



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District

4155 Clay Street

Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

[www.mvk.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil)

# Public Notice

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<b>FILE NO.:</b>	<b>MVK-2019-204 (General Permit 16)</b>
<b>EVALUATOR:</b>	<b>Mr. Bryan Williamson</b>
<b>PHONE NO.:</b>	<b>(601) 631-7071</b>
<b>E-MAIL:</b>	<b>GeneralPermitReissuance@usace.army.mil</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>March 8, 2024</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>April 7, 2024</b>

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**FOR: MAINTENANCE DREDGING OF ACCESS CHANNELS, PORT BASINS AND TERMINAL AREAS OF COMMERCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PORTS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER WITHIN THE VICKSBURG DISTRICT**

**WHERE: PORTIONS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND ADJACENT PORT AREAS WITHIN THE REGULATORY JURISDICTION OF THE VICKSBURG DISTRICT IN ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, AND MISSISSIPPI**

**BY WHOM: DISTRICT ENGINEER, VICKSBURG DISTRICT, ON BEHALF OF EXISTING COMMERCIAL AND MUNICIPAL PORTS AND HARBORS**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Vicksburg District, is proposing the reissuance of a Department of the Army General Permit (General Permit 16), on behalf of existing ports and harbors along the Mississippi River that would authorize 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).

Comments regarding this proposal should be forwarded via email to: [GeneralPermitReissuance@usace.army.mil](mailto:GeneralPermitReissuance@usace.army.mil); or by hard copy to: USACE Vicksburg District, ATTN: Regulatory Division, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435. Comments must reach the Vicksburg District, Regulatory Division office by the expiration date cited above.

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 Division at 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi.

This General Permit contains certain limitations intended to protect the environment and natural and cultural resources. Conformance with conditions contained in the General Permit would 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. Construction, dredging, or fill operations not specifically authorized by this General Permit are prohibited unless specifically approved by the District Engineer via separate authorization.

In compliance with requirements of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the Vicksburg District requests water quality certifications (WQCs) for General Permit 16 from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

A. Proposed General Permit 16:

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION UNDER GENERAL PERMIT 16 – APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: IN ORDER TO BE AUTHORIZED BY THIS GENERAL PERMIT, PARTIES PROPOSING THE WORK WOULD BE 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 FOR THE WORK:

1. State the number of the General Permit under which the work would be conducted. (General Permit 16) (GP 16).

2. Statement that the work would be conducted in compliance with the terms and conditions of GP 16 and would not adversely impact adjoining properties.
3. 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.
4. 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 discharge site(s).
5. 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 discharge site(s) shall be delineated on the illustration(s). For emergency situations, this requirement can be waived. However, any waiver would need preapproved by the DE.
6. 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. "clam shell" 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 would be required for return water from an upland contained area (See Nationwide Permit No. 16.).
7. Estimated starting and completion dates of the project.
8. Name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the party (person/agency) applying for authorization.

Upon receipt of this information, the District Engineer would evaluate the proposal and advise the inquiring party, in writing, that the work could be authorized under General Permit 16; or would require an individual permit (if it exceeds the authoritative capacity of the General Permit) and/or additional separate authorizations.

**B. Special Conditions:**

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

2. The permittee would 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 would be submitted with the completed and signed certification of compliance.
3. The permit would 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 would 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 would be disposed in 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 would not be placed in Corps maintained navigation channels if the Corps determines such discharge would require later removal of the material by the Federal Government to maintain the navigation channel.
6. Dredge and discharge operations would be conducted in such a manner as to avoid interference with navigation to the maximum extent practicable. Dredging equipment, including discharge lines, would be marked and lighted in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Additionally, the permittee would 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 affect a site listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places would be authorized by this General Permit until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied. Additional material would not be taken from a known historical or archaeological site. If the permittee discovers any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological 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 activities would be performed in a manner that would 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 would not be located 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 would 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 would not occur in areas of concentrated shellfish production.
12. No activity is 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 would 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 would be discharged into the watercourse.
15. An activity that requires Section 408 permission because it would alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a USACE federally authorized Civil Works project (Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States, 33 U.S.C. 408) would not be authorized by GP 16 until the appropriate Corps office issues the Section 408 permission to alter, occupy, or use the USACE Civil Works project, and the District Engineer issues a written GP 16 authorization.

C. General Conditions:

1. You must notify the U.S. Coast Guard of the proposed project concurrently with notification to this office.
2. If you sell the property associated with the authorization under this General Permit, you must contact this office so that the authorization can be transferred to the new owner.

3. You must allow representatives from this office 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.
4. This permit would not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, or Local authorizations required by law.
5. This permit would not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
6. This permit would not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
7. This permit would not authorize interference with or damages to any existing or proposed Federal project.
8. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government would not assume any liability for the following:
  - a. Damages to the permitted project, or uses thereof, as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.
  - b. 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.
  - c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.
  - d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.
  - e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.
9. In issuing individual authorization under this General Permit, the Government would rely on the information and data, which the permittee provides in connection with the permit application. If, subsequent to the authorization, such information and data prove to be false, incomplete, or inaccurate, this authorization could be modified, suspended, or revoked, in whole or in part, and/or the Government could, in addition, institute appropriate legal proceedings.
10. The permittee would immediately notify the Corps of any unforeseen activities, including emergency activities, that are directly or indirectly associated with the authorized activity and that may require separate authorization.
11. The General Permit would be valid for five years from its effective date. At the end of that time, the cumulative environmental effects of completed work would be reviewed and reissuance of the permit could be considered. However, if unforeseen adverse environmental effects result from the issuance of this General Permit, it could be modified or terminated at any time.

