



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
TATE REEVES  
GOVERNOR  
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

September 4, 2024

Jason Chiniche  
Chiniche Engineering and Surveying  
407 Highway 90  
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39520

Dear Mr. Chiniche:

Re: Diamondhead, City of, Jourdan  
River Dredging  
Hancock County  
COE No. SAM202300176RCV  
WQC No. WQC2023028

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U. S. C. 1251, 1341), the Office of Pollution Control (OPC) issues this Certification, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing, City of Diamondhead, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Diamondhead, City of, Jourdan River Dredging: The applicant proposes to maintenance dredge an existing channel 1900- foot long by 100-foot wide from a current depth of -2.0 MLW to a depth of -6 MLW. Approximately 4000 cubic yards of material would be excavated by hydraulic and mechanical dredge and transported to the Wolf River Marsh Restoration Site. [SAM202300176RCV, WQC2023028].

The Office of Pollution Control certifies that the above-described activity will be in compliance with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Section 49-17-29 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, if the applicant complies with the following conditions:

1. No sumps shall be created in open waters by proposed placement of dredged spoil material. The water bottom elevations shall gradually decrease to open water. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)

2. Best management practices should be used at all times during construction to minimize turbidity at the restoration sites. The restoration sites shall be constructed and maintained in a manner that minimizes the discharge of turbid waters into waters of the Mississippi Sound and surrounding waters (Statement B) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
3. Sediment testing for approval of material placement shall be done in accordance with protocols established by the Beneficial Use Group as part of the Beneficial Use Program within the Department of Marine Resources. (Statement C & D) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
4. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units. The turbidity within the beneficial use restoration project areas may reasonably exceed this turbidity standard for temporary periods of time and shall not result in permanent environmental harm. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A)
5. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)

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

- (A) The proposed activity permanently alters the aquatic ecosystem such that water quality criteria are violated and/or it no longer supports its existing or classified uses. An example is the channelization of streams.
- (B) There is a feasible alternative to the activity which reduces adverse consequences on water quality and classified or existing uses of waters of the State.
- (C) The proposed activity adversely impacts waters containing State or federally recognized threatened or endangered species.
- (D) The proposed activity adversely impacts a special or unique aquatic habitat, such as National or State Wild and Scenic Rivers and/or State Outstanding Resource Waters.

- (E) The proposed activity in conjunction with other activities may result in adverse cumulative impacts.
- (F) Nonpoint source/storm water management practices necessary to protect water quality have not been proposed.
- (G) Denial of wastewater permits and/or approvals by the State with regard to the proposed activities.
- (H) The proposed activity results in significant environmental impacts which may adversely impact water quality.

The Department also certifies that there are no limitations under Section 302 nor standards under Sections 306 and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act which are applicable to the applicant's above-described activity.

This certification is valid for the project as proposed. Any deviations without proper modifications and/or approvals may result in a violation of the 401 Water Quality Certification. If you have any questions, please contact Carrie Barefoot.

Sincerely,



Becky Simonson  
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

BS: po

cc: Mr. Davis Williams, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District  
Ms. Willa Brantley, Department of Marine Resources  
Mr. Paul Ncaise, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ms. Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency  
Mr. Jason Chiniche, Chiniche Engineering and Survey