



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 5, 2025

Mr. Bryan Williamson
U.S Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435

Re: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Nationwide Permit No. 18
Minor Discharges
WQC No. WQC2025054

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nationwide Permit No. 18:

Nationwide Permits (NWP) are general permits issued on a nationwide basis to streamline the authorization of activities that have no more than minimal and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues NWPs to authorize certain activities that require Department of the Army permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

18. Minor Discharges. Minor discharges of dredged or fill material into all waters of the United States, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) The quantity of discharged dredged or fill material and the volume of area excavated do not exceed 25 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line;
- (b) The discharge of dredged or fill material will not cause the loss of more than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States; and

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(c) The discharge of dredged or fill material is not placed for the purpose of a stream diversion.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) the discharge of dredged or fill material or the volume of area excavated exceeds 10 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line, or (2) the discharge of dredged or fill material is in a special aquatic site, including wetlands. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404) [NWP No. 18, WQC2025054]

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. The permittee must obtain all other required permits from the Permit Board prior to commencing work on the project, unless the activity is exempted from permit requirements by a regulation promulgated by the Commission in accordance with Miss. Code Ann. 49-17-29 (2)(b). (Statement A, E, & H) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
2. The permittee shall obtain appropriate wastewater permits and/or approvals for the proposed activity prior to the commencement of construction activities. (Statement G) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
3. A pre-construction notification (PCN) shall be provided to MDEQ for all projects for which one is required by USACE. (Statement E) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.3.4.A(3))
4. For projects greater than five acres of total ground disturbances including clearing, grading, excavating, or other construction activities, the applicant shall obtain the necessary coverage under the State of Mississippi's Large Construction Storm Water General NPDES Permit. For projects greater than one, to less the five acres of total ground disturbances including clearing, grading, excavating, or other construction activities, the applicant shall follow the conditions and limitations of the State of Mississippi's Small Construction Storm Water General NPDES Permit. No construction activities shall begin until the necessary approvals and/or permits have been obtained. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
5. 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))
6. 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 at (601) 961-5171.

Sincerely,



Becky Simonson
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

cc: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4