



## Nationwide Permit 14: Linear Transportation Projects

Activities required for crossings of waters of the United States associated with the construction, expansion, modification, or improvement of linear transportation projects (e.g., roads, highways, railways, trails, driveways, airport runways, and taxiways) in waters of the United States. For linear transportation projects in non-tidal waters, the discharge of dredged or fill material cannot cause the loss of greater than 1/2 -acre of waters of the United States. For linear transportation projects in tidal waters, the discharge of dredged or fill material cannot cause the loss of greater than 1/3 -acre of waters of the United States. Any stream channel modification, including bank stabilization, is limited to the minimum necessary to construct or protect the linear transportation project; such modifications must be in the immediate vicinity of the project.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to construct the linear transportation project. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

This NWP cannot be used to authorize non-linear features commonly associated with transportation projects, such as vehicle maintenance or storage buildings, parking lots, train stations, or aircraft hangars.

*Notification:* The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) The loss of waters of the United States exceeds 1/10 acre; or (2) there is a discharge of dredged or fill material in a special aquatic site, including wetlands. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404).

*Contents adapted from the Federal Register ([86 FR 73522](#)) published on Dec. 27, 21 and Federal Register ([86 FR 2744](#)) published on Jan. 13, 2021.*



*Note 1:* For linear transportation projects crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Linear transportation projects must comply with [33 CFR 330.6\(d\)](#).

*Note 2:* Some discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction of farm roads or forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining equipment, may qualify for an exemption under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (see [33 CFR 323.4](#)).

*Note 3:* For NWP 14 activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include 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, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

## General Conditions

*Note:* To qualify for NWP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following general conditions, as applicable, in addition to any regional or case-specific conditions imposed by the division engineer or district engineer. Prospective permittees should contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine if regional conditions have been imposed on an NWP. Prospective permittees should also contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine the status of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Act consistency for an NWP. Every person who may wish to obtain permit authorization under one or more NWPs, or who is currently relying on an existing or prior permit authorization under one or more NWPs, has been and is on notice that all of the provisions of [33 CFR 330.1](#) through 330.6 apply to every NWP authorization. Note especially [33 CFR 330.5](#) relating to the modification, suspension, or revocation of any NWP authorization.

### **1. Navigation.**

(a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.



(b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.

(c) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his or her authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

## **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. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert cannot be used, then the crossing should be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements.

## **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, or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by NWP 27.

#### **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, storm water management activities, and temporary and permanent road crossings, 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, or during low tides.

## **13. Removal of Temporary Structures and Fills.**

Temporary structures must be removed, to the maximum extent practicable, after their use has been discontinued. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

## **14. Proper Maintenance.**

Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable NWP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an NWP authorization.

## **15. Single and Complete Project.**

The activity must be a single and complete project. The same NWP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.

## **16. Wild and Scenic Rivers.**

(a) No NWP activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(b) If a proposed NWP activity will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for



possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification (see general condition 32). The district engineer will coordinate the PCN with the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river. Permittees shall not begin the NWP activity until notified by the district engineer that the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river has determined in writing that the proposed NWP activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(c) Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency responsible for the designated Wild and Scenic River or study river (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Information on these rivers is also available at: <http://www.rivers.gov/>.

## **17. Tribal Rights.**

No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

## **18. Endangered Species.**

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a 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 designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation. No activity is authorized under any NWP which "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7 consultation addressing the consequences of the proposed activity on listed species or critical habitat has been completed. See [50 CFR 402.02](#) for the definition of "effects of the action" for the purposes of ESA section 7 consultation, as well as [50 CFR 402.17](#), which provides further explanation under ESA section 7 regarding "activities that are reasonably certain to occur" and "consequences caused by the proposed action."

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA (see [33 CFR 330.4\(f\)\(1\)](#)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has



been submitted. If the appropriate documentation has not been submitted, additional ESA section 7 consultation may be necessary for the activity and the respective federal agency would be responsible for fulfilling its obligation under section 7 of the ESA.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity “may affect” or will have “no effect” to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-Federal applicant of the Corps' determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. For activities where the non-Federal applicant has identified listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification that the proposed activity will have “no effect” on listed species (or species proposed for listing or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), or until ESA section 7 consultation or conference has been completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation or conference with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific permit conditions to the NWP.

(e) Authorization of an activity by an NWP does not authorize the “take” of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with



“incidental take” provisions, etc.) from the FWS or the NMFS, the Endangered Species Act prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word “harm” in the definition of “take” means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) If the non-federal permittee has a valid ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan for a project or a group of projects that includes the proposed NWP activity, the non-federal applicant should provide a copy of that ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit with the PCN required by paragraph (c) of this general condition. The district engineer will coordinate with the agency that issued the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to determine whether the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation conducted for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. If that coordination results in concurrence from the agency that the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, the district engineer does not need to conduct a separate ESA section 7 consultation for the proposed NWP activity. The district engineer will notify the non-federal applicant within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit covers the proposed NWP activity or whether additional ESA section 7 consultation is required.

(g) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS and NMFS or their world wide web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> or <http://www.fws.gov/ipac> and <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/> respectively.

## **19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles.**

The permittee is responsible for ensuring that an action authorized by an NWP complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee is responsible for contacting the appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what measures, if any, are necessary or



appropriate to reduce adverse effects to migratory birds or eagles, including whether “incidental take” permits are necessary and available under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for a particular activity.

## **20. Historic Properties.**

(a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which may have the potential to cause effects to properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places 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 (see [33 CFR 330.4\(g\)\(1\)](#)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed NWP activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted, then additional consultation under section 106 may be necessary. The respective federal agency is responsible for fulfilling its obligation to comply with section 106.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed on, 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 might have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity 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 properties can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or designated tribal representative, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see [33 CFR 330.4\(g\)](#)). When reviewing pre-construction notifications, district engineers will comply with the current procedures for addressing the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts commensurate with



potential impacts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and/or field survey. Based on the information submitted in the PCN and these identification efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed NWP activity has the potential to cause effects on the historic properties. Section 106 consultation is not required when the district engineer determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see [36 CFR 800.3\(a\)](#)). Section 106 consultation is required when the district engineer determines that the activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The district engineer will conduct consultation with consulting parties identified under [36 CFR 800.2\(c\)](#) when he or she makes any of the following effect determinations for the purposes of section 106 of the NHPA: No historic properties affected, no adverse effect, or adverse effect.

(d) Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties on which the proposed NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects and has 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 to historic properties or that NHPA section 106 consultation has been completed. For non-federal permittees, 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. If NHPA section 106 consultation is required, the district engineer will notify the non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin the activity until section 106 consultation is completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA ([54 U.S.C. 306113](#)) 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, 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.

## **21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts.**

Permittees that discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by an NWP, they must immediately notify the district engineer of what they have found, 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.

## **22. Designated Critical Resource Waters.**

Critical resource waters include, NOAA-managed marine sanctuaries and marine monuments, and National Estuarine Research Reserves. The district engineer may designate, after notice and opportunity for public comment, additional waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance, such as outstanding national resource waters or state natural heritage sites. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for public comment.

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 57 and 58 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, and 54, notification is required in accordance with general condition 32, for any activity proposed by permittees in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after she or he determines that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

### **23. Mitigation.**

The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal:

(a) The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (*i.e.*, on site).

(b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects.

(d) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all losses of stream bed that exceed 3/100-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. This compensatory mitigation requirement may be satisfied through the restoration or enhancement of riparian areas next to streams in accordance with paragraph (e) of this general condition. For losses of stream bed of 3/100-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects. Compensatory mitigation for losses of streams should be provided, if practicable, through stream

rehabilitation, enhancement, or preservation, since streams are difficult-to-replace resources (see [33 CFR 332.3\(e\)\(3\)](#)).

(e) Compensatory mitigation plans for NWP activities in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the restoration or enhancement, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, the restoration or maintenance/protection of riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. If restoring riparian areas involves planting vegetation, only native species should be planted. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. If it is not possible to restore or maintain/protect a riparian area on both sides of a stream, or if the waterbody is a lake or coastal waters, then restoring or maintaining/protecting a riparian area along a single bank or shoreline may be sufficient. 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 minimization or compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(f) Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of [33 CFR part 332](#).

