



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

August 21, 2018

Certified Mail No.7017 1450 0000 4592 4450

Mr. Curtis M. Flakes
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001

Dear Mr. Flakes:

Re: U.S. Army COE, Mobile District, Gulf
Intracoastal Waterway Navigation Project
Jackson County
COE No. FP181W0114
WQC No. WQC2018030

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:

U.S. Army COE, Mobile District, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Navigation Project:
Maintenance dredging of the Mississippi portion of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), which is 65 miles in length, 150 feet in width, and with a depth of -12 feet mean lower low water (MLLW), plus an additional -2 feet of advanced maintenance plus -2 feet of overdepth dredging. Approximately 3,000,000 cubic yards of sandy silt are proposed for removal by hydraulic dredge on an infrequent basis over a ten-year period. For the current proposed action, the material would be removed by hydraulic pipeline dredged and placed in previously used and authorized open-water disposal areas (65A, 65B, and 65C) using a thin layer technique when practicable. [FP181W0114, WQC2018030].

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:

August 21, 2018

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 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,



Krystal Rudolph, P.E., BCEE
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

HMW: JP

cc: Matthew Lang, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Greg Christadoulou, Department of Marine Resources
Paul Necaie, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency