



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PHIL BRYANT

GOVERNOR

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

GARY C. RIKARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 25, 2019

Certified Mail No. 7019 1120 0000 4787 9116

Mr. Curtis Flake
Chief, Planning and Environmental Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001

Dear Mr. Flake:

Re: US Army COE, Mobile District,
Maintenance Dredging,
Pascagoula Harbor Navigation
Project
Jackson County
COE No. FP19PA0109
WQC No. WQC2019069

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, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Mobile District, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

US Army COE, Mobile District, Maintenance Dredging, Pascagoula Harbor Navigation Project: The proposed action involved maintenance dredging and in-channel placement activities associated with the federally authorized Pascagoula Harbor (Escatawpa River Portion) navigation project. An additional -2 feet of advanced maintenance plus -2 feet of overdepth dredging will be added to each project section. The area proposed for dredging ranges from -6 feet to -11 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) The authorized depth is -12 feet MLLW (plus -2 feet of advanced maintenance, plus -2 feet of overdepth dredging, and plus -3 feet for sediment disturbance). The dredged material from the maintenance dredging will be placed within deeper areas of the existing federally-authorized channel. The amount of dredged material to be removed is estimated to be 20,000 cubic yards for this event. The action could be accomplished by a mechanical, hopper, and/or hydraulic cutter-head dredge. [FP19PA0109, WQC2019069].

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. 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.
2. Best management practices should be used at all times during construction to minimize turbidity at both the dredge and spoil disposal sites. 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 staked hay bales; staked filter cloth; sodding, seeding and mulching; staged construction; and the installation of turbidity screens around the immediate project site. Any effluent from the disposal area should be routed through a return swale system and filtered through a series of hay bales and silt fences so as to reduce the turbidity of the effluent.
3. The excavated material shall be disposed in approved open-water disposal sites or contained upland disposal sites. Upland disposal sites shall be stabilized to prevent movement of sediment into adjacent drainage areas.
4. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse.
5. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units. The turbidity within the Deer Island Restoration Project areas may reasonably exceed this turbidity standard for temporary periods of time but shall not result in permanent environmental harm.

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 Cevion Span.

Sincerely,



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

KR: cs

cc: Caree Kovacevich, USACE, COE-Mobile-S District
Gregory Christodoulou, Department of Marine Resources
Paul Necaie, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bill Ainslie, Environmental Protection Agency