



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI**  
**TATE REEVES**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**  
**CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

May 20, 2022

Mr. Jesse Medlin  
Desoto County Board of Supervisors  
365 Loshier Street, Suite 300  
Hernando, MS 38632

Dear Mr. Medlin:

Re: Desoto County Agri Center  
Desoto County  
COE No. MVK2020876  
WQC No. WQC2021071

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, Desoto County Board of Supervisors, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Desoto County Government, Desoto County Agri Center: The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit for conducting regulated activities in jurisdictional wetlands for the purpose of constructing a new Agri-Education Center to include an arena, community building, warm-up arena, stalls, equipment storage/bathroom building, parking, and horse trailer parking. Attendant features will also include roads, sidewalks, and utilities. The purpose of the project is to provide agri-tourism opportunities and agricultural related programs within Desoto County, Mississippi. The project site consists of approximately 230.75 acres of undeveloped land owned by the county. The project will require site grading and permanent fill impacts to approximately 0.56 acres of jurisdictional forested wetlands. [MVK2020876, WQC2021071].

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:

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1. The permittee shall obtain appropriate wastewater permits and/or approvals for the proposed activity prior to the commencement of construction activities. (Statement C) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R 1.3.4 B (7))
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. (Statement B) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
3. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) shall be properly installed and maintained to prevent the movement of sediment off-site and into adjacent drainage areas. Special care shall be taken prior to and during construction to prevent the movement of sediment into adjacent avoided wetland areas. In the event of any BMP failure, corrective actions shall be taken immediately. (Statement B) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
4. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan shall be implemented in accordance with the Large Construction Stormwater General Permit. (Statement C) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R 1.3.4 A (9))
5. Mitigation for the impact of 0.56 acres of wetlands associated with the project shall be provided by the purchase of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. (Statement C) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R 1.3.4 A (2))
6. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.)
7. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.(3))

As part of the Scope of Review for Application Decisions, 11 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 6, Rule 1.3.4(B), the above conditions are necessary for the Department to ensure that appropriate measures will be taken to eliminate unreasonable degradation and irreparable harm to waters of the State, such that the activity will not meet the criteria for denial:

- (A) The proposed activity permanently alters the aquatic ecosystem such that water quality criteria are violated and/or it no longer supports its existing or classified uses. An example is the channelization of streams.
- (B) Nonpoint source/storm water management practices necessary to protect water quality have not been proposed.

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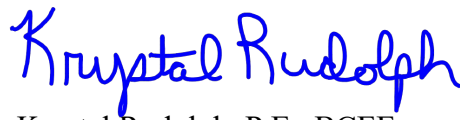
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(C) The proposed activity in conjunction with other activities may result in adverse cumulative impacts.

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 Daniel Anderson.

Sincerely,



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

KR: doa

cc: Samantha Thompson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District  
Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency  
Janet Riddell, Office of Budget & Fund Management  
Cullen Dendy, Headwaters Inc.