manner that precludes aquatic life passage. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

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33. Any rip-rap or other non-natural armoring material (i.e. gabion baskets, revetments, bulkheads, seawalls, retaining walls) used for stream or shoreline stabilization shall be of a size and density to prevent movement by wave, current action, or stream flows, and shall consist of clean rock or masonry material free of debris or toxic pollutants. Rip-rap or other armoring materials shall not be installed in the streambed except in specific areas required for velocity control and to ensure structural integrity of bank stabilization measures. Any rip-rap or other armoring materials placed in the streambed shall be such that the finished elevation of the rip rap or other armoring materials shall not exceed that of the original stream bed. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0201*

34. Rip-rap groins proposed in accordance with 15A NCAC 07H .1401 (NC Division of Coastal Management General Permit for construction of Wooden and Rip-rap Groins in Estuarine and Public Trust Waters) shall meet all the specific conditions for design and construction specified in 15A NCAC 07H .1405. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 07H .1400*

35. All mechanized equipment operated near surface waters shall be inspected and maintained regularly to prevent contamination of surface waters from fuels, lubricants, hydraulic fluids, or other toxic materials. Construction shall be staged in order to minimize the exposure of equipment to surface waters to the maximum extent practicable. Fueling, lubrication, and general equipment maintenance shall be performed in a manner to prevent, to the maximum extent practicable, contamination of surface waters by fuels and oils. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0200*

36. Heavy equipment working in wetlands shall be placed on mats or non-impact equipment shall be used to ensure no disturbance and/or compaction of soil from equipment except within the footprint of the impacts covered by this Certification. Heavy equipment necessary for in stream activities shall be operated from the banks to the maximum extent practical and in no cases shall cause unstable stream banks or a violation of water quality standards. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC 02B .0231*

37. In accordance with G.S. 143-215.85(b), the Permittee shall report any petroleum spill of 25 gallons or more; any spill regardless of amount that causes a sheen on surface waters; any petroleum spill regardless of amount occurring within 100 feet of surface waters; and any petroleum spill less than 25 gallons that cannot be cleaned up within 24 hours. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); N.C.G.S 143-215.85(b)*

38. For all dam removal projects meeting the definition under G.S. 143-215.25 and requirements under G.S. 143-215.27 of a professionally supervised dam removal, the applicant shall provide documentation that any sediment that may be released has similar or lower level of contamination than sediment sampled from downstream of the dam in accordance with Session Law 2017-145. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0502; 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c); 15A NCAC02B .0200; S.L. 2017-145;*

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39. The Permittee and their authorized agents shall conduct all 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. *Citation: 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b); 15A NCAC 02H .0507(c)*

IV. DEFINITIONS

Temporary Impacts: Any impact that temporarily disturbs a stream, wetland, or open water and returns the disturbed area to pre-construction conditions, form and function or improved form and function within a duration that will ensure minimal disturbance to ecological function, including biological transport, migration, and reproduction.

Permanent Impacts: Any impact that modifies the form or function of a stream, wetland, or open water in a permanent manner, or for a duration that is sufficiently long to disrupt natural processes within the surface water. Examples include culverts, fill, riprap, streambank or shoreline stabilization, dredging, relocations, restoration. Permanent impacts may (1) improve the function of surface waters, such as stream and wetland restorations, (2) be neutral to the function of the surface waters, or (3) cause a reduction or loss of function of surface waters.

Secondary Indirect Impacts – Effects that are caused by the activity and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable. Secondary indirect impacts may (1) improve the function of surface waters, such as stream and wetland restorations, (2) be neutral to the function of the surface waters, or (3) cause a reduction or loss of function of surface waters.

Stream Restoration - the process of converting an unstable, altered, or degraded stream corridor, including adjacent riparian zone and flood-prone areas, to its natural or referenced stable conditions considering recent and future watershed conditions. This process also includes restoring the geomorphic dimension, pattern, and profile as well as biological and chemical integrity, including transport of water and sediment produced by the stream's watershed in order to achieve dynamic equilibrium. 'Reference' or 'reference reach' means a stable stream that is in dynamic equilibrium with its valley and contributing watershed. A reference reach can be used to develop natural channel design criteria for stream restoration projects.

Stream Relocation - Stream relocation is when a stream is moved laterally to a new location to allow a project, or part of a project, to be constructed in the stream's former location. For permitting purposes, stream relocations may be considered a loss of function pursuant to 15A NCAC 2H .0506(c) depending on the documented condition and location of the existing stream and the proposed design and success of the relocated stream.

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V. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

In accordance with 15A NCAC 02H .0506(b), the Director of the North Carolina Division of Water Resources may require submission of an application for an Individual Certification for any project if, based on the unique characteristics of the project, it is determined by the Director that the conditions in this general certification will not ensure that the proposed activity will comply with state water quality standards, which includes designated uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria and the state's antidegradation policy.

This General Certification does not relieve the permittee of the responsibility to obtain all other required Federal, State, or Local approvals before proceeding with the project, including those required by, but not limited to, Sediment and Erosion Control, Non-Discharge, Water Supply Watershed, Division of Coastal Management and Trout Buffer regulations.

This General Certification, and any associated certificates of coverage, neither grants nor affirms any property right, license, or privilege in any waters, or any right of use in any waters. This General Certification does not authorize any person to interfere with the riparian rights, littoral rights, or water use rights of any other person and does not create any prescriptive right or any right of priority regarding any usage of water. This General Certification shall not be interposed as a defense in any action respecting the determination of riparian or littoral rights or other rights to water use. No consumptive user is deemed by virtue of this General Certification to possess any prescriptive or other right of priority with respect to any other consumptive user regardless of the quantity of the withdrawal or the date on which the withdrawal was initiated or expanded.

This General Certification shall expire on the same day as the expiration date of the corresponding Nationwide Permit. The conditions in effect on the date of issuance of Certification for a specific project shall remain in effect for the life of the project, regardless of the expiration date of this General Certification. For purposes of this paragraph for projects that do not require issuance of a certificate of coverage, the date of issuance shall be deemed to be the date that activities covered by this General Certification were initiated. This General Certification is rescinded when the US Army Corps of Engineers reauthorizes the corresponding Nationwide Permit or when deemed appropriate by the Director of the Division of Water Resources, consistent with the provisions of 15A NCAC 2H .0507.

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