



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
TATE REEVES  
GOVERNOR  
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

October 20, 2020

Certified Mail No. 7016 2070 0000 7232 6605  
Honorable Chuck Espy  
Mayor, City of Clarksdale  
121 Sunflower Avenue  
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

Dear Honorable Chuck Espy:

Re: Clarksdale, City of, Levee and  
Detention Basin  
Coahoma County  
COE No. MVK2020178  
WQC No. WQC2020021

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, City of Clarksdale, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

City of Clarksdale, Levee and Detention Basin: The applicant is proposing to discharge dredged and/or fill material into jurisdictional waters of the United States for the construction of a ring levee and detention basin in Clarksdale, Coahoma County, Mississippi. The stated purpose is to prevent rising waters from the Big Sunflower River from flooding adjacent residential lots along Walter Drive, Pearson Street, and Howard Road within the Pearson Subdivision.

The proposed project would result in the clearing and filling of approximately 1.3 acres of forested wetlands and 0.68 acre of emergent wetlands. The fill for the levee would be obtained from excavation of the proposed detention basin and a nearby, upland borrow site. Approximately 3227 cubic yards of clean earthen fill material would be placed within wetlands for this project. The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of jurisdictional impacts through the purchase of credits from a USACE approved mitigation bank that services the project area. [MVK2020178, WQC2020021].

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 permittee shall obtain appropriate wastewater permits and/or approvals for the proposed activity prior to the commencement of construction activities.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The final post-construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) submitted by Neel-Schaffer dated August 2020 and received by MDEQ on October 2, 2020 shall be implemented concurrent with project constructed and maintained as proposed.
5. Mitigation for the impact of 1.3 acres of forested wetlands and 0.68 acre of emergent wetlands associated with the project shall be provided by the purchase of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. Written verification of the final purchase must be provided to the Office of Pollution Control prior to the commencement of any work in the wetland areas.
6. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
7. 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 Cevion Span.

Sincerely,



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

KR: cs

cc: Andy Sanderson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District  
Gregory Christodoulou, Department of Marine Resources  
Paul Necaise, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency  
Cullen Dendy, Headwaters, Incorporated