

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
North Dakota Regulatory Office  
1513 South 12th Street  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504  
Telephone (701) 255-0015 Fax (701) 255-4917**

**IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR PERMIT CUSTOMERS**

Notice of the Reissuance of Nationwide Permits was published in the Federal Register [72 FR 11092] on March 12, 2007. The Nationwide Permits went into effect on March 19, 2007. Project compliance certification is required by General Condition 26. The following instructions are provided to clarify the information contained within the nationwide permit authorization letter and attachments.<sup>1</sup>

**STEP 1**

Review the permit authorization and be sure you understand the terms and conditions for the authorization to remain valid. If you do not understand, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office at the above address.

**STEP 2**

Complete your project in accordance with the permit terms and conditions. [Remember that any deviation from the original plans and specifications of your project could require additional authorization from this office.]

**STEP 3**

Within thirty (30) days of project completion, please complete the permit compliance certification contained within your permit authorization letter. A photocopy of the first page (marked with a colored COPY stamp) has been provided for this purpose. Mark the applicable statements, sign and date where indicated, and forward the COPY to this office at the above address.

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<sup>1</sup>There is no charge associated with any aspect of this nationwide authorization or the follow-up compliance certification.

COPY

-2-

2. **Project Location.** Work would occur in Sections 15, 22, 23, 26, 35 and 36, Township 156 North, Range 93 West; Sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36, Township 156 North, Range 92 West; and Sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 26, Township 156 North, Range 91 West, all in Mountrail County, North Dakota.

3. **Project Compliance Certification for Permit No. NWO-2012-0422-BIS.** *In compliance with General Condition 26, you are required to submit the following project compliance certification within thirty (30) days of project completion. [Please check all applicable statements]*

- I certify that I have completed the projects as permitted.
- I certify that I have completed a modified version of the projects.
- I certify that I have completed all required mitigation.

Permittee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Other Authorizations.** This determination is applicable only to the permit program administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers. It does not eliminate the need to obtain other Federal, state, tribal, and local approvals before beginning work.

5. **Responsibility.** You are responsible for all work accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Nationwide Permit. If a contractor or other authorized representative will be accomplishing the work authorized by the Nationwide Permit on your behalf, it is strongly recommended that they be provided a copy of this letter and the attached conditions so that they are aware of the limitations of the Nationwide Permit. Any activity that fails to comply with all the terms and conditions of the Nationwide Permit will be considered unauthorized and subject to appropriate enforcement action.

6. **Other Special Conditions.**

**Endangered Species**

That the permittee shall report any threatened or endangered species at the project site. Notification shall be made to the North Dakota Regulatory Office by telephone or fax within 24 hours. Written confirmation shall be provided within 48 hours if deemed necessary by the North Dakota Regulatory Office.

**Cultural Resources**

That the permittee and/or the permittee's contractor, or any of the employees, subcontractors or other persons working in the performance of a contract or contract(s) to complete the work authorized herein, shall cease work immediately and report the discovery of any previously unknown historic or archeological remains to the North Dakota Regulatory Office. Notification shall be by telephone or fax within 24 hours of the discovery and, in writing, within 48 hours. The North Dakota Regulatory Office will initiate the Federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Work shall not resume until notified by the North Dakota Regulatory Office.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT  
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE  
1513 SOUTH 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
BISMARCK ND 58504-6640  
February 28, 2012

North Dakota Regulatory Office

[NWO-2012-0422-BIS]

SWCA Environmental Consultants, Bismarck Office  
ATTN: Michael J. Cook, Natural Resources Lead  
116 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

Dear Mr. Cook:

1. **Project Authorization.** We have reviewed your request on behalf of **Plains All-American Pipeline, LP ["PAA"]** for Department of the Army (DA) authorization to install approximately 16.89 miles of 12-inch crude oil pipeline on private lands in North Dakota, which will impact wetlands and an unnamed stream temporarily by discharge of fill associated with traditional bedding and backfill methods. In addition, the Little Knife River will also be crossed; however, PAA has opted to install this crossing utilizing the HDD method, thus avoiding a discharge of fill and negating the need for a permit for this crossing. We have prepared a preliminary jurisdictional determination (JD) for waters identified within the work corridor which is a written indication that the waterway in the project area may be jurisdictional waters of the United States (US). Such waters have been treated as jurisdictional for purposes of computation of impacts and compensatory mitigation requirements. If you concur with the preliminary JD, please sign it and return it to the letterhead address.