(1) The prospective permittee is responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation option if compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. For the NWPs, the preferred mechanism for providing compensatory mitigation is mitigation bank credits or in-lieu fee program credits (see [33 CFR 332.3\(b\)\(2\)](#) and (3)). However, if an appropriate number and type of mitigation bank or in-lieu credits are not available at the time the PCN is submitted to the district engineer, the district engineer may approve the use of permittee-responsible mitigation.

(2) The amount of compensatory mitigation required by the district engineer must be sufficient to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see [33 CFR 330.1\(e\)\(3\)](#)). (See also [33 CFR 332.3\(f\)](#).)

(3) Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, aquatic resource restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered for permittee-responsible mitigation.

(4) If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, the prospective permittee is responsible for submitting a mitigation plan. A conceptual or detailed mitigation plan may be used by the district engineer to make the decision on the NWP verification request, but a final mitigation plan that addresses the applicable requirements of [33 CFR 332.4\(c\)\(2\)](#) through (14) must be approved by the district engineer before the permittee begins work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation (see [33 CFR 332.3\(k\)\(3\)](#)). If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, and the proposed compensatory mitigation site is located on land in which another federal agency holds an easement, the district engineer will coordinate with that federal agency to determine if proposed compensatory mitigation project is compatible with the terms of the easement.

(5) If mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program credits are the proposed option, the mitigation plan needs to address only the baseline conditions at the impact site and the number of credits to be provided (see [33 CFR 332.4\(c\)\(1\)\(ii\)](#)).

(6) Compensatory mitigation requirements (e.g., resource type and amount to be provided as compensatory mitigation, site protection, ecological performance standards, monitoring requirements) may be addressed through conditions added to the NWP authorization, instead of components of a compensatory mitigation plan (see [33 CFR 332.4\(c\)\(1\)\(ii\)](#)).

(g) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWPs. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2-acre, it cannot be used to authorize any NWP activity resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is

provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that an NWP activity already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the no more than minimal impact requirement for the NWPs.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee programs, or permittee-responsible mitigation. When developing a compensatory mitigation proposal, the permittee must consider appropriate and practicable options consistent with the framework at [33 CFR 332.3\(b\)](#). For activities resulting in the loss of marine or estuarine resources, permittee-responsible mitigation may be environmentally preferable if there are no mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs in the area that have marine or estuarine credits available for sale or transfer to the permittee. For permittee-responsible mitigation, the special conditions of the NWP verification must clearly indicate the party or parties responsible for the implementation and performance of the compensatory mitigation project, and, if required, its long-term management.

(i) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected by a regulated activity, such as discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that will convert 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 environmental effects of the activity to the no more than minimal level.

#### **24. Safety of Impoundment Structures.**

To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-Federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state or federal, dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The district engineer may also require documentation that the design has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

#### **25. Water Quality.**

(a) Where the certifying authority (state, authorized tribe, or EPA, as appropriate) has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, a CWA section 401 water quality certification for the proposed discharge must be obtained or waived (see [33 CFR 330.4\(c\)](#)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a



water quality certification previously issued by certifying authority for the issuance of the NWP, then the permittee must obtain a water quality certification or waiver for the proposed discharge in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP.

(b) If the NWP activity requires pre-construction notification and the certifying authority has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, the proposed discharge is not authorized by an NWP until water quality certification is obtained or waived. If the certifying authority issues a water quality certification for the proposed discharge, the permittee must submit a copy of the certification to the district engineer. The discharge is not authorized by an NWP until the district engineer has notified the permittee that the water quality certification requirement has been satisfied by the issuance of a water quality certification or a waiver.

(c) The district engineer or certifying authority may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

## **26. Coastal Zone Management.**

In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see [33 CFR 330.4\(d\)](#)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a coastal zone management consistency concurrence previously issued by the state, then the permittee must obtain an individual coastal zone management consistency concurrence or presumption of concurrence in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP. The district engineer or a state may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

## **27. 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 CWA section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

## **28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.**



The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is authorized, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) If only one of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has a specified acreage limit, the acreage loss of waters of the United States cannot 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.

(b) If one or more of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has specified acreage limits, the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by those NWPs cannot exceed their respective specified acreage limits. For example, if a commercial development is constructed under NWP 39, and the single and complete project includes the filling of an upland ditch authorized by NWP 46, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the commercial development under NWP 39 cannot exceed 1/2-acre, and the total acreage loss of waters of United States due to the NWP 39 and 46 activities cannot exceed 1 acre.

## **29. 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.”

(Transferee)

(Date)



### **30. Compliance Certification.**

Each permittee who receives an NWP verification letter from the Corps must provide a signed certification documenting completion of the authorized activity and implementation of any required compensatory mitigation. The success of any required permittee-responsible mitigation, including the achievement of ecological performance standards, will be addressed separately by the district engineer. The Corps will provide the permittee the certification document with the NWP verification letter. The certification document will include:

(a) A statement that the authorized activity was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;

(b) A statement that the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions. If credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program are used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements, the certification must include the documentation required by [33 CFR 332.3\(l\)\(3\)](#) to confirm that the permittee secured the appropriate number and resource type of credits; and

(c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the activity and mitigation.

The completed certification document must be submitted to the district engineer within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity or the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation, whichever occurs later.

### **31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States.**

If an NWP activity also requires review by, or permission from, the Corps pursuant to [33 U.S.C. 408](#) because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project (a "USACE project"), the prospective permittee must submit a pre-construction notification. See paragraph (b)(10) of general condition 32. An activity that requires section 408 permission and/or review is not authorized by an NWP until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission or completes its review to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written NWP verification.

### **32. Pre-Construction Notification.**

*Contents adapted from the Federal Register ([86 FR 73522](#)) published on Dec. 27, 21 and Federal Register ([86 FR 2744](#)) published on Jan. 13, 2021.*



(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, if the PCN is determined to be incomplete, notify the prospective permittee within that 30 day period to request the additional information necessary to make the PCN complete. The request must specify the information needed to make the PCN complete. As a general rule, district engineers 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) 45 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 18 that listed species or critical habitat might be affected or are in the vicinity of the activity, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 20 that the activity might have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that there 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 Act (see [33 CFR 330.4\(g\)](#)) has been completed. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee may not 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 activity;

(3) Identify the specific NWP or NWP(s) the prospective permittee wants to use to authorize the proposed activity;

(4) (i) A description of the proposed activity; the activity's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause, including the anticipated amount of loss of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters expected to result from the NWP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; a description of any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental effects caused by the proposed activity; and 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, including other separate and distant crossings for linear projects that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification. The description of the proposed activity and any proposed mitigation measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures.

(ii) For linear projects where one or more single and complete crossings require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include the quantity of anticipated losses of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters (including those single and complete crossings authorized by an NWP but do not require PCNs). This information will be used by the district engineer to evaluate the cumulative adverse environmental effects of the proposed linear project, and does not change those non-PCN NWP activities into NWP PCNs.

(iii) Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the activity and when provided results in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans);

(5) The PCN must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters, such as lakes and ponds, and perennial and intermittent streams, 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 on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, as appropriate;

(6) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.

(7) For non-federal permittees, if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act;

(8) For non-federal permittees, if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or



potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property might have the potential to be affected by the proposed activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;

(9) For an activity that will occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, the PCN must identify the Wild and Scenic River or the “study river” (see general condition 16); and

(10) For an NWP activity that requires permission from, or review by, the Corps pursuant to [33 U.S.C. 408](#) because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, the pre-construction notification must include a statement confirming that the project proponent has submitted a written request for section 408 permission from, or review by, the Corps office having jurisdiction over that USACE project.

(c) *Form of Pre-Construction Notification:* The nationwide permit pre-construction notification form (Form ENG 6082) should be used for NWP PCNs. A letter containing the required information may also be used. Applicants may provide electronic files of PCNs and supporting materials if the district engineer has established tools and procedures for electronic submittals.

(d) *Agency Coordination:* (1) The district engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the activity's adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal.

(2) Agency coordination is required for: (i) All NWP activities that require pre-construction notification and result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States; (ii) NWP 13 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, fills greater than one cubic yard per running foot, or involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; and (iii) NWP 54 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, or that extend into



the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes.

(3) When agency coordination is required, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via email, facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the complete PCN to the appropriate Federal or state offices (FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to notify the district engineer via telephone, facsimile transmission, or email that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. The comments must explain why the agency believes the adverse environmental effects will be more than minimal. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the pre-construction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs, including the need for mitigation to ensure that the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The district engineer will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 37, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at [33 CFR 330.5](#).

