



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, WILMINGTON DISTRICT  
151 Patton Avenue, Room 208  
Asheville, NC 28801-5006

August 8, 2025

Regulatory Division  
SAW-2025-01294

North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Attention: Mr. Chris Wood  
Division 11 Environmental Program Supervisor  
801 Statesville Road  
North Wilkesboro, North Carolina 28659  
828-475-9643 cell  
Sent Via Email: [cjwood@ncdot.gov](mailto:cjwood@ncdot.gov)

Dear Mr. Wood,

This letter is in response to the application you submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, WRDA/Transportation Branch on June 26, 2025, for a Department of the Army general permit verification to replace a bridge (Bridge No. 105) that was destroyed by Hurricane Helene with a culvert. This culvert was installed to facilitate travel in the area post-Helene and was initially intended to be temporary; however, NCDOT later determined that it functions well. As such, NCDOT is now requesting authorization of this after-the-fact (ATF) impact as the permanent crossing structure. This project is located over Martin's Branch on SR 1134 in Avery County, North Carolina at 36.0826, -82.0402 and has been assigned file number SAW-2025-01294. No other work in waters of the U.S. has occurred, or will occur, for this project other than the ATF impact noted below:

**Summary of ATF Impact**

Impact ID #	NWP / GP #	Open Water (ac)		Wetland (ac)		Stream (lf)	
		Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent
<b>Site 1 (Martin's Branch)</b>	<b><u>NWP 14</u> <u>(ATF)</u></b>						<b>26' (culvert)</b>
Impact Totals		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>26'</b>
Total Loss of waters of the U.S. (wetlands and/or open waters)			<b>0</b>	Total Loss of waters of the U.S.			<b>26'</b>
Required wetland compensatory mitigation			<b>0</b>	Required stream compensatory mitigation			<b>52'</b>

We have reviewed the proposed activities in waters of the U.S. and have determined that the activities are authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) 14 pursuant to authorities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C § 1344). As noted in the PCN and

attachments, NCDOT conducted this work in waters of the U.S. in strict accordance with the following:

- enclosed NWP general and regional conditions
- information in the PCN and attachments

If the extent of the project area and/or nature of the authorized impacts to waters are modified, a request detailing the proposed changes must be submitted to this office for written approval before work is initiated. Any deviation from the terms and conditions of the permit, the special conditions of this letter, the information contained in the PCN, or your submitted plans, may subject the permittee to enforcement action.

This verification is valid until March 14, 2026, unless the subject NWP is suspended, revoked, or is modified prior to that date such that the activity no longer complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP.

**Project Specific Special Condition:**

1. In order to compensate for impacts associated with this permit, mitigation shall be provided in accordance with the provisions outlined on the most recent version of the attached Compensatory Mitigation Responsibility Transfer Form. The requirements of this form, including any special conditions listed on this form, are hereby incorporated as special conditions of this permit authorization.

This general permit verification and any associated authorizations does not preclude the necessity to obtain any other Federal, State, or local permits, licenses, and/or certifications, which may be required.

If you have any questions related to this verification or have issues accessing documents referenced in this letter, please contact Lori Beckwith, Regulatory Project Manager of the WRDA/Transportation Branch at 828-230-0483, by mail at the above address, or by email at [loretta.a.beckwith@usace.army.mil](mailto:loretta.a.beckwith@usace.army.mil). Please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located at <https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/>.

Sincerely,



M. Scott Jones, PWS  
WRDA / Transportation Branch Chief  
USACE, Wilmington District

Enclosures

## **Compliance Certification Form**

**File Number: SAW-2025-01294**

**County: Avery**

**Permittee: NCDOT, Mr. Chris Wood**

**Project Name: NCDOT / Hurricane Helene / 11B.200611 / Br 050105 / SR 1134 /  
Avery / Div 11**

**Date Verification Issued: August 7, 2025**

**Project Manager: Lori Beckwith**

Upon completion of the activity authorized by this permit and any mitigation required by the permit, sign this certification and return it to the following address:

**US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
Wilmington District  
Attn: Lori Beckwith  
151 Patton Avenue, Room 208  
Asheville, NC 28801-5006  
or  
loretta.a.beckwith@usace.army.mil**

Please note that your permitted activity is subject to a compliance inspection by a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers representative. Failure to comply with any terms or conditions of this authorization may result in the USACE suspending, modifying or revoking the authorization and/or issuing a Class I administrative penalty, or initiating other appropriate legal action.

I hereby certify that the work authorized by the above referenced permit, and mitigation (if applicable), has been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the said permit and verification letter, including all applicable conditions.

**Date Authorized Work Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Completed: \_\_\_\_\_**

Describe any deviations from permit (attach drawing(s) depicting the deviations):

---

---

**\*Note: The description of any deviations on this form does not constitute approval by the USACE.**

---

**Signature of Permittee**

---

**Date**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**Wilmington District**  
**Compensatory Mitigation Responsibility Transfer Form**

**Permittee:** North Carolina Department of Transportation

**Action ID:** SAW-2025-01294

**Project Name:** Bridge 105/new culvert on SR 1134 over Martin's Branch, 11B.200611 **County:** Avery

**Instructions to Permittee:** The Permittee must provide a copy of this form to the Mitigation Sponsor, either an approved Mitigation Bank or the North Carolina Division of Mitigation Services (NCDMS), who will then sign the form to verify the transfer of the mitigation responsibility. Once the Sponsor has signed this form, it is the Permittee's responsibility to ensure that Wilmington District Project Manager identified on page two is in receipt of a signed copy of this form before conducting authorized impacts, unless otherwise specified below. If more than one Mitigation Sponsor will be used to provide the mitigation associated with the permit, or if the impacts and/or the mitigation will occur in more than one 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC), multiple forms will be attached to the permit, and the separate forms for each Sponsor and/or HUC must be provided to the appropriate Mitigation Sponsors.

**Instructions to Sponsor:** The Sponsor verifies that the mitigation requirements (credits) shown below have been released and are available at the identified site. By signing below, the Sponsor is accepting full responsibility for the identified mitigation, regardless of whether they have received payment from the Permittee. Once the form is signed, the Sponsor must update the bank ledger and provide a copy of the signed form and the updated ledger to the Permittee, the Project Manager who issued the permit, the Bank Project Manager, and the District Mitigation Office (see contact information on page 2). The Sponsor must also comply with all reporting requirements established in their authorizing instrument.

**Permitted Impacts and Compensatory Mitigation Requirements**

**Permitted Impacts Requiring Mitigation\*:**

**8-digit HUC and Basin:** 06010108, French Broad River Basin

Stream Impacts (linear feet)			Wetland Impacts (acres)			
Warm	Cool	Cold	Riparian Riverine	Riparian Non-Riverine	Non-Riparian	Coastal
		26				

\*If more than one mitigation sponsor will be used for the permit, only include impacts to be mitigated by this sponsor.

**Compensatory Mitigation Requirements:**

**8-digit HUC and Basin:** 06010108, French Broad River Basin

Stream Mitigation (credits)			Wetland Mitigation (credits)			
Warm	Cool	Cold	Riparian Riverine	Riparian Non-Riverine	Non-Riparian	Coastal
		52				

**Mitigation Site Debited:** NCDMS

(List the name of the bank to be debited. For umbrella banks, also list the specific site. For NCDMS, list NCDMS. If the NCDMS acceptance letter identifies a specific site, also list the specific site to be debited).

***Section to be completed by the Mitigation Sponsor***

**Statement of Mitigation Liability Acceptance:** I, the undersigned, verify that I am authorized to approve mitigation transactions for the Mitigation Sponsor shown below, and I certify that the Sponsor agrees to accept full responsibility for providing the mitigation identified in this document (see the table above), associated with the USACE Permittee and Action ID number shown. I also verify that released credits (and/or advance credits for NCDMS), as approved by the Wilmington District, are currently available at the mitigation site identified above. Further, I understand that if the Sponsor fails to provide the required compensatory mitigation, the USACE Wilmington District Engineer may pursue measures against the Sponsor to ensure compliance associated with the mitigation requirements.

**Mitigation Sponsor Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Sponsor's Authorized Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Sponsor's Authorized Representative**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Signature**

**USACE Wilmington District  
Compensatory Mitigation Responsibility Transfer Form, Page 2**

**Conditions for Transfer of Compensatory Mitigation Credit:**

- Once this document has been signed by the Mitigation Sponsor and the District is in receipt of the signed form, the Permittee is no longer responsible for providing the mitigation identified in this form, though the Permittee remains responsible for any other mitigation requirements stated in the permit conditions.
- Construction within jurisdictional areas authorized by the permit identified on page one of this form can begin only after the District is in receipt of a copy of this document signed by the Sponsor, confirming that the Sponsor has accepted responsibility for providing the mitigation requirements listed herein. When NCDMS provides mitigation for authorized impacts conducted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), construction within jurisdictional areas may proceed upon permit issuance; however, a copy of this form signed by NCDMS must be provided to the District within 30 days of permit issuance. NCDOT remains fully responsible for the mitigation until the District has received this form, confirming that the Sponsor has accepted responsibility for providing the mitigation requirements listed herein.
- Signed copies of this document must be retained by the Permittee, Mitigation Sponsor, and in the USACE administrative records for both the permit and the Bank/ILF Instrument. It is the Permittee's responsibility to ensure that the District Project Manager (address below) is provided with a signed copy of this form.
- If changes are proposed to the type, amount, or location of mitigation after this form has been signed and returned to the District, the Sponsor must obtain case-by-case approval from the District Project Manager and/or North Carolina Interagency Review Team (NCIRT). If approved, higher mitigation ratios may be applied, as per current District guidance and a new version of this form must be completed and included in the District administrative records for both the permit and the Bank/ILF Instrument.

**Comments/Additional Conditions:**

This form is not valid unless signed below by the District Project Manager and by the Mitigation Sponsor on Page 1. ***Once signed, the Sponsor should provide copies of this form along with an updated bank ledger to: 1) the Permittee, 2) the District Project Manager at the address below, 3) the Bank Manager listed in RIBITS, and 4) the Wilmington District Mitigation Office, 3331 Heritage Trade Drive, Suite 105, Wake Forest, NC 27587 (or by email to [SAWMIT@usace.army.mil](mailto:SAWMIT@usace.army.mil)).***

Questions regarding this form or any of the permit conditions may be directed to the District Mitigation Office.

**USACE Project Manager:** Lori Beckwith  
**USACE Field Office:** Asheville Regulatory Field Office  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
151 Patton Avenue, Room 208  
Asheville, NC 28801-5006

**Email:** [loretta.a.beckwith@usace.army.mil](mailto:loretta.a.beckwith@usace.army.mil)

**Loretta A.  
Beckwith**

Digitally signed by Loretta A.  
Beckwith  
Date: 2025.08.11 13:23:08 -04'00'

**Wilmington District Project Manager Signature**

August 11, 2025

**Date of Signature**

Current Wilmington District mitigation guidance, including information on mitigation ratios, functional assessments, and mitigation bank location and availability, and credit classifications (including stream temperature and wetland groupings) is available at <http://ribits.usace.army.mil>.