



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

May 26, 2022

Mr. Michael Smith, P.E.
Jackson County Port Authority
Port of Pascagoula
P.O. Box 70
Pascagoula, MS 39568

Dear Mr. Smith:

Re: Jackson County Port Authority Bayou
Casotte
Jackson County
COE No. SAM201100389
WQC No. WQC2022011

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 Jackson County Port Authority –Bayou Casotte, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Jackson County Port Authority, Bayou Casotte: The proposed project is for the dredging of approximately 38,200 linear feet (7.2 miles) of the existing Pascagoula Lower Sound/Bayou Casotte Federal Navigation Channel segment to widen the channel from the federally authorized width of 350 feet to 450 feet at the existing and depth of -42 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) (with 2 feet of allowable over depth and 2 feet of advanced maintenance for a total depth of -46 feet MLLW), parallel to the existing channel centerline. The proposed project would include the dredging of 3.4 million cubic yards of material and placement of the dredged material resulting from the channel modification into the Pascagoula ODMDS, Horn Island Littoral Zone, or other local permitted beneficial use sites (e.g., Greenwood Island, Deer Island, Round Island) as they are available. [SAM201100389, WQC2022011].

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 channel depth shall gradually increase toward open water and shall not exceed the controlling navigational depth. (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.3.4.A.(6))
2. Best management practices for turbidity control shall be implemented and maintained at all times during project construction and dredged material placement activities to minimize the discharge of turbid waters into waters of the State. Best management practices should include, but not limited to, the installation of turbidity screens around the immediate work areas. (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.)
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. Any monitoring that is conducted for the purposes of comparison with Water Quality Standards shall be in compliance with methods as outlined in the Mississippi Wastewater Regulations including an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.1.B.)
5. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units. The turbidity within the beneficial use restoration project areas may reasonably exceed this turbidity standard for temporary periods of time and shall not result in permanent environmental harm. (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.)
6. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse. (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 2.2.A.(3))

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 Ms. Florance Bass.

Sincerely,



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

KR: chb

cc: Philip Hegji, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Willa Brantley, Department of Marine Resources
Paul Necaie, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bill Ainslie, Environmental Protection Agency
Rick Coupe, P.E., Anchor QEA, LLC