



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
**TATE REEVES**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

July 20, 2020

Mr. Don Shepley  
Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority  
14035-L Airport Road  
Gulfport, Mississippi 39505

Dear Don Shepley:

Re: Gulfport Biloxi Regional  
Airport  
Harrison County  
COE No. SAM201900478JRO  
WQC No. WQC2019067

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, Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport Authority (GBRAA), an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Gulfport Biloxi Regional Airport: The applicant proposes to fill 105.2 acres of wetlands for the purpose of constructing an aircraft manufacturing, maintenance, and repair facility in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The project site is approximately 159.7 acres in size, of which 105.2 acres are considered wetlands. The proposed project includes the placement of approximately 252,496 cubic yards of fill in 105.2 acres of wetlands for the installation of the access roads, parking lots, office buildings, assembly facility, apron, taxiway, engine check pad, and hangers. The applicant is proposing the purchase of mitigation credits to offset unavoidable wetland impacts. [SAM201900478JRO, WQC2019067].

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. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) shall be properly installed and maintained to prevent the movement of sediment off-site and

into adjacent drainage areas. In the event of any BMP failure, corrective actions shall be taken immediately.

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. Mitigation for the impact of 105.2 acres of wetlands shall be provided by the purchase of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. **Written verification of credit purchase must be provided to the Office of Pollution Control prior to the commencement of any work in the wetland areas.**
4. For stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity, a Baseline Stormwater General Permit is required. **Please note that facilities to be constructed under this certification shall not commence industrial activity until covered under a Baseline Stormwater General Permit. If a Baseline Stormwater General Permit is not required, the following must be submitted for review and approval before the start of construction activity:**

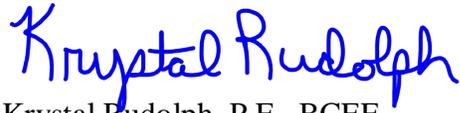
Post-construction stormwater management must be addressed. At minimum, the first ½ inch of runoff from impervious surfaces (e.g. roads, sidewalks, parking lots, etc.) and boat maintenance areas must be retained/detained on-site and treated through infiltration, evaporation, or other approved method. The required volume must be restored within 72 hours. Grassed waterways should be incorporated into the design where practicable. Grassed swales, retention/detention ponds, constructed wetlands, and/or manufactured treatment systems are recommended to meet the above requirement. Enclosed are recommended design criteria to meet these requirements. Pertinent plans and specifications (runoff and detention volume calculations, post construction contours, outfall structure details, return time calculations, etc.) will be needed to evaluate the plan.

5. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
6. 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 you have any questions, please contact Florance Bass.

Sincerely,



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

KR: csh

cc: Mr. Jeremy Overstreet, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District  
Mr. Kevin Morgan, Waggoner Engineering, Inc.  
Ms. Jennifer Wilder, Department of Marine Resources  
Mr. David Felder, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mrs. Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency