The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Vicksburg District, is hereby issuing a Department of the Army General Permit (General Permit 16) for maintenance dredging for the removal of silt accumulations around existing docks, under existing barge fleeting and mooring areas, and within associated access channels and port basins; and the discharge of the dredged material. Dredged material may be discharged in an upland contained area (non-jurisdictional area), or discharged as a hydraulic suspension into "swift water" of the main channel of the river. A map indicating the portion of the Mississippi River located within the Vicksburg District is attached (enclosure 1).

This action is being taken pursuant to Federal regulations printed in the Federal Register on November 13, 1986, concerning permits for activities in waters of the United States (U.S.). These regulations state the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' responsibility for regulating structures or work in or affecting waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 U.S.C. 403) and discharges of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).
General Permits may be issued for a category or categories of activities when:
(1) those activities are substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal individual
and cumulative environmental impacts; or (2) the General Permit would result in
avoiding unnecessary duplication of the regulatory control exercised by another
Federal, State, or local agency, provided it has been determined that the environmental
consequences of the action are individually and cumulatively minimal. The final
decision regarding a determination that the proposed activities comply with the
requirements for issuance of General Permits was made using information that is
available for inspection at the offices of the Vicksburg District's Regulatory Branch at
4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

This General Permit contains certain limitations intended to protect the environment and
natural and cultural resources. Construction activities which include regulated work
and/or discharges of dredged or fill material into Section 10/404 or Section 404
regulated Waters of the United States (collectively hereafter referred to as: WOTUS)
which are not specifically authorized by this General Permit are prohibited unless
specifically approved by the District Engineer via separate authorization. Conformance
with conditions contained in the General Permit does not necessarily guarantee
authorization under this General Permit. In cases where the District Engineer considers
it necessary, an application for an individual permit will be required.

In compliance with requirements of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the Vicksburg
District has obtained water quality certifications (WQCs) from the Arkansas Department
of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. A copy of the Arkansas, Louisiana,
and Mississippi water quality certifications is attached (enclosure 2).

Authorization to conduct work under this General Permit will not negate the
responsibility of the applicant to obtain other State or local authorizations or permits
required by law for the proposed activity.

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION UNDER THE GENERAL PERMIT – APPLICATION
REQUIREMENTS: IN ORDER TO BE AUTHORIZED BY THIS GENERAL PERMIT,
PARTIES PROPOSING THE WORK ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO THE DISTRICT
ENGINEER, IN WRITING, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IN 8 ½ x 11 INCH
FORMAT AT LEAST 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PLANNED START DATE OF THE
WORK:

a. State the number of the General Permit under which the work will be conducted.
   (General Permit 16) (GP-16)

b. Statement that the work will be conducted in compliance with the terms and
   conditions of GP-16 and will not adversely impact adjoining properties.
c. Map showing the location of the project area to be dredged and the location of the dredged material discharge site(s). The map should include accurate coordinates (latitude/longitude), River Mile, Section, Township, Range, County or Parish, and State.

d. Drawings and/or aerial photographs labeled to illustrate the configuration of the port, access channel(s), fleeting area(s), terminal(s) and mooring stations, etc. When the dredged material is to be discharged on land, the drawings shall also identify the location and design dimensions for dredged material disposal site(s).

e. Plan view illustration(s) of the work area(s) to include the results of a hydrographic survey depicting the "pre-dredge" bottom contours in the area(s) to be dredged, and those areas immediately adjacent to the area(s) to be dredged. The area(s) to be dredged shall be clearly delineated and labeled on this plan view illustration. Additionally, the dredged material disposal site(s) shall be delineated on the illustration.

f. A brief description of the proposed activity, including an estimate of the area to be dredged and the cubic yards of material to be dredged. The description shall also state the type(s) of dredging operation (e.g. "clamshell" excavation, hydraulic, etc.), and the type of discharge. If dredged material will be discharged at an upland site, the application must describe any containment measures and explain if there will be "return water" discharged back into waters of the U.S. (NOTE: a separate Department of the Army permit will be required for return water from an upland contained area (See Nationwide Permit No. 16.)

g. Estimated starting and completion dates of the project.

h. Name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the party (person/agency) applying for authorization.