If you believe the preliminary JD is inaccurate, you may request this office complete an approved JD prior to commencement of any work in waters of the US. An approved JD is an official determination regarding the presence or absence of such waters. Completion of an approved JD may require coordination with the US Environmental Protection Agency.

If you do not want the Corps to complete an approved JD, you may proceed your project in accordance with the terms and conditions of Department of the Army Nationwide Permit No. 12, found in the March 12, 2007 Federal Register (72 FR 11092), Reissuance of Nationwide Permits. Enclosed is a fact sheet that fully describes this Nationwide Permit and lists the General and Regional Conditions and the Section 401 Water Quality Certification Requirements, if applicable, that must be complied with. **Please note any deviations from the plans and specifications of your project could require additional authorization from this office.**

This verification is valid until the Nationwide Permit is modified, reissued, or revoked. All of the existing nationwide permits are scheduled to be modified, reissued, or revoked prior to March 18, 2012. It is incumbent upon you to remain informed of changes to the nationwide permits. We will issue a public notice when the nationwide permits are reissued. Furthermore, if you commence or are under contract to commence this activity before the date that the relevant nationwide permit is modified or revoked, you will have twelve (12) months from the date of the modification or revocation to complete the activity under the present terms and conditions.

2. **Project Location.** Work would occur in Sections 15, 22, 23, 26, 35 and 36, Township 156 North, Range 93 West; Sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36, Township 156 North, Range 92 West; and Sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 26, Township 156 North, Range 91 West, all in Mountrail County, North Dakota.

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Permittee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Cultural Resources**

That the permittee and/or the permittee's contractor, or any of the employees, subcontractors or other persons working in the performance of a contract or contract(s) to complete the work authorized herein, shall cease work immediately and report the discovery of any previously unknown historic or archeological remains to the North Dakota Regulatory Office. Notification shall be by telephone or fax within 24 hours of the discovery and, in writing, within 48 hours. The North Dakota Regulatory Office will initiate the Federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Work shall not resume until notified by the North Dakota Regulatory Office.

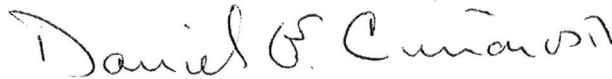
7. **Additional Information.**

**Suitable Material and 1978 Stream Evaluation Map:** Permittees are reminded that General Condition No. 6 prohibits the use of unsuitable material. In addition, organic debris, some building waste, and materials excessive in fines are not suitable material. Specific verbiage on prohibited materials and the 1978 Stream Evaluation Map for the State of North Dakota can be accessed on the North Dakota Regulatory Office's website at:  
<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rnd/ndhome.htm>.

8. **Customer Service Survey.** The Omaha District, North Dakota Regulatory Office is committed to providing quality and timely service to our customers. In an effort to improve customer service, please take a moment to complete our Customer Service Survey found on our website at <http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html>. If you do not have Internet access, you may call and request a paper copy of the survey that you can complete and return to us by mail or fax.

9. **Point-of-Contact.** If you have any questions concerning this determination, please contact **Toni R. Erhardt** of this office by letter or telephone at 701-255-0015 and reference Authorization Number **NWO-2012-0422-BIS**.

Sincerely



Daniel E. Cimarosti  
State Program Manager  
North Dakota

Enclosures

**PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): 17 February 2012**

**B. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON REQUESTING PRELIMINARY JD:**  
Plains All-American Pipeline, LP by SWCA Environmental Consultants, Bismarck Office,  
ATTN: Michael J. Cook, Natural Resources Lead, 116 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200,  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

**C. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER:** Omaha District NDRO | Plains All-American Pipeline, LP - Nelson Takeoff to Ross Pipeline Project crossing Various Waters in Mountrail County, North Dakota | NWO-2012-0422-BIS

**D. PROJECT LOCATION(S) AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Plains All-American proposes to install 16.89 miles of 12-inch crude oil pipeline on private lands located in North Dakota. Construction of the Nelson Takeoff to Ross Pipeline would temporarily impact thirty-two (32) palustrine emergent wetlands and one (1) unnamed intermittent stream and 1 perennial stream (Little Knife River). The open-cut crossing method is proposed to be utilized for all crossings, except the Little Knife which will be by the HDD method.

