



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PHIL BRYANT

GOVERNOR

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

GARY C. RIKARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 29, 2019

Certified Mail No. 7019 0360 0000 3973

Mr. Larry Benefield
Harrison County School District
11072 Highway 49
Gulfport, Mississippi 39503

Dear Mr. Benefield:

Re: Harrison County School
District, West Harrison Middle
School
Harrison County
COE No. SAM201900405RCV
WQC No. WQC2019027

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, Larry Benefield, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Harrison County School District, West Harrison Middle School: Construct a new Middle School. The immediate area consist of rural farm and pasturelands, low and medium density residential development, light industrial and commercial development, and moderate to high volume highways. The total project area is 60 acres. The proposed site contains approximately 19.77 acres of wetlands. Wetlands at the site consist of ephemeral and intermittent drainages with pine flatwood and overgrown pine savanna upgradient of these drainages. Significant drainage improvements and other disturbances are apparent throughout the site as a result of the realignment of Wolf River Road, the utilization of the site for training purposes by the US Navy, Construction Battalion based in Gulfport, MS, and other anthropomorphic changes in the landscape. The project will impact 2.55 acres of low-quality bottomland hardwood/pine savanna wetland adjacent to an unnamed tributary of Wolf River. Mitigation has been proposed through the purchasing of credits from an approved mitigation bank. The site is located in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. [SAM201900405RCV, WQC2019027].

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:

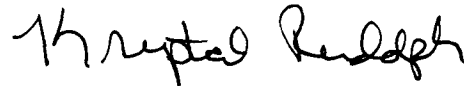
1. All fill material and excavation areas shall have side slopes of at least 3:1 (horizontal: vertical) and shall be immediately seeded, stabilized and maintained.
2. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) shall be properly installed and maintained to prevent the movement of sediment off-site and into adjacent drainage areas. In the event of any BMP failure, corrective actions shall be taken immediately.
3. Coverage under a Storm Water Construction General NPDES Permit shall be obtained prior to the start of construction activities. **No construction activities shall begin until such approvals are obtained.**
4. The post-construction Storm Water Management Plan, submitted by Daniel R. Boudreaux, Jr., P.E. received on August 27, 2019, shall be implemented concurrent with project construction and properly maintained.
5. Mitigation for the impacts of 2.55 acres of wetlands shall be provided by the purchase of mitigation credits jurisdictional wetlands shall be provided from an approved mitigation bank. The number of credits purchased must be in accordance with the banking prospectus and should be based upon that required for permanently impacting approximately 2.55 acres of jurisdictional 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.
6. The development shall connect to an Office of Pollution Control approved wastewater collection and treatment system. **No construction shall begin until all wastewater approvals are obtained.**
7. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
8. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse.

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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 Montie Hardaway Glenn at (601) 961-5596.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krystal Rudolph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krystal Rudolph, P.E., BCEE
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

KR: mhg

cc: Rudolph Villarreal, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Brock Peacock, Department of Marine Resources
Paul Necaie, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency
Billy Culpepper, Culpepper and Associates