Special Conditions:

1. The permit shall authorize maintenance dredging for the removal of sediment in order to maintain a nine (9) foot navigation channel.

2. The permittee shall submit a hydrographic survey to the Regulatory Office depicting the depth and bottom configuration of the site after completion of dredging activities, and provide revised estimates of the area dredged and the cubic yards of material dredged. This information shall be submitted with the completed and signed certification of compliance.

3. The permit shall be limited to maintenance dredging activities required for operation of existing commercial and municipal ports and terminals along the Mississippi River within the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
4. Material dredged by hydraulic dredging shall be discharged in the “swift water” of the main channel of the river, or in an upland contained area. Material excavated by clam-shell or other excavation equipment shall be disposed at upland areas, unless the excavated material is first processed as a slurry with river water to a consistency similar to hydraulic dredged material and then disposed in the “swift water” of the main channel of the river.

5. Material shall not be placed in Corps maintained navigation channels if the Corps determines such discharge will require later removal of the material by the Federal Government to maintain the navigation channel.

6. Dredge and discharge operations shall be conducted in such a manner as to avoid interference with navigation to the maximum extent practicable. Dredging equipment, including discharge lines, shall be marked and lighted in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Additionally, the permittee shall be required to provide notice to the U.S. Coast Guard in sufficient advance of initiating work to allow required posting of a “Notice to Mariners.”

7. No activity that has the potential to cause effects to properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, or a site that has previously been unevaluated, shall be authorized by this General Permit until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied. Fill material shall not be taken from a known historical or archaeological site within or outside of regulated areas. If the permittee, during prosecution of work authorized herein, inadvertently discovers or accidentally destroys a cultural resource such as a cemetery, shipwreck, mound, historic structure, or archaeological site, within the area subject to Department of the Army jurisdiction, they shall cease work in the immediate area and notify the District Engineer within 24 hours. The District Engineer, in consultation with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Office and the Federally recognized Tribe, will comply with the procedures set forth in 33 CFR 325, Appendix C, paragraph 11 (Historic Properties Discovered During Construction).

8. All construction activities shall be performed in a manner that will minimize increased suspended sediment concentrations (and associated turbidity) of the water in the work area and otherwise avoid adverse effects on water quality and aquatic life especially during fish spawning seasons.

9. The discharge shall not be located so as to adversely affect a public water supply intake or a national fish hatchery intake.

10. If the Water Quality Certification requires testing of sediments for possible toxic substances or other “contaminants” (e.g. unacceptable levels of pathogenic organisms) prior to initiating dredging or discharge activities at a site, authorization under this permit shall be contingent upon proof that the testing has been completed and the issuing State agency has granted approval based on test results.
11. The discharge shall not occur in areas of concentrated shellfish production.

12. No activity shall be authorized under this General Permit which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a federally listed threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. No activity shall be authorized under this General Permit which "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat, unless Section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed.

13. The activity shall not result in the relocation or blockage of a natural stream or river channel or adversely impact or drain wetlands.

14. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse.

General Conditions:

A. Approvals under General Permit 16 shall be valid for one year from the date of authorization. Additional dredging activities at the same location within one year from the date of authorization shall require a separate evaluation.

B. You must notify the U.S. Coast Guard of the proposed project concurrently with notification to this office.

C. If the property associated with the authorization under General Permit 16 is sold, the permittee shall notify this office to ensure that the authorization is transferred to the new owner.

D. Representatives from this office shall be allowed to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being, or has been, accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

E. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, or local authorizations required by law.

F. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.

G. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

H. An activity that requires section 408 permission from the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a USACE federally authorized Civil Works project (a "USACE project") is not
authorized by GP 16 until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written GP 16 authorization.

I. This permit does not authorize interference with or damages to any existing or proposed Federal project.

J. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:

(1) Damages to the permitted project, or uses thereof, as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.

(2) Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.

(3) Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.

(4) Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.

(5) Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

K. In issuing individual authorization under General Permit 16, the Government shall rely on the information and data, which the permittee provides in connection with his permit application. If, subsequent to the authorization, such information and data prove to be false, incomplete, or inaccurate, this authorization may be modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, and/or the Government may, in addition, institute appropriate legal proceedings.

L. The General Permit is valid for five years from the date of issuance. At the end of that time, the cumulative environmental effects of completed work will be reviewed and reissuance of the permit may be considered. However, if unforeseen adverse environmental effects result from the issuance of this General Permit, it may be modified or terminated at any time.

Cori Carraway
Acting Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures
Legend

- Mississippi River within the Vicksburg District

Enclosure 1
Colonel Michael C. Derosier, District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

RE: 401 Water Quality Certification MVK-2019-204- Re-issuance of General Permit 16

Dear Colonel Derosier:

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality ("ADEQ") has completed review of the above referenced public notice for the re-issuance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers General Permit 16 for the State of Arkansas. General Permit 16 authorizes maintenance dredging for the removal of silt accumulations around existing docks, under existing barge fleeting and mooring areas, and within associated access channels and port basins; and the disposal of dredged material. The general permit will expire 5 years from the date of issuance unless it is specifically modified, suspended, or revoked prior to that date.

ADEQ has determined that there is a reasonable assurance that this activity will be conducted in a manner which, according to the Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission’s Regulation No.2, will not physically alter a significant segment of the waterbody and will not violate the water quality criteria.

Pursuant to §401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act, the ADEQ hereby issues water quality certification for this project: MVK-2019-204, contingent upon the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall contact ADEQ to determine if a Short Term Activity Authorization (STAA) is needed when performing work in the wetted area of any waterbody.
2. The applicant shall implement all practicable best management practices (BMPs) to avoid excessive impacts of sedimentation and turbidity to the surface waters.
3. The applicant will take all reasonable measures to prevent the spillage or leakage of any chemicals, oil, grease, gasoline, diesel, or other fuels. In the unlikely event such spillage or leakage occurs, the applicant must contact ADEQ immediately.
4. If a construction site will disturb equal to or greater than one (1) acre and less than five (5) acres, the applicant shall comply with the requirements in Reg. 6.203 for Stormwater discharge associated with a small construction site, as defined in APC&EC Regulation No. 6. If the construction site will disturb five (5) acres or more, the applicant shall comply with the terms of the Stormwater Construction General Permit Number ARR150000 prior to the start of construction. BMPs must be implemented regardless of the size. More information can be obtained by contacting the NPDES Stormwater Section of ADEQ at (501) 682-0621.
In issuing this certification, ADEQ does not assume any liability for the following:

A. Damages to the proposed project, or uses thereof, as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.
B. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity specified in this certification.
C. Design or construction deficiencies associated with this proposed project.

Please contact Melanie Treat of the Office of Water Quality at (501) 682-0040 if you have any questions regarding this certification.

Sincerely,

Bryan Leamons, P.E.
Senior Operations Manager, Office of Water Quality

Cc: Jennifer A. Mallard, USACE, generalpermitreissuance@usace.army.mil
    Wanda Boyd, EPA, boyd.wanda@epa.gov
Ms. Jennifer A. Mallard
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Vicksburg District
4155 clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

RE: Maintenance Dredging of Access Channels, Port Basins and Terminal Areas of Commercial and Municipal Ports along the Mississippi River

Water Quality Certification WQC 190306-01
Corps of Engineers Permit MVK-2016-204 (General Permit 16)
Concordia, East Carrol, Madison, and Tensas Parishes

Dear Ms. Mallard:

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Permits Division (LDEQ), has reviewed the application to for maintenance dredging of access channels, port basins, and terminal areas of commercial and municipal ports along the Mississippi River within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The information provided in the application has been reviewed in terms of compliance with State Water Quality Standards, the approved Water Quality Management Plan and applicable state water laws, rules and regulations. LDEQ determined that the requirements for a Water Quality Certification have been met. LDEQ concludes that the dredging of spoil will not violate water quality standards as provided for in LAC 33:IX.Chapter 11. Therefore, LDEQ hereby issues U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District – MVK-2016-204 (General Permit 16) Water Quality Certification, WQC 190306-01.

Should you have any questions concerning any part of this certification, please contact Elizabeth Hill at (225) 219-3225 or by email at elizabeth.hill@la.gov all future correspondence to this Department to ensure all correspondence regarding this project is properly filed into the Department’s Electronic Document Management System.

Sincerely,

Scott Guilliams
Administrator
Water Permits Division

c: IO-W
April 30, 2019

Certified Mail No. 7017 0530 0000 5971 7107

Colonel Michael C. Derosier  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Vicksburg District  
4155 Clay Street  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435

Dear Colonel Derosier:

Re: US Army COE, Vicksburg District, General Permit 16  
Warren County  
COE No. MVK2019204  
WQC No. WQC2019014

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 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

US Army COE, Vicksburg District, General Permit 16:  
This General Permit contains certain limitations intended to protect the environment including natural and cultural resources. Conformance with conditions contained in the General Permit does not necessarily guarantee authorization under this General Permit. In cases where the District Engineer considers it necessary, an application will be required for an individual permit. Construction, dredging, or fill operations not specifically authorized by this General Permit will be prohibited unless authorized by a separate permit.

General Permits may be issued for a category or categories of activities when: (1) those activities are substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal net adverse environmental effects on the aquatic environment, both individually and cumulatively, after consideration of compensatory...
mitigation; or (2) the General Permit will result in avoiding unnecessary duplication of the regulatory control exercised by another Federal, State, or local agency, provided it has been determined that the environmental consequences of the action are individually and cumulatively minimal.

The following must be provided by the applicant in writing in request for authorization under the General Permit:

a. State the number of the General Permit under which the work will be conducted. (General Permit – 16)

b. Statement that the work will be conducted in compliance with the terms and conditions of the General Permit and will not adversely impact adjoining properties.

c. Map showing the location of the project area to be dredged. The map should include accurate coordinates (latitude/longitude), River Mile, Section, Township, Range, County or Parish, and State.

d. Drawings and/or aerial photographs labeled to illustrate the configuration of the port, access channel(s), fleeting area(s), terminal(s) and mooring stations, etc. The drawings shall also identify the location for dredged material disposal site(s).

e. Plan view illustration(s) of the work area(s) to include the results of a hydrographic survey depicting the “pre-dredge” bottom contours in the area(s) to be dredged, and those areas immediately adjacent to the area(s) to be dredged. The area(s) to be dredged shall be clearly delineated and labeled on this plan view illustration. Additionally, the dredged material disposal site(s) shall be delineated on this illustration.

f. A brief description of the proposed activity, including an estimate of the area to be dredged and the cubic yards of material to be dredged. The description shall also state the type(s) of dredging operation (e.g. “clamshell” excavation, hydraulic, etc.), and the location of the disposal site. If excavated material will be discharged at an upland disposal site, the application must describe any containment measures and explain if there will be “return water” discharged back into waters of the U.S. (NOTE: a separate Department of the Army permit will be required for return water from an upland contained disposal area (See Nationwide Permit No. 16).)

g. Estimated starting and completion dates of the dredging operation.
h. Name, mailing address, and telephone number of the party (person/agency) applying for authorization.

