



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

March 11, 2022

Mr. Russell F. Davis, III
Operations Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District
167 N. Main Street, RM B-202
Memphis, TN 38103

Dear Mr. Davis:

Re: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District
Mississippi River Maintenance Dredging
Tunica County
COE No. MVM2021285
WQC No. WQC2022003

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

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, Mississippi River Maintenance Dredging: The applicant proposes maintenance dredging activities as needed to maintain the minimum project channel dimensions at any river stage. Mississippi River channel maintenance dredging is done by use of dustpan hydraulic dredges. The dustpan dredges operate by making a series of relatively narrow, adjacent parallel cuts, discharging the material overboard in the same pattern as the dredge cuts and at a distance of approximately 800 feet perpendicular to the direction of the cuts. The material may be discharged to either side of the dredge cut and is transported from the cut area to discharge area through a pipeline supported by pontoons. Approximately 10 million cubic yards of material are deposited annually within the Memphis District's area of responsibility by dustpan dredges.

Designation of the proposed disposal sites for dredged and fill material associated with this federal project will be made through the application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army [MVM2021285, WQC2022003].

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. Best management practices should be used at all times during construction to minimize turbidity at both the dredge and spoil disposal sites.
2. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
3. 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: chb

cc: Mr. Roger Allan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
Environmental Protection Agency