(4) In cases of where the prospective permittee is not a Federal agency, the district engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(5) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps with either electronic files or multiple copies of pre-construction notifications to expedite agency coordination.



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Omaha District

## Further Information

1. District engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project (see general condition 31).



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Omaha District

**2021 Nationwide Permits  
Regional Conditions for North Dakota  
and  
Omaha District - Required Best Management Practices**

The following Nationwide Permit (NWP) regional conditions will be used in the State of North Dakota. The issuance of the NWPs was announced in the January 13, 2021, issue of the Federal Register (86 FR 2744) and December 27, 2021, issue of the Federal Register (86 FR 73522). Regional conditions are placed on NWPs to ensure projects result in no more than minimal adverse impacts to the aquatic environment and to address local resources concerns.

**A. PRECONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO ALL NWPs OR LIMITED REVOCATION OF NWPs**

For all NWPs, permittees must notify the Corps in accordance with General Condition 32 Preconstruction Notification (PCN) requirements for regulated activities located within or comprised of the following:

**1. Wetlands Classified as Peatlands:**

For purposes of this condition, peatlands are permanently or seasonally waterlogged areas with a surface accumulation of peat (organic matter) 30 centimeters (12 inches) or more thick. Under cool, anaerobic, and acidic conditions, the rate of organic matter accumulation exceeds organic decay. Any peat-covered areas, including fens, bogs, and muskegs, are all peatlands.

- a. PCN required for NWP 3, 5, 20, 32, 38 and 45.
- b. All NWPs not listed above are revoked for use in peatlands.

**2. Waters Adjacent to Natural Springs:**

PCN required for any regulated activity located within 100 feet of the water source in natural spring areas. For purposes of this condition, a spring source is defined as any location where there is flow emanating from a distinct point at any time during the growing season. Springs do not include seeps and other groundwater discharge areas where there is no distinct point source.

Springs do not include drain tile outlets.

**3. Bank Stabilization Activities:**

PCN required for any regulated activity that involves bank stabilization impacting an area greater than 1/10 of an acre below the Ordinary High Water Mark or includes features that extend out from the existing bank line greater than 25% of the bankfull channel width.

**4. Specific Waterways:**

PCN required for any regulated activity occurring in or under the Missouri River, including Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe. In addition, a PCN is required for any activity occurring in an off channel area (e.g. marinas and bays) of any of these waterways.



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Omaha District

**2021 Nationwide Permits  
Regional Conditions for North Dakota  
and  
Omaha District - Required Best Management Practices**

**B. PRECONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC  
NWP**

**1. NWP 23 – Approved Categorical Exclusions:**

In addition to PCN requirements identified in Regulatory Guidance Letter (RGL) 05-07 or the applicable Corps RGL, PCN is required prior to initiating any regulated activity under NWP 23 that would permanently impact an area greater than 1/2 an acre of waters of the United States. In addition to information required for PCN, the applicant must identify the approved categorical exclusion that applies in RGL 05-07 or the applicable Corps RGL and provide documentation that the project fits the categorical exclusion.

**C. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

**Required Best Management Practices:**

In addition to the Regional Conditions above, additional required best management practices apply to NWPs within the Omaha District follow. These are also available at:

<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Program/Nation-Wide-Permit-Information/>

The following Nationwide Permit regional condition best management practices are required for Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming in the Omaha District. The issuance of the NWPs was announced in the January 13, 2021, issue of the Federal Register (86 FR 2744) and December 27, 2021, issue of the Federal Register (86 FR 73522). Regional conditions are placed on NWPs to ensure projects result in no more than minimal adverse impacts to the aquatic environment and to address local resources concerns.

**A. REQUIRED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES APPLICABLE TO MONTANA,  
NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, AND WYOMING**

**1. Suitable Material:**

Permittees are reminded of General Condition No. 6 which prohibits use of unsuitable material. A list of materials prohibited or restricted as fill material in waters of the United States can be found at:

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Media/FactSheets/FactSheetArticleView/tabid/2034/Article/12320/prohibited-restricted-materials.aspx>

**PARAGRAPHS PERTAINING TO ALL STATES EXCEPT NORTH DAKOTA HAVE BEEN  
REMOVED FROM THIS VERSION FOR CLARITY.**

**B. NORTH DAKOTA REQUIRED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

**2. Minimum Culvert Width:**

For all NWPs in jurisdictional streams, the culvert opening width of a stream crossing shall not be less than the mean bank to bank width as measured from the Ordinary High Water Mark in the affected stream reach. In stable stream channels, the Ordinary High Water Mark is often found at the point where over-bank flow begins during a flood event. In incised stream channels that do not frequently access a floodplain or upper terrace, the Ordinary High Water Mark is generally located within the entrenched channel. The Ordinary High Water Mark may be identified by observing indicators such as a distinct change in slope, a change in vegetation characteristics, or a change in sediment characteristics, see 33 CFR 328.3(e).



**2021 Nationwide Permits  
Regional Conditions for North Dakota  
and  
Omaha District - Required Best Management Practices**

**3. Culvert Countersink Depth:**

For all NWP in jurisdictional streams and a stable stream bed, culvert stream crossings shall be installed with the culvert invert set below the natural stream channel flow line according to the table below. This regional condition does not apply in instances where the lowering of the culvert invert would allow a headcut to migrate upstream of the project into an unaffected stream reach or result in lowering the elevation of the stream reach.

<b>Culvert Type</b>	<b>Drainage Area</b>	<b>Minimum Distance Culvert Invert Shall Be Lowered Below Stream Flow Line</b>
All culvert types	< 100 acres	Not required
Pipe diameter <8.0 ft	100 to 640 acres	1/2 ft
Pipe diameter <8.0 ft	>640 acres	1.0 ft
Pipe diameter > 8.0 ft	All drainage sizes	20% of pipe diameter
Box culvert	All drainage sizes	1.0 ft

- a. The stream flow line shall be defined as the longitudinal average of the low flow stream channel.
- b. The slope of the culvert should be parallel to the slope of the stream flow line.
- c. The culvert invert depression depth shall be measured at the culvert inlet for culverts installed at a slope less than the slope of the stream flow line.
- d. Riprap inlet and outlet protection shall be placed to match the height of the culvert invert.

**4. Spawning Areas:**

Spawning areas and seasons can be accessed on the North Dakota Game & Fish Department’s website at: <http://gf.nd.gov/gnf/conservation/docs/spawning-restriction-exclusions.pdf>

**5. Intake Structures:**

- a. Intake screens with a maximum mesh opening of 1/4-inch must be provided, inspected annually, and maintained. Wire, Johnson-like, screens must have a maximum distance between wires of 1/8-inch. Water velocity at the intake screen shall not exceed 1/2-foot per second.
- b. Pumping plant sound levels will not exceed 75 dB at 50 feet.
- c. Intakes located in Lake Sakakawea, above river mile 1519, and on the Yellowstone River, are subject to the following conditions:
  - i. The intakes shall be floating.
  - ii. At the beginning of the pumping season, the intake shall be placed over water with a minimum depth of 20 feet.
  - iii. If the 20-foot depth is not attainable, then the intake shall be located over the deepest water available.
  - iv. If the water depth falls below six feet, the intake shall be moved to deeper water or the maximum intake velocity shall be limited to 1/4-foot per second.
- d. Intakes located in Lake Sakakawea, below river mile 1519, and the Missouri River below



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Omaha District

**2021 Nationwide Permits  
Regional Conditions for North Dakota  
and  
Omaha District - Required Best Management Practices**

Garrison Dam are subject to the following conditions:

- i. The intakes shall be submerged.
  - ii. At the beginning of the pumping season, the intake will be placed at least 20 vertical feet below the existing water level.
  - iii. The intake shall be elevated 2 to 4 feet off the bottom of the river or reservoir bed.
  - iv. If the 20-foot depth is not attainable, then the intake velocity shall be limited to ¼-foot per second with intake placed at the maximum practicable attainable depth.
- e. Intakes and associated utility lines that are proposed to cross sandbars in areas designated as piping plover critical habitat are prohibited.
- f. Any temporary open trench associated with utility lines are to be closed within 30 days of excavation. This time limit may be extended by notifying the North Dakota Regulatory Office and receiving a written response that the extension is acceptable

**6. Boat Docks:**

To ensure that the work or structure shall not cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the following conditions are required:

- a. No boat dock shall be located on a sandbar or barren sand feature. The farthest point riverward of a dock shall not exceed a total length of 30 feet from the Ordinary High Water Mark. Information Note: Issuance of this permit does not supersede authorization required by the North Dakota State Engineer's Office.
- b. Any boat dock shall be anchored to the top of the high bank.
- c. Any boat dock located within an excavated bay or marina that is off the main river channel may be anchored to the bay or marina bottom with spuds.
- d. Section 10 Waters located in the State of North Dakota are:
  - i. Bois de Sioux River
  - ii. James River Missouri River
  - iii. Red River of the North
  - iv. Upper Des Lacs Lake
  - v. Yellowstone River



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Omaha District

**2022 Nationwide Permits  
Regional Conditions  
State of North Dakota  
Section 401 Water Quality Certification**

The following Nationwide permit (NWP) regional conditions pertaining to Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) will be used in the State of North Dakota for NWP 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 45, 46, 49, 53, 54 and 59.

