



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

February 22, 2017

Certified Mail No. 7011 0110 0001 3219 0847

Ms. Caree Kovacevich
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001

Dear Ms. Kovacevich:

Re: US Army COE, Mobile District,
Maintenance Dredging,
Pascagoula Harbor Navigation
Project
Jackson County
COE No. FP17PA0209
WQC No. WQC2017063

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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

US Army COE, Mobile District, Maintenance Dredging, Pascagoula Harbor Navigation Project: The applicant proposes to perform maintenance dredging activities in the Pascagoula Harbor, Jackson County, Mississippi. These activities include: An entrance channel 44 feet deep and 550 feet wide from the Gulf of Mexico to Horn Island Pass, including a 2,200 foot long by 200 foot wide sediment trap situated on the east side of the channel, and a channel 44 feet deep and 600 feet wide through Horn Island Pass, including a 4,700 foot long sediment trap situated on the east side of the channel 44 feet deep and 175 feet wide; A channel 42 feet deep and 350 feet wide in the Mississippi Sound and the Pascagoula River to the railroad bridge at Pascagoula, including a turning basin 2,000 feet long and 950 feet wide (including the channel area) on the west side of the river below the railroad bridge; A channel 42 feet deep throughout and 350 feet wide from the ship channel in the Mississippi Sound to the 1,150 foot turning basin at the mouth

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OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

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of Bayou Casotte, then 350 feet wide for about one mile to the northern turning basin, 900 feet wide and 1,750 feet long; A channel 22 feet deep and 150 feet wide up the Pascagoula River from the railroad bridge to the mouth of the Escatawpa River (Dog River), thence up the Escatawpa River to the Highway 613 Bridge; A channel 12 feet deep and 125 feet wide from the Highway 613 Bridge, via Robertson and Bounds Lakes to mile 6.0 on the Escatawpa River; And a channel 12 feet deep by 80 feet extending from deep water in the Pascagoula River to a turning basin in Krebs Lake a distance of about 1,500 feet, then a channel 10 feet deep and 60 feet wide along the south bank of the lake a channel 10 feet deep and 60 feet wide, terminating at a second turning basin, a distance of 2,700 feet from the first. An additional 2 feet of advanced maintenance plus 2 feet of overdepth dredging will be added to each project section. Maintenance dredging of soft-dredged material with hopper, mechanical, and/or hydraulic cutterhead dredges tends to disturb the bottom sediments several feet deeper than the target depth due to the inaccuracies of the dredging process. An additional -3 feet of sediment below the -2-foot paid allowable overdepth dredging cut could be disturbed in the process with minor amounts of material being removed. Approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of material would be removed during these activities. Dredged material will be disposed in approved upland and open-water disposal areas. [FP17PA0209, WQC2017063].

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 channel depth shall gradually increase toward open water and shall not exceed the controlling navigational depth. No “sumps” shall be created by proposed dredging.
2. The excavated material disposed in pre-approved upland sites shall be stabilized to prevent movement of sediment into adjacent drainage areas.
3. Best management practices should be used at all times during construction to minimize turbidity at both the dredge and spoil disposal sites. The disposal sites shall be constructed and maintained in a manner that minimizes the discharge of turbid waters into waters of the State. Best management practices should include, but not be limited to, the use of staked hay bales; staked filter cloth; sodding, seeding and mulching; staged construction; and the installation of turbidity screens around the immediate project site. Any effluent from the disposal area should be

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routed through a return swale system and filtered through a series of hay bales and silt fences so as to reduce the turbidity of the effluent.

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.

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: JP

cc: Greg Christodoulou, Department of Marine Resources
David Felder, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Calista Mills, Environmental Protection Agency