



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

October 16, 2020

City of Biloxi  
214 A Delauney Street  
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Re: City of Biloxi, Dredge  
Tchoutacabouffa River and  
Howard Creek  
Harrison County  
COE No. SAM202000122APS  
WQC No. WQC2020026

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 the City of Biloxi, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

City of Biloxi, Dredge Tchoutacabouffa River and Howard Creek:  
PROPOSED WORK:

Tchoutacabouffa River: The applicant proposes to mechanically dredge approximately 1,220 cubic yards of material from an area near the convergence of Howard Creek and the Tchoutacabouffa River. The area proposed to be dredged is 850 feet long and 20 feet wide. The dredge depth would be to 5 feet below mean low water. Current depths range from 1.5 feet to 7.5 feet below mean low water. The dredged material would be loaded onto a barge and transported to an appropriate disposal location to be determined based upon the results of sediment testing, if required. The dredged material would be disposed at either the MDMR BU Site or the HCDC Disposal Area C-1.

Howard Creek: The applicant also proposes to mechanically remove approximately 200 cubic yards of sediment and debris from an 855-foot-long segment of Howard Creek from south of the Old Highway 67 bridge. The target depth along the canal is the natural contour of the waterway. Only areas of elevated sediment accumulation would be removed to restore depth to that of the surrounding waters. Debris removed from the canal would be

transported to an approved upland disposal facility. Sediment would be disposed at either the MDMR BU Site or the HCDC Disposal Area C-1. [SAM202000122APS,WQC2020026].

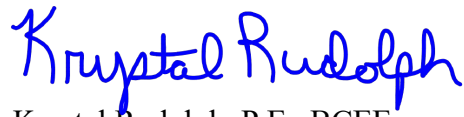
The Office of Pollution Control certifies that the above-described activity will be in compliance with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Section 49-17-29 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, if the applicant complies with the 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. Best management practices shall 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 or turbid waters into waters of the State. Best management practices may 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. Prior to the placement of dredged material for beneficial use, the material must be evaluated as outlined in the protocols established through the Beneficial Use of Dredge Material Program created by Mississippi Code §49-27-61.
4. The excavated material shall be disposed in an approved beneficial use site or contained upland disposal site and stabilized to prevent movement of sediment into adjacent drainage areas.
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 Mr. Paul Devine.

Sincerely,



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

KR:pjd

cc: Ms. Amiee P. Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District  
Mr. Brock Peacock, Department of Marine Resources  
Mr. Paul Necaie, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ms. Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency  
Seymour Engineering