The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for providing WQC for activities that occur on Indian Lands in the State of North Dakota.

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for providing WQC for Section 404 activities that occur in the State of North Dakota, excluding Indian Lands.

WQC by NWP follows:

- **NWP 1 – Aids to Navigation**  
-Certification not required (Section 10 Only)
- **NWP 2 – Structures in Artificial Canals**  
-Certification not required (Section 10 Only)
- **NWP 3 – Maintenance**  
-EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).  
-NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 4 – Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities**  
-EPA waived certification for all activities.  
-NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 5 – Scientific Measurement Devices**  
-EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).  
-NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 6 – Survey Activities**  
-EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).  
-NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 7 – Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures**  
-EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).  
-NDDEQ certified with a condition requiring a copy of the preconstruction notification (PCN) be provided for any projects affecting classified rivers, streams or lakes.  
Classified waters are listed in Appendixes I and II of the State Water Quality Standards.
- **NWP 8 – Oil and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf**  
-Not applicable in North Dakota

- **NWP 9 – Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas**  
-Certification not required (Section 10 Only)
- **NWP 10 – Mooring Buoys**  
-Certification not required (Section 10 Only)
- **NWP 11 – Temporary Recreational Structures**  
-Certification not required (Section 10 Only)
- **NWP 13 – Bank Stabilization**  
-EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).  
-NDDEQ certified with a condition requiring that a copy of the PCN be provided for any projects affecting classified waters.
- **NWP 14 – Linear Transportation Projects**  
-EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).  
-NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 15 – U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges**  
-EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).  
-NDDEQ certified for all activities, except those affecting classified waters. Individual certification is required for projects affecting classified waters.
- **NWP 16 – Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas**  
-EPA denied certification and individual certification is required for all activities.  
-NDDEQ certified with a condition requiring that a copy of the PCN be provided for any projects affecting classified waters.
- **NWP 17 – Hydropower Projects**  
-EPA denied certification and individual certification is required for all activities.  
-NDDEQ certified for all activities, except those affecting classified waters. Individual certification is required for projects affecting classified waters.
- **NWP 18 – Minor Discharges**  
-EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).  
-NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 19 – Minor Dredging**  
-EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).  
-NDDEQ certified for all activities, provided spoils are disposed of at an upland site and are not allowed to drain back to waters of the state.
- **NWP 20 – Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances**  
-EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).  
-NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 22 – Removal of Vessels**  
-EPA waived certification for all activities.  
-NDDEQ certified for all activities.

- **NWP 23 – Approved Categorical Exclusions**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities, except those impacting classified waters and bank loss exceeds 300 linear feet. Individual certification is required for the excepted projects.
- **NWP 24 – Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs**
  - Not applicable in North Dakota.
- **NWP 25 – Structural Discharges**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 27 – Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified with conditions: 1) PCN must be provided for projects affecting classified waters; 2) Projects must not result in a net loss of wetland or wetland type; and 3) no in-stream berms, dams, or similar structures in classified waters, unless constructed in such a way that the stream assimilative capacity and aquatic life passage are maintained or the structures are part of a restoration project.
- **NWP 28 – Modifications of Existing Marinas**
  - Certification not required (Section 10 Only)
- **NWP 30 – Moist Soil Management for Wildlife**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 31 – Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 32– Completed Enforcement Actions**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified with a condition requiring that a copy of the PCN be provided for any projects affecting classified waters.
- **NWP 33 – Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 34 – Cranberry Production Activities**
  - EPA denied certification and individual certification is required for all activities.
  - NDDEQ N/A
- **NWP 35 – Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins**
  - Certification not required (Section 10 Only)

- **NWP 36 – Boat Ramps**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 37 – Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 38 – Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 41 – Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 45 – Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 46 – Discharges in Ditches**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 49 – Coal Remining Areas**
  - EPA denied certification and individual certification is required for all activities.
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 53 – Removal of Low-Head Dams**
  - EPA denied certification and individual certification is required for all activities.
  - NDDEQ certified for all activities.
- **NWP 54 – Living Shorelines**
  - EPA waived certification for all activities.
  - NDDEQ N/A
- **NWP 59 – Water Reclamation and Reuse Facilities**
  - EPA certified with conditions (see EPA certification following this listing).
  - NDDEQ N/A

EPA certification follows.

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 Clean Water Act Section 401  
Water Quality Certification for the U.S. Corps of Engineers CWA Section 404  
2021 Nationwide Permits Reissuance**

This Certification applies to any potential point source discharges from potential projects authorized under the proposed re-issuance of the following U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CWA 404 Nationwide Permit (NWP) into waters of the United States that occur within Indian country<sup>1</sup> lands within the state of North Dakota: NWP 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 41, 45, 46, 49, 53, 54, and 59/E.<sup>2</sup>

Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act requires applicants for Federal permits and licenses that may result in discharges into waters of the United States to obtain certification that potential discharges will comply with applicable provisions of the CWA, including Sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307. Where no state agency or tribe has authority to give such certification, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the certifying authority. In this case, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Spirit Lake Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes (the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation), and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians currently are not authorized to provide CWA Section 401 certifications for discharges occurring on reservations, or any other Indian country lands, within the State of North Dakota, therefore, the EPA is making the certification decisions for discharges that may result from potential projects authorized under the proposed Corps CWA 404 NWPs listed above. Although the above Tribes currently are not authorized to provide CWA Section 401 certifications, EPA will condition certifications using Tribal water quality requirements where applicable and appropriate.

### **General Information**

The general information provided in this section is intended to provide context for EPA's certification decision and does not itself constitute a certification condition(s). The information in this section is being provided to help project proponents comply with the terms and conditions of the CWA Section 401 certification on the NWPs on applicable Indian country lands.

- Prior to work commencing, project proponents should notify the appropriate Tribal Environmental Office.
- The project proponents for projects authorized under the NWPs should obtain all other permits, licenses, and certifications that may be required by federal, state, or tribal authority.

---

<sup>1</sup> Indian country is defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 1151. Indian country in North Dakota generally includes (1) lands within the exterior boundaries of the following Indian reservations located within North Dakota: the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, the Spirit Lake Reservation, the Lake Traverse Reservation, the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, and the Turtle Mountain Reservation; (2) any land held in trust by the United States for an Indian tribe; and (3) any other areas that are "Indian country" within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. Section 1151.

<sup>2</sup> This Certification does not apply to the following NWPs: 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 24, 28, and 35. The Corps has not requested certification for these NWPs. If any activity authorized by these listed NWPs may result in a discharge into a water of the United States, the project proponent should contact the Corps or EPA to determine if a CWA Section 401 certification is required. Furthermore, NWPs 12, 21, 29, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 48, 50, 51, 52, A/55, B/56, C/57, and D/58 were reissued in January 2021. 86 FR 2744. EPA denied certification for all these NWPs, except NWP 48. Project proponents must apply for an individual CWA Section 401 certification from EPA for all NWPs reissued in January 2021, except NWP 48, for which EPA expressly waived certification authority.

- If a project is unable to meet the enclosed conditions, or if certification is denied for an applicable NWP, the project proponent should request an individual CWA Section 401 certification from EPA. An individual certification request is subject to the requirements outlined in 40 CFR 121.
- Copies of this certification should be kept on the job site and readily available for reference.
- Pursuant to CWA section 308(a), EPA representatives may inspect the authorized activity and any mitigation areas to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWP.
- If you have questions regarding this certification, or need assistance contacting the appropriate tribe, please contact EPA Region 8 at: [R8CWA401@epa.gov](mailto:R8CWA401@epa.gov) and Aaron Blair at (303) 312-6883 or via email at [blair.aaron@epa.gov](mailto:blair.aaron@epa.gov) or Toney Ott at (303) 312-6906 or via email at [ott.toney@epa.gov](mailto:ott.toney@epa.gov). Additional information on tribes in EPA Region 8 also can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/region-8-tribal-program>.