12. Authorization under this General Permit would be valid until the General Permit expires. Activities that have commenced, or that are under contract to commence in reliance upon this General Permit, would remain authorized provided the activity is completed within 12 months of the date of the expiration.

D. FURTHER INFORMATION:

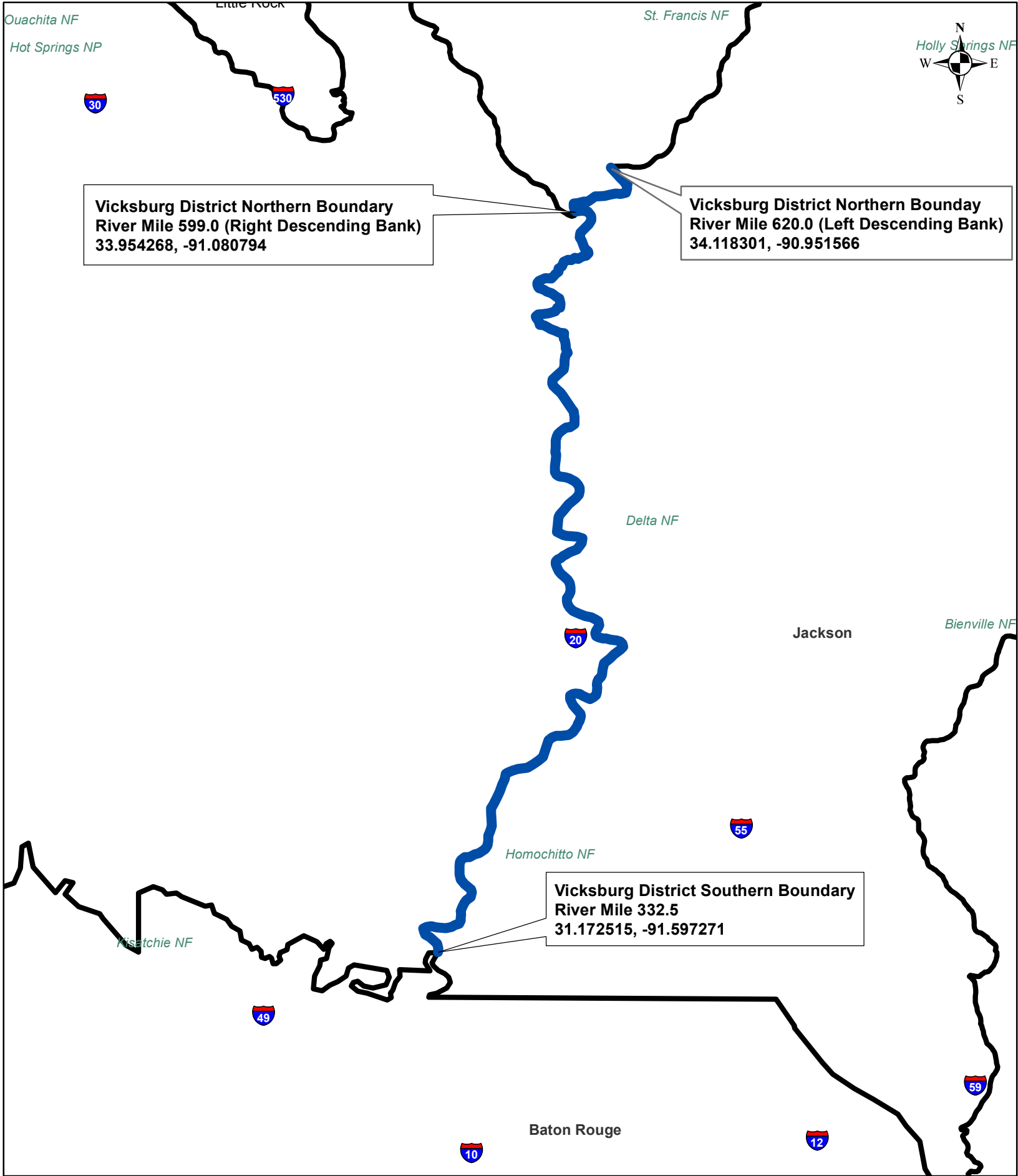
1. Additional copies of this Public Notice are available upon request from this office. Requests may be addressed to: USACE, Vicksburg District, Attention: Regulatory Division, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435; or to: GeneralPermitReissuance@usace.army.mil.
2. The decision whether to issue a permit would be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed General Permit on the public interest. That decision would reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal would be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.
3. The USACE Vicksburg District is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed General Permit. Any comments received would be considered by the District Engineer to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.
4. Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this proposed General Permit. This request must be made by the expiration date of this public notice and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Any individual or agency may comment on the proposal described in this notice;

however, failure to comment would be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed General Permit. All comments received would be evaluated during the review process of this proposed General Permit.

5. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter. Comments can be submitted by e-mail to: [GeneralPermitReissuance@usace.army.mil](mailto:GeneralPermitReissuance@usace.army.mil); or by standard mail to: Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attention: Regulatory Division, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435.

For Kristina W. Hall  
Chief, Regulatory Division





**Legend**

**—** Mississippi River within the Vicksburg District