



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

September 4, 2024

Ms. Cinnamon Snyder, C.M.
Jackson County Airport Authority
8301 Saracennia Road
Moss Point, MS 39563

Dear Ms. Snyder:

Re: Jackson County Airport Authority
Airport Apron and Taxiway Extension
Jackson County
COE No. SAM-2023-00901-CSP
WQC No. WQC2024001

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, to the Jackson County Airport Authority, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Jackson County Airport Authority: Project to fill 2.68 acres of wetlands associated with the construction of an aircraft parking apron and connecting taxiway at Trent Lott International Airport in Moss Point, Jackson County, Mississippi. The total project site is approximately 3.54 acres in size of which 2.68 acres have been identified as wetlands. Impacts include filling 2.68 acres of pine savannah wetlands for the construction of the parking apron and the placement of 100 cubic yards of material to replace the existing 60-foot culvert within a manmade ditch with a 100-foot culvert for the construction of the taxiway. To meet the needs of the Trent Lott International Airport, the applicant calculated that an area approximately 300 x 400 feet was needed for the apron expansion. The applicant considered a larger area that would have impacted additional wetlands to the north or east to allow for future expansion needs but determined not to expand further to avoid additional impacts. In addition, the applicant considered expansion to the west that would require additional length of a culvert and determined that at this time, the proposed taxiway and reconstruction of the culvert were all that were required. The applicant proposes to provide in-kind compensatory mitigation through a mitigation bank [SAM-2023-00901-CSP, WQC2024001].

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. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) shall be properly installed and maintained to prevent the movement of sediment off-site and into adjacent drainage areas. Special care shall be taken prior to and during construction to prevent the movement of sediment offsite and into adjacent waters. In the event of any BMP failure, corrective actions shall be taken immediately. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
2. For construction projects five (5) acres or greater or less than five (5) acres if part of a "larger common plan of development or sale" of total ground disturbances including clearing, grading, excavating, or other construction activities shall follow the conditions and limitations of the Large Construction General Permit. No construction activities shall begin until the necessary approvals and/or permits have been obtained. Construction activities include a disturbance to the land that results in the change in topography, existing soil cover (both vegetative and non-vegetative), or the existing topography that may result in accelerated stormwater runoff, leading to soil erosion and movement of sediment into surface waters or drainage systems. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B)
3. Mitigation for the impacts of filling 2.68 acres of freshwater emergent wetlands on the site shall be provided by the purchase of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. The number of credits must be in accordance with banking prospectus and be based upon that required for impacting 2.68 acres of freshwater emergent wetlands. Written verification of credit purchase must be provided to the Office of Pollution Control prior to the commencement of any work in the wetland areas. (Statement E) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R 1.3.4 A (2))
4. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R.2.2.A.(3))
5. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.(3))

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 Office of Pollution Control 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
Environmental Permits Division

BS: mb

cc: Christopher Pickering, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Willa Brantley, Department of Marine Resources
Lisa Morrison, Neel-Schaffer