Feature ID	Latitude	Longitude	Cowardin Class	Total Wetland Size (acres)	Temporary Impacts Within 70-foot ROW (acres)
NRBWET11	48.285907	-102.353088	PEM	0.748	0.284
NRBWET12	48.313443	-102.621239	PEM	0.463	0.053
NRBWET13	48.313421	-102.619064	PEM	1.056	0.195
NRBWET14	48.313456	-102.613393	PEM	0.368	0.252
NRWET16A	48.291503	-102.475021	PEM	0.132	0.042
NRWET16B	48.291421	-102.471992	PEM	4.023	2.790
NRBWET21	48.296807	-102.591454	PEM	0.438	0.084
NRBWET22	48.295432	-102.560944	PEM	1.055	0.051
NRBWET24	48.290273	-102.431087	PEM	0.578	0.260
NRBWET25	48.289902	-102.424371	PEM	0.109	0.031
NRBWET4	48.287320	-102.354507	PEM	1.080	0.093
NRBWET6	48.291767	-102.455419	PEM	0.389	0.239

NRWET10	48.290452	-102.516997	PEM	0.484	0.091
NRWET11	48.290284	-102.515731	PEM	0.841	0.431
NRWET12	48.290277	-102.508647	PEM	0.459	0.192
NRWET13	48.290392	-102.508463	PEM	0.112	0.112
NRWET14	48.291402	-102.480127	PEM	0.039	0.039
NRWET15	48.291357	-102.479929	PEM	0.487	0.177
NRWET16	48.291431	-102.477376	PEM	0.838	0.560
NRWET17	48.291595	-102.463627	PEM	0.147	0.046
NRWET18	48.291598	-102.457508	PEM	0.361	0.321
NRWET19	48.291490	-102.451149	PEM	0.340	0.216
NRWET20	48.289334	-102.424178	PEM	0.107	0.071
NRWET21	48.290462	-102.519516	PEM	2.075	0.500
NRWET22	48.290971	-102.499913	PEM	1.753	0.662
NRWET3	48.297013	-102.582308	PEM	1.142	0.392
NRWET4	48.297119	-102.575690	PEM	3.612	0.461
NRWET5	48.296893	-102.565489	PEM	3.085	0.980
NRWET6	48.290994	-102.540911	PEM	0.514	0.239
NRWET7	48.291052	-102.539464	PEM	2.315	0.284
NRWET8	48.291019	-102.531402	PEM	0.032	0.032
NRWET9	48.290613	-102.522477	PEM	0.076	0.076
Waterbody ID	Latitude	Longitude	Waterbody Name	Class	Temporary Impacts Within 70-foot ROW (acres)
NRSTR1	48.298812	-102.620895	Unnamed	Intermittent	0.0320
NRSTR2	48.286541	-102.414874	Little Knife River	Perennial	0

Name of any water bodies on the site that have been identified as Section 10 waters:

Tidal: N/A

Non-Tidal: N/A

**E. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):**

Office (Desk) Determination. Date: 17 February 2012

Field Determination. Date(s): Between September 27 and November 28, 2011  
by SWCA

1. The Corps of Engineers believes that there may be jurisdictional waters of the United States on the subject site, and the permit applicant or other affected party who requested this preliminary JD is hereby advised of his or her option to request and obtain an approved jurisdictional determination (JD) for that site. Nevertheless, the permit applicant or other person who requested this preliminary JD has declined to exercise the option to obtain an approved JD in this instance and at this time.

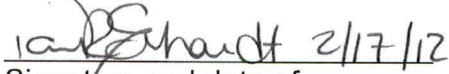
2. In any circumstance where a permit applicant obtains an individual permit, or a Nationwide General Permit (NWP) or other general permit verification requiring "pre-construction notification" (PCN), or requests verification for a non-reporting NWP or other general permit, and the permit applicant has not requested an approved JD for the activity, the permit applicant is hereby made aware of the following: (1) the permit applicant has elected to seek a permit authorization based on a preliminary JD, which does not make an official determination of jurisdictional waters; (2) that the applicant has the option to request an approved JD before accepting the terms and conditions of the permit authorization, and that basing a permit authorization on an approved JD could possibly result in less compensatory mitigation being required or different special conditions; (3) that the applicant has the right to request an individual permit rather than accepting the terms and conditions of the NWP or other general permit authorization; (4) that the applicant can accept a permit authorization and thereby agree to comply with all the terms and conditions of that permit, including whatever mitigation requirements the Corps has determined to be necessary; (5) that undertaking any activity in reliance upon the subject permit authorization without requesting an approved JD constitutes the applicant's acceptance of the use of the preliminary JD, but that either form of JD will be processed as soon as is practicable; (6) accepting a permit authorization (e.g., signing a proffered individual permit) or undertaking any activity in reliance on any form of Corps permit authorization based on a preliminary JD constitutes agreement that all wetlands and other water bodies on the site affected in any way by that activity are jurisdictional waters of the United States, and precludes any challenge to such jurisdiction in any administrative or judicial compliance or enforcement action, or in any administrative appeal or in any Federal court; and (7) whether the applicant elects to use either an approved JD or a preliminary JD, that JD will be processed as soon as is practicable. Further, an approved JD, a proffered individual permit (and all terms and conditions contained therein), or individual permit denial can be administratively appealed pursuant to 33 C.F.R. Part 331, and that in any administrative appeal, jurisdictional issues can be raised (see 33 C.F.R. 331.5(a)(2)). If, during that administrative appeal, it becomes necessary to make an official determination whether CWA jurisdiction exists over a site, or to provide an official delineation of jurisdictional waters on the site, the Corps will provide an approved JD to accomplish that result, as soon as is practicable.

