STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PHIL BRYANT

GOVERNOR

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

GARY C. RIKARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 28, 2018

Certified Mail No.7017 1450 0000 4597 5575
Mr. Beax Gex
Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission
14054 Fred & Al Key Road
Kiln, Mississippi 39556

Dear Mr. Gex:

Re: Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission Port Bienville Industrial Park
Hancock County
COE No. MVK2018355
WQC No. WQC2018037

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, Beax Gex, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

> Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission Port Bienville Industrial Park: Conduct maintenance dredging in jurisdictional waters for the purpose of providing safe navigation for commercial vessels into and out of Port Bienville. The main channel is 150 feet wide and 21,000 linear feet long. Approximately 300,000 cubic yards are expected to be removed from the first dredge event with an additional 200,000 cubic yards over the next five (5) years or as needed to allow safe navigation. The proposed project design depth of the channel is -12 feet mean lower low water plus two (2) feet of allowable overdepth dredging for a final elevation of -14 feet. Dredge material would be pumped to an upland disposal location and some return water would discharge back into the channel. [MVK2018355KWH, WQC2018037].

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

OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL
POST OFFICE BOX 2261 • JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39225-2261• TEL: (601) 961-5171 • FAX: (601) 354-6612 • www.deq.state.ms.us
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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. 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 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.

3. Any excavated material not beneficially used shall be disposed in a MDEQ approved contained upland disposal site. Upland disposal sites shall be stabilized to prevent movement of sediment into adjacent drainage 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.

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.
If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Krystal Rudolph

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

cc: Kristi Hall, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District
Jennifer Wittmann, Department of Marine Resources
Paul Necaise, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency
Renee Robertson, Anchor QEA