



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 21, 2025

Mr. Ryan B. Crane
Chief, Planning and Environmental Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, AL 36628

Dear Mr. Crane:

Re: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mobile District
Harrison County Beach and Dune
Ecosystem Restoration Project
Harrison County
COE No. FP24-HC01-13
WQC No. WQC2024055

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U. S. C. 1251, 1341), the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) issues this Certification, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing, to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District - Harrison County Beach and Dune Restoration Project: Project to construct beach and dune improvements to approximately 29 miles of beach in Harrison County, Mississippi. Improvements include the placement of approximately 2 million cubic yards (mcy) of sandy material to construct the authorized 250-foot-wide beach at mean high water (MHW) and vegetated dune field that is 70-feet wide from the frontal dune toe to back trough located approximately 30 feet seaward of the existing seawall. Material for the proposed action will be dredged from 22 borrow areas located about 2,000 feet offshore of Harrison County, Mississippi stretching from Pass Christian to Biloxi, Mississippi. This plan was selected because it provides the best balance of ecosystem and storm risk

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management benefits. All dredging associated with the project will be completed using either a mechanical and/or a hydraulic cutterhead dredge. Material could be pumped directly on the beach and/or mechanically placed from scows or offloading barges. [FP24-HC01-13: WQC2024055]

MDEQ 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. 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. (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.) (Statement F)
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))
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 MDEQ 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.

MDEQ 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 Carrie Barefoot.

Sincerely,



Becky Simonson
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

cc: Angelia Lewis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
 Willa Brantley, Department of Marine Resources
 Paul Necaise, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency