



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Vicksburg District

4155 Clay Street

Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435

www.mvk.usace.army.mil

Special Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCING REGIONAL CONDITIONS AND STATUS OF WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS AND COASTAL ZONE CONSISTENCY DECISIONS FOR THE 2017 NATIONWIDE PERMITS IN VICKSBURG DISTRICT

On January 6, 2017, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the reissuance of all 50 existing nationwide permits (NWP), 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 went into effect on March 19, 2017, and will expire on March 18, 2022.

With the publication of the January 6, 2017, *Federal Register* notice, the Corps began finalizing their regional conditions for the new and reissued NWPs. On March 16, 2017, the Mississippi Valley Division Engineer approved regional conditions for the NWPs in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Regional conditions provide additional protection for the aquatic environment and valuable information regarding regional resources, and help ensure that the NWPs authorize only those activities with no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. The Vicksburg District has posted the final three sets of state-based regional conditions, Section 401 Water Quality Certifications, and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Coastal Zone Management Act decisions on our webpage at: <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Nationwide-Permits/>

At this time, the Corps has not received concurrence with its Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determination for the NWPs from the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR). The applicant must contact the MDMR for concurrence that proposed activities under NWPs are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the State of Mississippi's coastal management program. MDMR's CZMA consistency decisions will be posted on the Vicksburg District webpage when finalized.

Activities authorized by the 2012 NWP's that have commenced or were under contract to commence by March 18, 2017, will have one year (March 18, 2018) to complete those activities under the terms and conditions of the 2012 NWP's (see 33 CFR section 330.6(b)). Activities previously authorized by the 2012 NWP's that have not commenced or were not under contract to commence by March 18, 2017, will require reauthorization under the 2017 NWP's, provided those activities qualify for authorization under the 2017 NWP's. If those activities no longer qualify for NWP authorization because they do not meet the terms and conditions of the 2017 NWP's (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.

Questions concerning implementation of the new and reissued NWP's and conditions or the Corps regional conditions within the Vicksburg District should be sent to the Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Ms. Cori Carraway, CEMVK-OD-FP, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183.