### **NWPs Granted with Conditions (121.7(d)(2))**

On behalf of the tribes listed above, CWA Section 401 certification is granted with the following conditions for NWPs 3, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 23, 25, 27, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 41, 45, 46, and 59/E. EPA Region 8 has determined that any discharge authorized under these proposed NWPs will comply with water quality requirements, as defined in 40 C.F.R. 121.1(n), subject to the following conditions pursuant to Section 401(d). Note that all correlating justification statements and citations as required by 40 CFR 121.7(d)(2) are included in Appendix A.

**General Condition 1:** Point source discharges shall not occur in jurisdictional waters of these special aquatic resources: (1) fens, bogs, or other peatlands; (2) within 100 feet of the point of discharge of a known natural spring source; (3) riffle-pool complexes of streams; or (4) water sources above hanging gardens. Projects or activities expected to have potential discharges into these areas are not covered by this certification and require a project-specific CWA Section 401 certification from EPA Region 8.

A peatland is defined by the U.S. Forest Service as any type of peat covered terrain with an accumulation of at least 20 to 40 centimeters of peat within the upper 80 centimeters of the soil profile. More resources on peatlands and hanging gardens can be found here:

<https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/fen/FWSRegion6FenPolicy1999.pdf>

[https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/California\\_Fens/what.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/beauty/California_Fens/what.shtml)

<https://cnhp.colostate.edu/cnhpblog/2009/08/11/hanging-gardens/>

<https://springstewardshipinstitute.org/hanging-garden>

**General Condition 2:** Except as specified in the project plan, no debris, silt, sand, cement, concrete, oil or petroleum, organic material, or other construction related materials or wastes shall be allowed to enter or be stored within 100 feet of waters of the U.S. If materials are stored within 100 feet of waters of the U.S., the project plan shall identify the measures and controls that will be used to ensure the materials will not enter waters of the U.S. No activities shall result in an unconfined discharge of liquid cement into waters of the U.S.

Any materials not specified in the project plan that do enter waters of the U.S. shall be reported to EPA ([R8CWA401@epa.gov](mailto:R8CWA401@epa.gov)) with a remediation plan within 15 days.

For emergency spills, including any spills of petroleum products, contact EPA's National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802, the appropriate Tribal Environmental Office, and local spill response hotlines within 24 hours.

**General Condition 3:** Activities that may result in a point source discharge shall occur during seasonal low flow or no flow periods. Activities that cannot meet this condition require a project-specific CWA Section 401 certification from EPA Region 8.

**General Condition 4:** When operating equipment or otherwise undertaking construction activities (including grouting riprap) in aquatic resources:

- Work shall be completed in the dry, unless justification for working in the wet can be documented by the project proponent prior to construction.<sup>3</sup>
- Concrete grouting shall be allowed to dry thoroughly before exposure to waters of the U.S.
- All equipment shall be cleaned prior to arriving on the project site. All equipment shall be inspected daily and prior to entering any streams or wetlands for oil, gas, diesel, anti-freeze, hydraulic fluid, and other petroleum leaks.
- All contaminated areas shall be cleaned immediately, and contaminated soil removed from the site or contained in enclosed containers. Containers shall not be stored within 100 feet of waters of the U.S. If site conditions do not allow for storage at least 100 feet away from waters of the U.S., or if the topography is such that storage can occur within 100 feet without risk to waters of the U.S., the project proponent shall document this along with the measures and controls that will be used to ensure contaminants will not enter waters of the U.S. All equipment detected with leaks shall be repaired promptly or moved offsite within 24 hours.
- Containment booms and/or absorbent material shall be available onsite. In the case of spills, containment booms and/or absorbent materials shall be employed immediately to prevent discharges from reaching waters of the U.S.

**General Condition 5:** For projects that require coverage under EPA's Construction General Permit, the project proponent shall submit the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to EPA Region 8 (R8CWA401@epa.gov).

For projects that do not require the development of a SWPPP, the project proponent shall document how the project will utilize construction techniques, including soil erosion and sediment controls, to prevent or minimize water quality degradation because of the project. Projects shall not permanently impact the overall health of the aquatic resource; beneficial uses shall not be lost or impaired.

**General Condition 6:** Vegetation in jurisdictional wetlands and waterbodies shall be protected except where its removal is necessary for completion of the work. Locations disturbed by construction activities shall be revegetated with appropriate native vegetation in a manner that optimizes plant establishment for the specific site (e.g., stockpiling of existing topsoil that is weed-seed free). Revegetation may include topsoil replacement, planting, seeding, fertilization, liming, and weed-free mulching. All revegetation materials, including plants and plant seed shall be on site or scheduled for delivery prior to or upon completion of the earth moving activities. Exceptions to native revegetation include agricultural lands that are being returned to crop or pasture vegetation, with Corps permission.

Where removal of vegetation occurs, the project proponent shall develop a restoration plan prior to initiating construction on the project. The restoration plan shall include measures, including but not limited to:

- The project proponent shall describe and photo document where the disturbance or removal of riparian/wetland vegetation will occur during the completion of the work.

---

<sup>3</sup> See "Working in the dry: Cofferdams, in-river construction, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers" <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16021coll4/id/156/>

- The project proponent shall revegetate disturbed jurisdictional areas within three months of completion of construction, based on pre-disturbance or reference site conditions, including percent cover and native species diversity.
- The project proponent shall revegetate any disturbed wetland soil with native plant species. Non-native and invasive species shall not be used for restoration activities.

**General Condition 7:** The placement of material (discharge) for the construction of new dams is not certified, except for stream restoration projects. Activities that cannot meet this condition require a project-specific CWA Section 401 certification from EPA Region 8.

**General Condition 8 – Applicable only to the following NWPs:** 3, 7, 13, 14, 15, 19, 23, 27, 37, and 59/E. Project proponents shall provide notice to EPA Region 8 at least 30 days prior to commencing work in water of the U.S. to provide EPA Region 8 with the opportunity to review and inspect the activity for the purposes of determining whether any discharge from the proposed project will violate this water quality certification. In cases where the Corps requires a PCN for the applicable NWP, in accordance with Corps' National General Condition 32(b), Pre-Construction Notification (86 FR 2873), the applicant shall also provide the PCN to Region 8.

Additionally, the applicant shall include a summary of communications with the affected Tribe's water quality staff regarding the project, including any concerns or issues, in its submission to EPA.

**NWP-Specific Conditions:**

**NWP 3, Specific Condition 1:** No more than 25 cubic yards of new or additional riprap shall be placed to protect the structure or fill. If a project proponent seeking NWP authorization plans to use more than 25 cubic yards of new or additional riprap to protect the structure or fill, the project proponent shall request a project-specific CWA Section 401 certification from EPA Region 8.

**NWP 3, Specific Condition 2:** Bridge replacements shall span the bankfull width and/or the ordinary highwater mark of the affected waters of the U.S. Projects or activities that cannot meet this condition require a project-specific CWA Section 401 certification from EPA Region 8.

**NWP 3, Specific Condition 3:** Fill or dredged material shall not result in an increase in land contour height beyond the original dimensions for the repair of low water crossings, or loss of stream cross section dimensions. Original land contour dimensions shall be documented prior to construction to confirm contours are returned to these dimensions post-maintenance activities.

**NWP 3, Specific Condition 4:** Silt and sediment removal shall not exceed:

- 1) 50 linear feet for low water crossings; and
- 2) 100 linear feet for bridge crossings.

Projects or activities that cannot meet this condition require a project-specific CWA Section 401 certification from EPA Region 8.

**NWP 7, Specific Condition 1:** Construction of the outfall structure shall be placed at the streambed elevation and, at a minimum, the pipe should be sized to prevent high pressure discharge of stormwater. Pipe sizing selection methods and justification that high pressure discharge will be minimized shall be documented by the

project proponent.

**NWP 7, Specific Condition 2:** Outfall structures shall not be constructed in jurisdictional wetlands. If a project proponent plans to construct an outfall structure in a jurisdictional wetland, the project proponent shall request a project-specific CWA Section 401 certification from EPA Region 8.

