



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR  
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
GARY C. RIKARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 10, 2016

Certified Mail No. 7010 0780 0001 9993 2668

Daniel R. Hooker,  
Hooker Engineering Services Inc, agent for

Mr. Tim Clements  
GT & T Farms  
1 Orchard Place  
Greenville, Mississippi 38702-0368

Dear Daniel R. Hooker:

Re: GT & T Farms Storm Drain Ditch  
Relocation  
Washington County  
COE No. MVK2015735  
WQC No. WQC2016012

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U. S. C. 1251, 1341), the Office of Pollution Control (OPC) issues this Certification, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing, to GT & T Farms, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

GT & T Farms Storm Drain Ditch Relocation: The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit for the mechanized land clearing and associated discharge of dredged and/or fill material into jurisdictional wetlands for agricultural purposes. The applicant proposes to (1) relocate a drainage ditch to make existing fields more conducive for mechanized agricultural activities and (2) increase height of water impoundment in the vicinity benefiting irrigation to agricultural crops produced by nearby fields.

The existing drainage ditch meanders through GT & T Farms agricultural field and discharges into the road side ditch along the north side of VFW Road which then empties into Main Canal. GT & T Farms proposed to relocate the ditch east into Main Canal.

Approximately 2,700 linear feet of a drainage ditch would be permanently filled using excavated material from a new rerouted channel. The new rerouted channel

would be approximately 1,230 linear feet, with a 6.0-foot bottom width and 2:1 side slopes with riprap protection from the centerline of Main Canal extending upstream approximately 50 feet. The rerouted channel would have an alternate double run of 102-inches diameter, 12-gauge polymer coated, and a corrugated metal culvert or arch for transporting agricultural equipment to have access to both fields. Riprap would be placed onto the existing riprap chevron weir to increase the existing design height by 1.5' to 105.5 NAVD88 (3.5' above channel bottom). Approximately 16,500 cubic yards of excavated material would be used in filling the existing drainage ditch.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of wetland impacts by purchasing credits from an approved mitigation bank within the 8-digit HUC. [MVK2015735, WQC2016012].

The Office of Pollution Control certifies that the above-described activity will be in compliance with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Section 49-17-29 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, if the applicant complies with the following conditions:

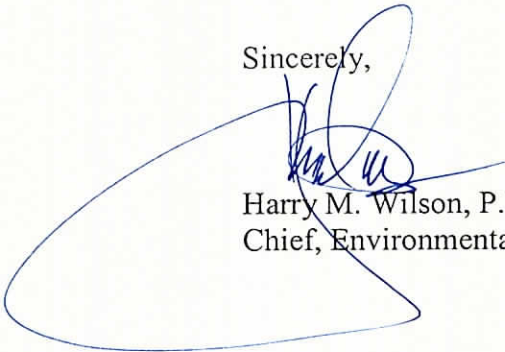
1. All fill material and excavation areas shall have side slopes of at least 3:1 (horizontal:vertical) and shall be immediately seeded, stabilized and maintained.
2. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) shall be properly installed and maintained to prevent the movement of sediment off-site and into adjacent drainage areas. Special care shall be taken prior to and during construction to prevent the movement of sediment into adjacent avoided wetland areas. In the event of any BMP failure, corrective actions shall be taken immediately.
3. Mitigation for the impact of 2,700 linear feet of drainage ditch shall be provided by the purchase of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. **Written verification of the final purchase must be provided to the Office of Pollution Control prior to the commencement of any work in the wetland areas.**
4. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
5. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse.

The Office of Pollution Control also certifies that there are no limitations under Section 302 nor standards under Sections 306 and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act which are applicable to the applicant's above-described activity.

May 10, 2016

This certification is valid for the project as proposed. Any deviations without proper modifications and/or approvals may result in a violation of the 401 Water Quality Certification. If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Harry M. Wilson, P.E., DEE  
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

HMW: emv

cc: Mr. William Ainslie, Environmental Protection Agency  
Mr. David Felder, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ms. Tarmiko Graham, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District