PUBLIC NOTICE FOR FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE ANNOUNCING THE REISSUANCE OF THE NATIONWIDE PERMITS

On January 6, 2017, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published the notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the reissuance of all 50 existing nationwide permits (NWPs), general conditions, and definitions with some modifications. The Corps also issued two new NWPs, one new general condition, and five new definitions. The 2017 NWPs will go into effect on March 19, 2017, and will expire on March 18, 2022. Enclosed is an index of the final NWPs, general conditions, and definitions. The January 6, 2017, *Federal Register* notice is available for viewing through the Corps Headquarters Regulatory Home Page at http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/NationwidePermits.aspx. As an alternative, interested parties can access the January 6, 2017, final rule published in the *Federal Register* through the U.S. Government Printing Office at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR.

With the publication of the January 6, 2017, *Federal Register* notice, Corps districts will begin finalizing their regional conditions for the new and reissued NWPs. Corps Division Engineers are authorized to add regional conditions to take into account regional differences in aquatic resource functions and services across the country and to restrict or prohibit the use of NWPs to protect those resources. Regional conditions will provide additional protection for the aquatic environment, and will help ensure that the NWPs authorize only those activities with no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. Regional conditions will help ensure protection of waters in Mississippi within the Vicksburg District, New Orleans District, Memphis District, Nashville District, and Mobile District.

The January 6, 2017, *Federal Register* notice begins the 60-day period for states, Tribes, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to complete their water quality certification (WQC) processes for the NWPs. The 60-day period for WQC will end on March 6, 2017. If states, Tribes, or the EPA, as applicable, do not complete their WQC processes before the 2017 NWPs go into effect on March 19, 2017, the use of a new and/or reissued NWP to authorize a discharge into waters of the United States, including NWP use for activities that do not require a preconstruction notification (PCN) to the Corps, is contingent upon obtaining individual WQC or a case-specific WQC waiver.

The January 6, 2017, *Federal Register* notice also begins the 90-day period for coastal states to complete their Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determination processes. The 90-day period for CZMA consistency determinations will end on April 5, 2017. If coastal states do not complete their CZMA consistency determination processes before the 2017 NWPs go into effect on March 19, 2017, the use of a new and/or reissued NWP to authorize a regulated activity within, or outside, a state's coastal zone that will affect land or water uses or natural resources of that state's coastal zone, including NWP use for activities that do not require a PCN to the Corps, is contingent upon obtaining an individual CZMA consistency determination, or a case-specific presumption of CZMA concurrence.

The Corps has also issued final decision documents for the new and reissued NWPs. These documents are available at <u>https://www.regulations.gov</u> at docket number COE-2015-0017.

Furthermore, the national NWP decision documents will be supplemented by Division Engineers to address decisions concerning the addition of regional conditions to the NWPs. After Division Engineers approve the Mississippi Regional Conditions, the Vicksburg District will issue a public notice to announce the final Mississippi Regional Conditions including any finalized WQC/CZMA regional conditions.

Please be advised, activities authorized by the 2012 NWPs remain authorized by those NWPs until March 18, 2017. An activity completed under the authorization provided by a 2012 NWP continues to be authorized by that NWP (see 33 CFR part 330.6(b)). Activities authorized by the 2012 NWPs that have commenced or are under contract to commence by March 18, 2017, will have one year (i.e., until March 18, 2018) to complete those activities under the terms and conditions of the 2012 NWPs (see 33 CFR section 330.6(b)). Activities previously authorized by the 2012 NWPs that have not commenced or are not under contract to commence by March 18, 2017, will require reauthorization under the 2017 NWPs, provided those activities qualify for authorization under the 2017 NWPs. If those activities no longer qualify for NWP authorization because they do not meet the terms and conditions of the 2017 NWPs (including any regional conditions), the project proponent will need to obtain an individual permit, or seek authorization under a regional general permit, if such a general permit is available in the applicable Corps district and can be used to authorize the proposed activity.

Index of Nationwide Permits, Conditions, District Engineer's Decision, Further Information, and Definitions

Nationwide Permits

- 1. Aids to Navigation
- 2. Structures in Artificial Canals
- 3. Maintenance
- 4. Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities
- 5. Scientific Measurement Devices
- 6. Survey Activities
- 7. Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures
- 8. Oil and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf
- 9. Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas
- 10. Mooring Buoys
- 11. Temporary Recreational Structures
- 12. Utility Line Activities
- 13. Bank Stabilization
- 14. Linear Transportation Projects
- 15. U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges
- 16. Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas
- 17. Hydropower Projects
- 18. Minor Discharges
- 19. Minor Dredging
- 20. Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances
- 21. Surface Coal Mining Activities
- 22. Removal of Vessels
- 23. Approved Categorical Exclusions
- 24. Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs
- 25. Structural Discharges
- 26. [Reserved]
- 27. Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities
- 28. Modifications of Existing Marinas
- 29. Residential Developments
- 30. Moist Soil Management for Wildlife
- 31. Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities
- 32. Completed Enforcement Actions
- 33. Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering
- 34. Cranberry Production Activities
- 35. Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins
- 36. Boat Ramps
- 37. Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation
- 38. Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste
- 39. Commercial and Institutional Developments
- 40. Agricultural Activities
- 41. Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
- 42. Recreational Facilities

- 43. Stormwater Management Facilities
- 44. Mining Activities
- 45. Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
- 46. Discharges in Ditches
- 47. [Reserved]
- 48. Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Activities
- 49. Coal Remining Activities
- 50. Underground Coal Mining Activities
- 51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
- 52. Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects
- 53. Removal of Low-Head Dams
- 54. Living Shorelines

General Conditions

- 1. Navigation
- 2. Aquatic Life Movements
- 3. Spawning Areas
- 4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas
- 5. Shellfish Beds
- 6. Suitable Material
- 7. Water Supply Intakes
- 8. Adverse Effects from Impoundments
- 9. Management of Water Flows
- 10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains
- 11. Equipment
- 12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls
- 13. Removal of Temporary Fills
- 14. Proper Maintenance
- 15. Single and Complete Project
- 16. Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 17. Tribal Rights
- 18. Endangered Species
- 19. Migratory Bird and Bald and Golden Eagle Permits
- 20. Historic Properties
- 21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts
- 22. Designated Critical Resource Waters
- 23. Mitigation
- 24. Safety of Impoundment Structures
- 25. Water Quality
- 26. Coastal Zone Management
- 27. Regional and Case-by-Case Conditions
- 28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits
- 29. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications
- 30. Compliance Certification
- 31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States
- 32. Pre-Construction Notification

District Engineer's Decision

Further Information

Definitions Best management practices (BMPs) Compensatory mitigation Currently serviceable Direct effects Discharge **Ecological reference** Enhancement Ephemeral stream Establishment (creation) High Tide Line Historic property Independent utility Indirect effects Intermittent stream Loss of waters of the United States Navigable waters Non-tidal wetland Open water Ordinary high water mark Perennial stream Practicable Pre-construction notification Preservation Protected tribal resources **Re-establishment** Rehabilitation Restoration Riffle and pool complex **Riparian** areas Shellfish seeding Single and complete linear project Single and complete non-linear project Stormwater management Stormwater management facilities Stream bed Stream channelization Structure Tidal wetland Tribal lands Tribal rights Vegetated shallows Waterbody