



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 30, 2026

Mr. Ronald Howard
Stone County Board of Supervisors
PO Drawer 7
Wiggins, MS 39577
601-928-5266

Dear Mr. Howard:

Re: Inda Road Industrial Park
Stone County
COE No. SAM-2024-00108-KMN
WQC No. WQC2025084

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 Stone County Board of Supervisors, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Stone County Board of Supervisors, Inda Road Industrial Park: Project to construct two rail spurs off an established Canadian Pacific/Kansas City Railroad line within a proposed industrial park. The two rail spurs will impact four (4) portions of a connected wetland system. The proposed rail spurs will access the site from the main railroad line at the northwestern boundary of the site which will be located south of the un-named tributary. One railroad spur will run southwest along the western side of the site and the second railroad spur will run east across Old Highway 49 and then south accessing the property on the eastern portion of the site. To offset unavoidable impacts, mitigation credits will be purchase from an approved mitigation bank [SAM-2024-00108-KMN; WQC2025084].

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

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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 into adjacent avoided wetland areas. 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 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. The final post-construction Stormwater Management Plan submitted by O'Neal-Bond Engineering, Inc. on December 3, 2025, shall be implemented concurrent with project construction and maintained as proposed. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
4. Mitigation for the impacts of 9.32 acres of non-tidal palustrine wetlands 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 9.32 acres of non-tidal palustrine wetlands. Written verification of credit purchase must be provided to MDEQ prior to the commencement of any work in the wetland or stream areas. (Statement E) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R 1.3.4 A (2))
5. 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))
6. 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

Mr. Ronald Howard

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cc: Kaaren M. Neumann, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency
Billy Culpepper, Culpepper and Associates
Jon Bond, O'Neal-Bond Engineering, Inc.