**NWP 7, Specific Condition 3:** For activities that do not require a SWPPP, the project proponent shall submit to EPA, an erosion and sediment control plan prior to construction that includes outfall stabilization controls. (Projects or activities requiring a SWPPP must submit the SWPPP to EPA per General Condition 5.)

The plan shall describe type, location, and maintenance schedules for all controls to be put in place prior to, during, and after construction to stabilize all areas of the bed and bank around and adjacent to the outfall structure and associated intake structures that may be affected by outfall or stream flows, respectively. The plan shall provide for maintenance of measures, and adaptive management processes if any measures are determined to be ineffective. During monitoring and maintenance, if water quality requirements are exceeded or if measures are identified as ineffective, then descriptions of additional measures taken to ensure compliance shall be sent to EPA within 48 hours of the exceedance or measure failure.

Rip rap aprons and/or energy dissipation structures shall be constructed to provide protection from the erosive potential of high-velocity flows, as documented in the erosion and sediment control plan, with adaptive management in place for potential structure failures.

**NWP 7, Specific Condition 4:** The project proponent shall submit a monitoring plan to EPA Region 8 prior to initiating construction on the project.

- The project proponent shall monitor the project site through the next growing season or until the site is restored to pre-disturbance or reference site conditions. The monitoring plan shall contain the restoration plan (as outlined in General Condition 6) and any additional adaptive management methods if the site is not achieving pre-disturbance or reference site conditions.
- The project proponent shall use referenced photographs to document the status of all relevant locations at the project site prior to construction, during project construction, after project completion, and upon completion of all restoration activities, consistent with the monitoring plan.
- The project proponent shall submit electronic photos (prior to, during and post-construction, and post-restoration) in an annual monitoring report to EPA Region 8 ([R8CWA401@epa.gov](mailto:R8CWA401@epa.gov)). The report shall be labeled with the project name and Corps District number.

**NWP 13, Specific Condition 1:** The project proponent shall submit a project plan with design techniques and stabilization methods to EPA Region 8 prior to construction. Activities shall use native vegetation or other bioengineered design techniques (e.g., willow plantings, root wads, large woody debris, etc.) or a combination of hard-armoring (e.g., rock) and predominately native vegetation or bioengineered design techniques. Artificial soil stabilizing material (e.g., mulch, matting, netting, etc.) shall be used to reduce soil erosion. These materials, to include all plants and plant seed, shall be on site or scheduled for delivery prior to or upon completion of the earth moving activities. Sediment control measures shall be maintained in good working order at all times.

Any project proposing bank stabilization solely using hard armoring methods, or where the scope of the entire project is greater than 500 linear feet, is not authorized under this certification and the project proponent shall seek a project-specific CWA Section 401 certification from EPA Region 8.

**NWP 13, Specific Condition 2:** The slopes of disturbed banks shall be configured to mimic a stable reference reach and not reduce the bottom width of the stream. Pre-construction cross sections shall be included in the project plan submitted to EPA Region 8.

**NWP 13, Specific Condition 3:** The project proponent shall submit a monitoring plan to EPA Region 8 prior to initiating construction on the project.

- The project proponent shall monitor the project site through the next growing season or until the site is restored to pre-disturbance or reference site conditions. The monitoring plan shall contain the restoration plan (as outlined in General Condition 6) and any additional adaptive management methods if the site is not achieving pre-disturbance or reference site conditions.
- The project proponent shall use referenced photographs to document the status of all relevant locations at the project site prior to construction, during project construction, after project completion, and upon completion of all restoration activities, consistent with the monitoring plan.
- The project proponent shall submit electronic photos (prior to, during and post-construction, and post-restoration) in an annual monitoring report to EPA Region 8 ([R8CWA401@epa.gov](mailto:R8CWA401@epa.gov)). The report shall be labeled with the project name and Corps District number (if available).

**NWP 14, Specific Condition 1:** NWP 14 is conditionally certified, except that a project-specific CWA section 401 certification is required for projects authorized under one or more NWP by the Corps that result(s) in:

1. Greater than 1/10 acre of impacts to waters of the U.S.; or
2. Greater than 300 linear feet of impacts to waters of the U.S.

**NWP 14, Specific Condition 2:** The project proponent shall submit a project design plan to EPA Region prior to construction. Affected streambanks shall be sloped such that the stream bottom width is not reduced, and bottom elevations are restored to original elevations. Stream bank slopes should not be steeper than 3:1. Justification for banks steeper than 3:1 shall be included in the project design plan. The project design plan also shall document how all temporary fills and structures will be removed, and the area restored to pre-project conditions.

**NWP 14, Specific Condition 3:** Permanent culverts shall be installed using an established culvert analysis and design tool (ex. HY-8, HEC-RAS, USGS CAP, etc.). Culverts shall span the bankfull width and/or ordinary high-water mark of the affected waterbody. The culvert bottom shall be installed below the existing streambed elevation to allow aquatic organism passage and the natural substrate to reestablish.

**NWP 14, Specific Condition 4:** The project proponent shall submit a monitoring plan to EPA Region 8 prior to initiating construction on the project.

- The project proponent shall monitor the project site through the next growing season or until the site is restored to pre-disturbance or reference site conditions. The monitoring plan shall contain the restoration plan (as outlined in General Condition 6) and any additional adaptive management methods if the site is not achieving pre-disturbance or reference site conditions.
- Impacts to aquatic resource buffers shall be avoided. If avoidance is not possible, methods for buffer restoration and monitoring shall be in the monitoring plan.
- The project proponent shall use referenced photographs to document the status of all relevant locations at the project site prior to construction, during project construction, after project completion, and upon completion of all restoration activities, consistent with the monitoring plan.

- The project proponent shall submit electronic photos (prior to, during and post-construction, and post-restoration) in an annual monitoring report to EPA Region 8 ([R8CWA401@epa.gov](mailto:R8CWA401@epa.gov)). The report shall be labeled with the project name and Corps District number (if available).

**NWP 15, Specific Condition 1:** Fill or dredged material shall not result in an increase in land contour height beyond the original dimensions of the waterbody. Original land contour dimensions shall be documented prior to construction to confirm contours are restored to pre-disturbance conditions. Affected streambanks shall be sloped such that the stream bottom width is not reduced, and bottom elevations are restored to original elevations. Stream bank slopes should not be steeper than 3:1. Justification for banks steeper than 3:1 shall be included in the project design plan. The project design plan also shall document how all temporary fills and structures will be removed, and the area restored to pre-project conditions.

**NWP 15, Specific Condition 2:** Crossings shall be placed perpendicular to the water course, unless the project proponent can document that this would result in increased impacts to aquatic resources or compromise the safety of the structure.

**NWP 15, Specific Condition 3:** Bridge decks shall be designed such that they do not drain directly into the waterbody.

**NWP 15, Specific Condition 4:** Bridges shall span the bankfull width, adjacent wetlands, and/or ordinary high-water mark of the affected waterbody. Projects that cannot meet this condition require a project-specific CWA Section 401 certification from EPA Region 8.

**NWP 19, Specific Condition 1:** Dredged or fill materials shall be placed in non-jurisdictional areas and controlled such that it cannot return to waters of the U.S. Dredged or fill material shall not be placed on islet, islands, sandbars, landmass or other area of sediment accumulation within the banks of a stream, shore of lake, edge of wetland or other type of waterbody, unless the project proponent can document that the vegetation and geomorphology signify a long-term stable configuration (e.g., areas of sediment accumulation are not formed from temporary situations such as drought conditions or upstream reservoir release conditions).

**NWP 27, Specific Condition 1:** NWP 27 is conditionally certified, subject to the general conditions listed above, except for the following activities, where an individual project-specific CWA Section 401 certification is required: (1) the project involves dam removal; and/or (2) the project or activities involve greater than 1-acre of impacts to waters of the U.S.; and/or (3) the project impacts greater than 500 linear feet of waters of the U.S.

**NWP 37, Specific Condition 1:** Original and planned stream contours shall be documented by the project proponent. Construction activities shall not result in the channelization of streams or sloughs. Channelization is defined, for this purpose, as the placement of excess material in a manner that modifies the bank alignment, and subsequently the channel alignment, from its present condition.

**NWP 37, Specific Condition 2:** Construction activities shall not remove silt beyond what was deposited by the emergency event. Based on the original site conditions and planned project design, the project proponent shall justify the amount of silt identified for removal, such that the construction activities do not result in the removal of silt beyond what was deposited by the emergency event (e.g., excavating a wetland area to the point it's a stormwater retention pond, or deepening/widening a stream channel to accommodate higher flow capacity).