This preliminary JD finds that there "*may be*" waters of the United States on the subject project site, and identifies all aquatic features on the site that could be affected by the proposed activity, based on the following information:

**SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for preliminary JD (check all that apply - checked items should be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):**

- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
- Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
  - Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
  - Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
- Data sheets prepared by the Corps:
- Corps navigable waters' study:
- U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:
  - USGS NHD data.
  - USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
- U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: 1:24,000 | Manitou, Ross, Stanley and Stanley SE, ND.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:.
- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: Manitou, Ross, Stanley and Stanley SE, ND.
- State/Local wetland inventory map(s):
- FEMA/FIRM maps:
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs:  Aerial (Name & Date): SWCA/ArcGIS/ORM2/GoogleEarthPro. or  Other (Name & Date):
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter:
- Other information (please specify):

**IMPORTANT NOTE: The information recorded on this form has not necessarily been verified by the Corps and should not be relied upon for later jurisdictional determinations.**

  
Signature and date of  
Regulatory Project Manager  
(REQUIRED)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and date of  
person requesting preliminary JD  
(REQUIRED, unless obtaining the  
signature is impracticable)

**FACT SHEET  
NATIONWIDE PERMIT 12  
(2007)**

**UTILITY LINE ACTIVITIES.** Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of utility lines and associated facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2 acre of waters of the United States.

**Utility lines:** This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or repair of utility lines, including outfall and intake structures, and the associated excavation, backfill, or bedding for the utility lines, in all waters of the United States, provided there is no change in pre-construction contours. A "utility line" is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substance, for any purpose, and any cable, line, or wire for the transmission for any purpose of electrical energy, telephone, and telegraph messages, and radio and television communication. The term "utility line" does not include activities that drain a water of the United States, such as drainage tile or french drains, but it does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, provided the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. The district engineer may extend the period of temporary side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line crossing of each waterbody.

**Utility line substations:** This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities associated with a power line or utility line in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2 acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

**Foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors:** This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary and separate footings for each tower leg (rather than a larger single pad) are used where feasible.

**Access roads:** This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of utility lines, including overhead power lines and utility line substations, in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the total discharge from a single and complete project does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize utility lines in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (See 33 CFR Part 322). Overhead utility lines constructed over section 10 waters and utility lines that are routed in or

**2. Aquatic Life Movements.** No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. Culverts placed in streams must be installed to maintain low flow conditions.

**3. Spawning Areas.** Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

**4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas.** Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

**5. Shellfish Beds.** No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWP 4 and 48.

**6. Suitable Material.** No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see Section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

**7. Water Supply Intakes.** No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

**8. Adverse Effects From Impoundments.** If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

**9. Management of Water Flows.** To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization and storm water management activities, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

**10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains.** The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

**11. Equipment.** Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.

**12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.** Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow.

habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the U.S. FWS and NMFS or their world wide Web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> and <http://www.noaa.gov/fisheries.html> respectively.

**18. Historic Properties.** (a) In cases where the district engineer determines that the activity may affect properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, the activity is not authorized, until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Federal permittees must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the authorized activity may have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the pre-construction notification must state which historic properties may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of or potential for the presence of historic resources can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and field survey. Based on the information submitted and these efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed activity has the potential to cause an effect on the historic properties. Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties which the activity may have the potential to cause effects and so notified the Corps, the non-Federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects or that consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed.

(d) The district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA Section 106 consultation is required. Section 106 consultation is not required when the Corps determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR §800.3(a)). If NHPA section 106 consultation is required and will occur, the district engineer will notify the non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin work until Section 106 consultation is completed.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470h-2(k)) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, explaining the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(g) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee arrangements or separate activity-specific compensatory mitigation. In all cases, the mitigation provisions will specify the party responsible for accomplishing and/or complying with the mitigation plan.

