



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 27, 2026

Mr. Mike Smith
Jackson County Port Authority
PO Box 70
Pascagoula, MS 39568-0070

Dear Mr. Smith:

Re: Jackson County Port Authority
Port of Pascagoula – West Bank
Maintenance Dredging
Jackson County
COE No. SAM-2015-00813-PAH
WQC No. WQC2025077

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U. S. C. 1251, 1341), the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) issues this Certification, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing, to Jackson County Port Authority, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Jackson County Port Authority, Port of Pascagoula West Bank Maintenance Dredging: Project to perform maintenance dredging at the Jackson County Port Authority's (Port) Pascagoula River West Bank Marine Terminal Facilities. A 10-year permit was authorized for this project on February 23, 2017. The proposed maintenance dredging will remove approximately 90,000 cubic yards of accumulated silts and sands every 3 years from the Port's facilities utilizing either hydraulic pipeline dredge or mechanical type dredge methods. The dredging will restore navigational depths to -42 feet below mean low water. Dredged material will be disposed at either the Triple Barrel Dredged Material Management Site, the Singing River Island Semi-confined Open Water Site or the Round Island Beneficial Use Site (BU). Sediment testing will be required prior to disposal in the BU site. The applicant is seeking a 10-year authorization [SAM-2015-00813-PAH; WQC2025077].

OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL
POST OFFICE BOX 2261 • JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39225-2261 • TEL: (601) 961-5171 • FAX: (601) 354-6612 •
www.mdeq.ms.gov

Facebook: @mdeq.ms • Twitter: @MDEQ • Instagram:
@MDEQ AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

MDEQ 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. The channel depth shall gradually increase toward open water and shall not exceed the controlling navigational depth. No “sumps” shall be created by proposed dredging. (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 both the dredge and spoil disposal site. The disposal sites shall be constructed and maintained in a manner that minimizes the discharge of turbid waters into waters of the State. Best management practices should include, but not limited to, the use of staged construction and the installation of turbidity screens around the immediate project site. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
3. 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))
4. 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 MEQ 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.

MDEQ 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

cc: Maryellen Farmer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Katie Nelson, Department of Marine Resources
Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency
Lisa Morrison, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.