**NWP 37, Specific Condition 3:** Construction of temporary structures or drains for the purpose of reducing or preventing flood damage shall be removed within 60 days following the emergency event, unless justification for retaining the structures for a longer period is documented by the project proponent.

### **NWPs Denied (121.7(e)(2))**

On behalf of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Spirit Lake Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes (the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation), and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, EPA Region 8 cannot certify that the range of discharges from potential projects authorized under the following proposed NWPs will comply with water quality requirements, as defined in 40 CFR 121.1(n). Therefore, CWA Section 401 water quality certification is denied for NWPs 16, 17, 34, 49, and 53 and applicants must request an individual water quality certification, consistent with 40 CFR 121.5.

Certification denial is due to insufficient information. 40 CFR 121.7(e)(2)(iii). In EPA's unique role certifying on behalf of a tribe, EPA lacks important information about tribal water resources. In the case of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Spirit Lake Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes (the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation), and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, EPA Region 8 lacks sufficient information on sensitive resources that may exist on these tribal lands, potential impaired waters on these tribal lands, and potential cultural importance of the water resources on these tribal lands. Additional information on these specific subjects would be needed for EPA Region 8 to assure that the range of discharges from potential projects authorized under NWPs 16, 17, 34, 49, and 53 will comply with water quality requirements, as defined in 40 CFR 121.1(n).

This information would also be necessary for EPA Region 8 to identify specific water quality requirements and evaluate whether the range of discharges from potential projects will comply with such requirements, in accordance with CWA section 401(a)(1) and 40 CFR 121.7(b). Lacking this information, EPA Region 8 is therefore denying certification.

### **NWPs Waived (121.9(a)(1))**

On behalf of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Spirit Lake Tribe, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Three Affiliated Tribes (the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation), and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, EPA Region 8 is expressly waiving its authority to act on the CWA § 401 certification request for the following proposed NWPs: 4, 22, and 54.

December 8, 2020

Patricia L. McQueary  
Regulatory Program Manager, North Dakota  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
1513 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bismarck, ND 58504-6640

Dear Ms. McQueary:

The department has completed reviewing the proposed 2020 Nationwide Permits (NWP) for compliance with Standards of Quality for Water of the State (WQ-standards) and for Certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

The department has Clean Water Act Section 401 authority for North Dakota. Under that authority the department certifies, certifies with conditions, or denies select 2020 NWP. Certification, certification with condition, and denials are issued to ensure that the water quality requirements as defined in the Standards of Quality of Water Quality of the State, North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 33.1-16-02.1 (WQ-Standards) are supported as intended by the Clean Water Act (CWA) Sections 301, 301, 303, 306, and 307, the 40 Code of Federal Registry Part 121 and the ND Century Code 28-61-04.

If a project is unable to meet the enclosed conditions, or if certification is denied for an applicable NWP, the applicant may request an individual certification from the department. An individual certification request must follow the requirements outlined in §121.5 of EPA's CWA § 401 Certification Rule, effective September 11, 2020.

The department may inspect any authorized activity to determine compliance with the terms and conditions (Section 121.11).

**Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act this department grants certification to the following Nationwide Permits as the discharge(s) will comply with water quality requirements:**

- 1) **Nationwide Permits Not Applicable:** No. 8, 24, 34, 54, A, B, and E.
- 2) **Nationwide Permits Clean Water Certified:** No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 36, 37, 38, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, and C.

**Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act the department grants certification with conditions (Section 121.7(d)(2)) to the following Nationwide Permits, as with the conditions discharge(s) will comply with water quality requirements:**

- 3) **Nationwide Permits 7, 13, 16, 32, 35, and 52:** Nationwide Permits 7, 13, 16, 35 and 52 are granted Section 401 Clean Water Certification with the condition that all projects, (Including Federal and Non-Federal Permittees), provide preconstruction notification (PCN) for projects in, over or under Class I, IA, II and class III rivers and streams, and classified lakes listed in Appendixes I and II of the WQ-Standards

Section 121.7(d)(2)

(i) A preconstruction notification (PCN) requirements for Federal and Federal Permittees provides the department the means to ascertain if the Water Quality Standards are being supported and to confirm if the action was implemented as permitted. Both of these are required under 40 CFR § 121.2 [Clean Water Certification is required for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge] and 40 CFR 121.11(b) [The certifying authority, prior to the initial operation of a certified project, shall be afforded the opportunity to inspect the facility or activity of the purpose of determining whether the discharge from the certified project will violate the certification].

(ii) Without a PCN the department and USACE regulator will be blind to any violations, preventing the requirements of 40 CFR 121.11(c) [The Federal agency shall be responsible for enforcing certification condition that are incorporated into a license or permit]. Without a PCN Sections 301,302,303,306 and 307 of the Clean water act (CWA) cannot be supported.

- 4) **Nationwide Permits 15, and 17:** Nationwide Permits 15 and 17 are granted Section 401 Clean Water Certification except those in, on or over Class I, IA, II Rivers and Streams.

Section 121.7(d)(2)

(i) Bridges and hydropower dams sequester sediments and other pollutants from runoff, as well as reduce or increase flow velocities in waters of the state. Maintaining natural stream morphology reduces the destabilization of the stream/river.

Drainage directly from hydropower surfaces and bridge decks may cause erosion, and introduce additional pollutants, such as oil, gas, sediment, and toxics. Directing bridge deck drainage into constructed runoff water quality control systems will help prevent erosion and keep pollutants from directly entering the waterway.

The placement of a structure within the ordinary highwater alters the hydrologic characteristics of the waterbody leading to increased erosional forces, scour around the structures, increased sediment loads to the waterbody, abandonment of the primary channel, and undermining of the structure itself.

(ii) All streams are waters of the state under North Dakota Century Code 28-61-04 and protected by North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 33.1-16-02.1 for the

beneficial uses, municipal, domestic, aquatic life, recreation, agriculture, and industry. In order to ensure that state law is supported bridges and hydropower projects need project and specific conditions and allow inspections during and after construction (Section 121.11).

Authority for NWP 15 and 17 are 40 CFR § 121.2 [Clean Water Certification is required for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge] and 40 CFR 121.11(b) [The certifying authority, prior to the initial operation of a certified project, shall be afforded the opportunity to inspect the facility or activity of the purpose of determining whether the discharge from the certified project will violate the certification]. Conditioning of NWP 17 and 19 insure support of Sections 301,302,303,306 and 307 of the CWA.

- 5) **Nationwide Permit 19:** Nationwide Permit 19 is granted Section 401 Clean Water Certification with the condition spoils are disposed at an upland site where they will not drain back to waters of the state.

Section 121.7(d)(2)

(i) Discharge of dredge material has the capacity to bury the biological community, impact stream function, and release trace elements in concentration exceeding the numeric criteria in the WQ-standards.

(ii) All streams, rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands are waters of the state under North Dakota Century Code 28-61-04 are protected by North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 33.1-16-02.1 for the beneficial uses, municipal, domestic, aquatic life, recreation, agriculture, and industry. Conditioning of NWP 19 insure support of Sections 301,302,303,306 and 307 of the CWA.

- 6) **Nationwide Permits 23, and 29:** Nationwide Permits 23 and 29 are granted Section 401 Clean Water Certification with the condition that the project will not result in a stream bank loss exceeding 300 Linear feet in Class I, IA, II and III streams. Projects that cannot meet the condition under nationwide Permits 23 and 29 will require an individual certification.

Section 121.7(d)(2)

(i) Projects exceeding 300 linear feet of stream bank have the capacity to remove the biological, hydraulic and geomorphic stream function, disconnect and fragment the watershed and potentially result in the total loss of a stream.

(iii) All streams are waters of the state under North Dakota Century Code 28-61-04 and protected by North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 33.1-16-02.1 for the beneficial uses of municipal, domestic, aquatic life, recreation, agriculture, and industry. Conditioning of NWP 19 insure support of Sections 301,302,303,306 and 307 of the CWA.

- 7) **Nationwide Permit 27:** Nationwide Permit 27 is granted Section 401 Clean Water Certification with the following conditions: (1) Projects in Class I, IA, II, III rivers and streams, and classified lakes listed in Appendixes I and II of the WQ-Standards must provide a preconstruction notification, (2) projects will not result in a net loss of wetland or wetland type, and (3) no in-stream berms, dams, or similar structures on Class I, IA, and II, III river or stream listed in the Appendix I of the standards unless constructed in such a way that the stream assimilative capacity and aquatic life passage are maintained or the structures are part of a stream, river, wetland, or lake restoration project.