(h) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected, such as the conversion of a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse effects of the project to the minimal level.

**21. Water Quality.** Where States and authorized Tribes, or EPA where applicable, have not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA Section 401, individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). The district engineer or State or Tribe may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality. *Specifically in North Dakota, the North Dakota Department of Health has denied certification for projects under this Nationwide Permit proposed to cross **all classified rivers, tributaries and lakes**; individual certification for project in these waterways must be obtained by the project proponent prior to authorization under this Nationwide Permit. For utility line crossings of all other waters, the Department of Health has issued water quality certification provided the attached Construction and Environmental Disturbance Requirements are followed.*

**22. Coastal Zone Management.** *Not Applicable.*

**23. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions.** The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

**24. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.** The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by the NWPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

**25. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications.** If the permittee sells the property associated with a nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:  
"When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below."

**General Condition 27. Pre-Construction Notification.**

(a) Timing. Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, as a general rule, will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the district engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity until either:

(1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or

(2) Forty five calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 17 that listed species or critical habitat might be affected or in the vicinity of the project, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that the activity may have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) is completed. Also, work cannot begin under NWPs 21, 49, or 50 until the permittee has received written approval from the Corps. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee cannot begin the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) Contents of Pre-Construction Notification: The PCN must be in writing and include the following information:

(1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

(2) Location of the proposed project;

(3) A description of the proposed project; the project's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause; any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity. The description should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse effects of the project will be minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation. Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the project and when provided result in a quicker decision.);

(4) The PCN must include a delineation of special aquatic sites and other waters of the United States on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters of the United States, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many waters of the United States. Furthermore, the 45 day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, where appropriate;

(5) For NWP 48 activities that require reporting, the district engineer will provide a copy of each report within 10 calendar days of receipt to the appropriate regional office of the NMFS.

(e) District Engineer's Decision: In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. If the proposed activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10 acre of wetlands, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for projects with smaller impacts. The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment of the proposed work are minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse effects on the aquatic environment are minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any conditions the district engineer deems necessary. The district engineer must approve any compensatory mitigation proposal before the permittee commences work. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the district engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The district engineer must review the plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure no more than minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. If the net adverse effects of the project on the aquatic environment (after consideration of the compensatory mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the project can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP.

If the district engineer determines that the adverse effects of the proposed work are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either: (1) That the project does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit; (2) that the project is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level; or (3) that the project is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the district engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse effects occur to the aquatic environment, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or specific mitigation or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level. When mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan.

### **Additional Information**

Permittees are reminded that General Condition No. 6 prohibits the use of unsuitable material. In addition, organic debris, some building waste, and materials excessive in fines are not suitable material.

Specific verbiage on prohibited materials and the 1978 Stream Evaluation Map for the State of North Dakota can be accessed on the North Dakota Regulatory Office's website at:  
<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rnd/ndhome.htm>



**Construction and Environmental Disturbance Requirements**

These represent the minimum requirements of the North Dakota Department of Health. They ensure that minimal environmental degradation occurs as a result of construction or related work which has the potential to affect the waters of the State of North Dakota. All projects will be designed and implemented to restrict the losses or disturbances of soil, vegetative cover, and pollutants (chemical or biological) from a site.

**Soils**

Prevent the erosion of exposed soil surfaces and trapping sediments being transported. Examples include, but are not restricted to, sediment dams or berms, diversion dikes, hay bales as erosion checks, riprap, mesh or burlap blankets to hold soil during construction, and immediately establishing vegetative cover on disturbed areas after construction is completed. Fragile and sensitive areas such as wetlands, riparian zones, delicate flora, or land resources will be protected against compaction, vegetation loss, and unnecessary damage.

**Surface Waters**

All construction which directly or indirectly impacts aquatic systems will be managed to minimize impacts. All attempts will be made to prevent the contamination of water at construction sites from fuel spillage, lubricants, and chemicals, by following safe storage and handling procedures. Stream bank and stream bed disturbances will be controlled to minimize and/or prevent silt movement, nutrient upsurges, plant dislocation, and any physical, chemical, or biological disruption. The use of pesticides or herbicides in or near these systems is forbidden without approval from this Department.

**Fill Material**

Any fill material placed below the high water mark must be free of top soils, decomposable materials, and persistent synthetic organic compounds (in toxic concentrations). This includes, but is not limited to, asphalt, tires, treated lumber, and construction debris. The Department may require testing of fill materials. All temporary fills must be removed. Debris and solid wastes will be removed from the site and the impacted areas restored as nearly as possible to the original condition.