



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

November 29, 2022

Mr. Randy Bosarge, President
Jackson County Board of Supervisors
P.O. Box 998
Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568

Dear Mr. Bosarge:

Re: Jackson County Board of Supervisors
Lake Comynie Dredging
Jackson County
COE No. SAM202200429CSP
WQC No. WQC2022048

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 Jackson County Board of Supervisors (JCBS), an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Jackson County Board of Supervisors, Dredging, Lake Comynie: Project for a 10-year approval to maintenance dredge approximately 28,600 cubic yards from the 7-acre Comynie Lake in Pascagoula. Comynie Lake is located east of the Pascagoula River and south of Highway 90. The water bottom will be dredged from the current depth, which ranges from approximately -2.0 feet to -6.0 feet Mean Low Water (MLW), to a proposed depth of -6.0 MLW. The lake will be dredged by mechanical dredging from a barge or by hydraulic dredging. The substrate consists of unconsolidated sand and silt. A submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) survey was completed in September 2021. No floating or anchored vegetation were observed at the time of the assessment. A limited oyster bed survey was conducted September 2021 and no hard substrate or conglomeration of oyster shells was observed. Some portions of the lake are armored with bulkheads. Some of the areas along the lake have native vegetation growing along the banks. No dredging will occur within 10 feet of any marsh vegetation along the lake. The dredged material will be moved to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) approved beneficial use disposal site or upland disposal site. The project is located next to the Pascagoula River in Pascagoula, Mississippi [SAM202200429CP, WQC2022048].

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. Best management practices for turbidity control shall be implemented and maintained at all times during project construction and dredged material placement activities to minimize the discharge of turbid waters into waters of the State. Best management practices should include, but not limited to, the installation of turbidity screens around the immediate work areas. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.)
2. 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. 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

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 Mr. Thomas Schaub.

Sincerely,



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

KR: ts

cc: Chris Pickering, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Matthew Murphy, Department of Marine Resources
Paul Necaise, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency
Lisa Morrison, Compton Engineering