Section 121.7(d)(2)

(i) NWP 27 is sometimes used for damming, ephemeral and intermittent drainages. A PCN is required to ensure appropriate conditions are applied during and after construction to protect aquatic life passage, existing beneficial uses and prevent construction in ecological settings likely to become contaminant sinks (WQ-Standards). Projects need to demonstrate that at maturity there will be no net loss of wetland and wetland types. Wetland/wetland type and associated vegetation ensure no loss of assimilative capacity of contaminants, nutrients, and sediment to protect aquatic life (WQ-Standards).

(iv) Under 40 CFR § 121.2 [Clean Water Certification is required for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge], 40 CFR 121.11(b) [The certifying authority, prior to the initial operation of a certified project, shall be afforded the opportunity to inspect the facility or activity of the purpose of determining whether the discharge from the certified project will violate the certification], and 40 CFR 121.11(c) [The Federal agency shall be responsible for enforcing certification condition that are incorporated into a license or permit]. Without a PCN, 40 CFR § 121.2, 40 CFR 121.11(b), or 40 CFR 121.11(c) cannot be satisfied. Conditioning of NWP 27 insure support of Sections 301,302,303,306 and 307 of the CWA.

- 8) **Nationwide Permits 39, 40, and 42:** Nationwide Permits 39, 40 and 42 are granted Section 401 Clean Water Certification with the condition that the resulting will not cause a loss or relocation of 150 feet or more of any river or stream. Projects that cannot meet the condition under nationwide Permits 39, 40 and 42 will require an individual certification.

Section 121.7(d)(2)

(i) North Dakota has many intermittent and perennial streams with bed widths of less than four (4) feet. Projects with large footprints (i. g., Commercial, Industrial, Agricultural, and Recreational) that remove  $\geq 150$  linear feet of stream bank have the capacity to remove the capability, singularly or cumulatively, of the biological, assimilative, hydraulic and geomorphic stream function, disconnect and fragment the watershed and potentially result in the total loss of a stream.

(v) All streams are waters of the state under North Dakota Century Code 28-61-04 and protected by North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 33.1-16-02.1 for the beneficial uses, municipal, domestic, aquatic life, recreation, agriculture, and industry.

Conditioning of NWP 39, 40, and 42 insure support of Sections 301,302,303,306 and 307 of the CWA.

9) **Nationwide Permit D (Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances):**

Utility line activities under Nationwide Permit D for water and other substances are granted Section 401 Clean Water Certification with the condition they do not carry oil and gas production water, produce water, or brine water. Pipelines that carry oil or gas production water, produced water, or brine water, collectively called saltwater pipelines, in, over or under Class I, IA, II and class III rivers and streams, and classified lakes listed in Appendixes I and II of the WQ-standards will require an individual certification with conditions based on the specific waterbody, location on the water, type of construction, and safety controls applied prior, during, and after construction.

Section 121.7(d)(2)

(i) Documentation of the “may discharge” by saltwater pipelines in violation of North Dakota’s Administrative Code Chapter 33.1-16-02.1, the Clean Water Act 301, 302 (40 CFR part 121) are the 284 reported pipeline releases/failures reported in North Dakota between January 1, 2016 and October 1, 2020.

Saltwater pipelines in, over or under Class I, IA, II and class III rivers and streams, and classified lakes listed in Appendixes I and II of the WQ-standards need to be conditioned based on the waterbody, location on the water, type of construction, and safety controls applied prior during and after construction.

Pipelines carrying oil or gas production water, produced water, or brine water can be constructed to minimize discharge and failure potential through appropriate permit conditions. Under the proposed 2020 NWP D information is required to develop project specific conditions. General information needed to certify or certify with conditions is, but not limited to is: 1) construction type, 2) design, 3) crossing type, 4) monitoring, 5) safety systems installed, and 6) what toxin or pollutant is being transported by the pipeline.

Specific information required: (1) The geologic and geomorphic conditions at the constructions site to determine the likelihood of point source releases from construction activities such as the common frac-out of directional drilling fluids and the toxicity of the fluids, and (2) the location of the project in order to inspect during and after construction to ensure compliance with conditions (§121.11). Finally, there is a physical requirement to know that that all saltwater pipelines are installed at depths below any potential scour to protect them from the hydraulic energies of water.

(ii) Class I, IA, II and III streams under 40 CFR 131.10 and state law ND Century Code 28-61-04 have federally and state defined beneficial uses. These include the Clean Water Act (CWA) 101(a)(2) beneficial uses of “*wherever attainable, an interim goal of water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and provides for recreation in and on the water be achieved by July 1, 1983*”. Class I, IA, II and III streams under 40 CFR 131.10 and state law ND Century Code 28-

61-04 also have state defined beneficial uses. These include municipal, domestic, agriculture, and industrial uses. Pollutant releases into state waters may occur during and after construction of production, produced and brine water (saltwater) pipelines. Releases will violate sections 301, 302, 303, and 306 of the Clean Water Act, and WQ-Standards.

The department has the legal obligation to ensure the protection of the beneficial uses: municipal and industrial, fish and aquatic biota, recreation, agriculture, and industrial by insuring the ND Century Code 28-61-04 is supported by the WQ-Standards as determined by the Clean Water Act 301, 302, 303, and 306 and information to do so (§121.11).

**Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act the department denies (CFR 40 Section 121.7(e)(2)) certification of the following Nationwide Permits as the discharge(s) will not comply with water quality requirements:**

- 10) Nationwide Permit 12:** Oil and gas natural related projects in Class I, IA, II and class III rivers and streams, and classified lakes listed in Appendixes I and II of the standards are denied Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

Denied Section 121.7(e)(2)

(i) Documented "May discharge" by oil and natural gas pipelines in violation of North Dakota's Administrative Code Chapter 33.1-16-02.1, the Clean Water Act 301, 302 and 40 CFR Part 121 is documented by the 183 crude oil pipeline releases/failures reported in North Dakota between January 1, 2016 and October 1, 2020.

Pipeline permitted under NWP 12 can be built/constructed to minimize discharge and failure potential through appropriate conditioning. Under the proposed 2020 NWP there is not enough information to do so. General information needed to certify or certify with conditions is, but not limited to is: 1) construction type, 2) design, 3) crossing type, 4) monitoring, 5) safety systems installed, and 6) what toxin or pollutant is being transported by the pipeline.

Specific information required: (1) The geologic and geomorphic conditions at the constructions site to determine the likelihood of point source releases from construction activities such as the common frac-out of directional drilling fluids and the toxicity of the fluids, and (2) the location of the project in order to inspect during and after construction to ensure compliance with conditions (§121.11). Finally, there is a requirement to know that all oil and natural gas pipelines are installed at depths below any potential scour to protect them from the hydraulic energies of water.

(ii) Class I, IA, II and III streams under 40 CFR 131.10 and state law ND Century Code 28-61-04 have federally and state defined beneficial uses. These include the Clean Water Act (CWA) 101(a)(2) beneficial uses of "*wherever attainable, an interim goal of water quality which provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and provides for recreation in and on the water be achieved by July 1, 1983*".

Class I, IA, II and III streams under 40 CFR 131.10 and state law ND Century Code 28-61-04 also have state defined beneficial uses. These include municipal, domestic, agriculture, and industrial uses. Pollutant releases into state waters may occur during and after construction of crude oil, natural gas and oil related pipelines. Releases will violate sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act, and WQ-Standards.

The department has the legal obligation to ensure the protection of the beneficial uses: municipal and industrial, fish and aquatic biota, recreation, agriculture, and industrial by ensuring the ND Century Code 28-61-04 is supported by the WQ-Standards as determined by the Clean Water Act 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 and information to do so (§121.11).

The WQ-Standards may be found at <https://www.legis.nd.gov/information/acdata/pdf/33.1-16-02.1.pdf>. Within the WQ-Standards are the Authority 33.1-16-02.1-01, Beneficial uses 33.1-16-02.1-04, Narrative standards 33.1-16-02.1-08, Numeric standards 33.1-16-02.1-09, Stream and stream class (Appendix I), Lake and lake classifications (Appendix II), Antidegradation policy (Appendix IV).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl H. Rockeman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karl H. Rockeman, P.E.  
Director, Division of Water Quality

PNW:saj