



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

August 2, 2022

Mr. Adam Johnson
Mississippi Department of Transportation
Post Office Box 1850
Jackson, Mississippi 39215

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Re: MDOT, State Route 57
Jackson County
COE No. SAM202101360
WQC No. WQC2022022

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U. S. C. 1251, 1341), the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (Department) issues this Certification, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing to, Mississippi Department of Transportation, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Mississippi Department of Transportation, State Route 57: Project to conduct regulated activities in jurisdictional wetlands for the widening and realignment of State Route 57 (SR 57) located in Jackson County, Mississippi. The widening will encompass adding an additional two lanes along SR 57 from Interstate 10 to Gautier Vancleave Road. Realignment activities will involve constructing a four-lane highway west of SR 57 from the intersection of Gautier Vancleave Road and SR 57 to north of Jim Ramsay Road at station marker 506+00 (Mariposa Lane). The traffic capacity increase of the SR 57 will allow MDOT to maintain future regional mobility demands for a 20-year period of time.

The infrastructure improvement project includes an approximate 3.2 miles of additional two-lane expansion and approximate 5.5 miles of new four-lane alignment with a minimal median configuration. Construction of the project will include clearing, filling, grubbing, and dredging in jurisdictional areas. Approximately 36.14 acres of emergent wetlands, 11.1 acres of pine savannah wetlands, 69.96 acres of mixed pine/bottomland hardwood wetlands, and 1,737 linear feet of other waters will be impacted by the proposed activities. A total of approximately 117.14 acres of wetlands will be impacted by the planned project over the course of the project. The applicant proposes to purchase compensatory

mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank for the proposed impacts [SAM202101360, WQC2022022].

The Department 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. 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. (Statements B) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R.1.1.1.B.)
2. 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 wetland areas. In the event of any BMP failure, corrective actions shall be taken immediately. (Statements B) (11 Miss. Admin Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
3. For projects greater than five acres of total ground disturbances including clearing, grading, excavating, or other construction activities, the applicant shall obtain the necessary coverage under the State of Mississippi's Large Construction Storm Water General NPDES Permit. For projects greater than one, to less the five acres of total ground disturbances including clearing, grading, excavating, or other construction activities, the applicant shall follow the conditions and limitations of the State of Mississippi's Small Construction Storm Water General NPDES Permit. No construction activities shall begin until the necessary approvals and/or permits have been obtained. (Statements B & C) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
4. Mitigation for the impacts of 36.14 acres of emergent wetlands, 11.1 acres of pine savannah wetlands, 69.96 acres of mixed pine/bottomland hardwood wetlands, and 1,737 linear feet of other waters shall be provided by the purchase of mitigation credits from an approved mitigation bank. The number of credits must be in accordance with banking prospectus and should be based upon that required for impacting 36.14 acres of emergent wetlands, 11.1 acres of pine savannah wetlands, 69.96 acres of mixed pine/bottomland hardwood wetlands, and 1,737 linear feet of other waters. Written verification of credit purchase must be provided to the Department prior to the commencement of any work in the wetland or stream areas. (Statement A, D, & E) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R 1.3.4 A (2))
5. 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.)

6. 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.
- (C) Denial of wastewater permits and/or approvals by the State with regard to the proposed activities.
- (D) The proposed activity in conjunction with other activities may result in adverse cumulative impacts.
- (E) The proposed activity results in significant environmental impacts which may adversely impact water quality.

The Department 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 Carrie Barefoot at (601) 961-5249.

Sincerely,



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

KR: chb

cc: Tony Lobred, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District
Willa Brantley, Department of Marine Resources
Paul Necaie, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bill Ainslie, Environmental Protection Agency