Upon receipt of this information, the District Engineer will evaluate the proposal and notify the inquiring party, in writing, that either the work will be authorized under the General Permit; will require additional information or will advise the inquiring party that the proposed activity will require an individual permit.

Special Conditions of the General Permit:

1. The permit shall authorize maintenance dredging for the removal of silt in order to maintain a nine-foot navigation channel.

2. The permittee shall submit a hydrographic survey depicting the depth and bottom configuration of the site after completion of dredging activities, and provide revised estimates of the area dredged and the cubic yards of material dredged. This information shall be submitted with the completed and signed certification of compliance form.

3. The permit shall be limited to maintenance dredging activities required for operation of existing commercial and municipal ports and terminals along the Mississippi River within the Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

4. Material dredged by hydraulic dredging shall be disposed in the "swift water" of the main channel of the river, or in an upland contained disposal area. Material excavated by clamshell or other excavation equipment shall be disposed at upland disposal areas, unless the excavated material is first processed as a slurry with river water to a consistency similar to hydraulic dredged material and then disposed in the "swift water" of the main channel of the river.

5. Material shall not be placed in Corps dredged and maintained navigation channels if the Corps determines such disposal will require later removal of the material by the federal government to maintain the navigation channel.

6. Dredge and disposal operations shall be conducted in such a manner as to avoid interference with navigation to the maximum extent practicable. Dredging equipment, including discharge lines, shall be marked and lighted in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Additionally, the permittee shall be required to provide notice to the U.S. Coast Guard in sufficient advance of initiating work to allow required posting of a "Notice to Mariners."
7. No activity that may adversely affect a site listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places shall be authorized by this General Permit until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied. Additional material shall not be taken from a known historical or archaeological site. If the permittee discovers any previously unknown historic, cultural or archaeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, they must immediately notify the District Engineer of the discovery, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The District Engineer will initiate the Federal, Tribal, and State coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

8. All construction activity shall be performed in a manner that will minimize increased suspended sediment concentrations (and associated turbidity) of the water in the work area and otherwise avoid adverse effects on water quality and aquatic life especially during fish spawning seasons.

9. The discharge shall not be located so as to adversely affect a public water supply intake or a national fish hatchery intake.

10. If the water quality certification requires testing of sediments for possible toxic substances or other “contaminants” (e.g. unacceptable levels of pathogenic organisms) prior to initiating dredging or discharge activities at a site, authorization under this general permit shall be contingent upon on proof that the testing has been completed and the issuing State agency has granted approval based on test results.

11. Compliance with conditions of the water quality certification and any testing shall be the responsibility of the permittee and the state Department of Environmental Quality.

12. The discharge shall not occur in areas of concentrated shellfish production.

13. No activity shall be authorized under this General Permit which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a Federally listed threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. No activity shall be authorized under this General Permit which “may affect” a listed species or critical habitat,
unless Section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed.

14. The activity shall not result in the relocation or blockage of a natural stream or river channel or adversely impact or drain wetlands.

15. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse.

16. An activity that requires section 408 permission from the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a USACE federally authorized Civil Works project (a "USACE project") is not authorized by GP 16 until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written GP 16 authorization.

[General Permit – 16, WQC2019014].

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 contact the Department for further consultation regarding testing protocols for dredged material obtained from waterways with a completed Total Daily Maximum Load for toxics, phenols, mercury, and PCBs-Dixon; and from waterways listed on the 303(d) list for biological impairment.

2. The permittee shall contact the Department for further consultation regarding testing protocols for dredged material obtained from waterways affected by a CERCLA/Uncontrolled Site as identified by the Groundwater Assessment and Remediation Division.

3. Appropriate best management practices (BMP's) 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 drainage areas. In the event of any BMP failure, corrective actions shall be taken immediately.

4. The turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
5. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse.

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 we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

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

HMW: JP

cc: Mr. Bryan Williamson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District
    Mr. David Felder U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
    Mrs. Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency