



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

June 15, 2016

Certified Mail No. 7010 1870 0003 4946 8886
Mr. Lynn Wright
Lowndes County School District
1053 Highway 45 South
Columbus, Mississippi 39701

Dear Mr. Wright:

Re: Lowndes County School District
Career Tech Center
Lowndes County
COE No. SAM201600133JMT
WQC No. WQC2016010

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 Lowndes County School District, Career Tech Center, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Lowndes County School District, Career Tech Center: This project is for the discharge of fill material into waters of the State for the purpose of constructing a high school career tech center, a new Lowndes County School District building, an alternative school, a new bus maintenance facility, parking lot for 51 buses, and parking spaces for 227 vehicles, and associated utilities. The proposed project is located on an approximately 20 acre parcel located just north of U.S. Highway 82 on North Lehmberg Road in Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi. The project would impact 30.74 linear feet of ephemeral stream and 3.77 acres of emergent wetlands. The purpose of the project is to construct a centrally located campus to provide a more effective, efficient and higher quality educational environment for the students of Lowndes County [SAM201600133JMT, WQC2016010].

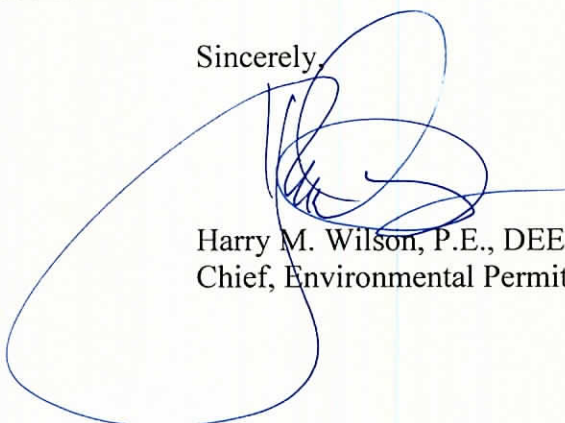
The Office of Pollution Control certifies that the above-described activity will be in compliance with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Section 49-17-29 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, if the applicant complies with the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

1. The development shall connect to an Office of Pollution Control approved wastewater collection and treatment system. No construction shall begin until all wastewater approvals are obtained.
2. 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.
3. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) shall be properly installed and maintained to prevent the movement of sediment off-site and into adjacent drainage areas and/or waters. Special care shall be taken to prevent the movement of sediment into adjacent wetland areas. In the event of any BMP failure, corrective actions shall be taken immediately.
4. For projects with ground disturbances that total five acres or more including clearing, grading, excavating or other construction activities, the applicant shall obtain the necessary coverage under the State of Mississippi's Large Construction Storm Water General NPDES Permit. No construction activities shall begin until the necessary approvals and /or permits have been obtained.
5. The post-construction storm water management plan, submitted by Neel-Schaffer, Inc., received on May 25, 2016, with subsequent submittals received on June 2, 2016, and June 10, 2016, shall be implemented concurrent with project construction and properly maintained.
6. A site-specific post-construction storm water management plan shall be developed for each future phase of the project. Pertinent plans and specifications detailing the implementation and design of the controls and maintenance shall be submitted to this office for review at least 60 days prior the start of any construction activities on future phases. No construction shall begin in the subject individual phase until written approval of the plan is received from the Department.
7. Mitigation for the loss of 3.77 acres of emergent wetlands and 30.74 linear feet of ephemeral stream shall be provided by the purchase of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. The purchasing credits must be in accordance with the banking prospectus and should be based upon that required for impacting 3.77 acres of emergent wetlands and 30.74 linear feet of ephemeral stream. A copy of the credit purchase agreement shall be forwarded to this office within 60 days of this certification.
8. 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.

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: chb

cc: Joe Tanko, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
David Felder, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Calista Mills, Environmental Protection Agency
Curtis Robertson, Headwaters, Inc.
Colvin Mann, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.