



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

October 23, 2024

Pearl River County Board of Supervisors
Attn: Adrain Lumpkin, Jr., County Administrator
P. O. Box 569
Poplarville, MS 39470

Dear Mr. Lumpkin,

Re: Pearl River County Board of Supervisors
Poplarville Industrial Park Access Road
Pearl River County
COE No. SAM-2023-00981-APS
WQC No. WQC2024035

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

Pearl River County Board of Supervisors, Poplarville Industrial Park Access Road: Project to fill 3.93 acres of scrub/shrub wetlands for an access road associated with the development of an industrial park adjacent to the intersection of Mississippi Highway 26 and Interstate 59 in Poplarville, Pearl River County, Mississippi. The total project site is approximately 130 acres in size, of which 63.85 acres have been identified as wetlands. Impacts include the discharge of approximately 30,000 cubic yards of clean fill material into 3.93 acres of scrub/shrub wetlands. The applicant proposes to purchase the required mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank within the service area or utilize the Mobile District proximity multiplier for mitigation purchase outside of the service area if no mitigation banks are available within the service area [SAM-2023-00981-APS, WQC2024035].

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:

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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 and/or waters. Special care shall be taken to prevent the movement of sediment into adjacent 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. Mitigation for the loss of 3.98 acres of wetlands shall be provided by the purchase of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. The purchasing credits must be in accordance with the banking prospectus and should be based upon that required for impacting 3.98 acres of 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 Ms. Carrie Barefoot.

Sincerely,

 for

Becky Simonson
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

BS:chb:nr

cc: Greg Christodoulou, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency
Bart Pittman, Pittman Environmental Services, LLC