



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

August 5, 2022

Mr. James Buras
Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission
Post Office Box 2267
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39521

Dear Mr. Buras:

Re: Hancock County Technical
Center
Hancock County
COE No. SAM202100816
WQC No. WQC2021070

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 Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Hancock County Technical Center: Fill of 13.8 acres of wetland for a commercial development. This includes new office and laboratory space for current tenants, a new US Coast Guard facility, aerospace research and development buildings, and a conference center and lodging for training and outreach. The project site is 40 acres in size with 38.84 acres of wetlands. Approximately 25.04 acres of wetlands would be avoided. The work would occur in five distinct phases. [SAM202100816, WQC2021070].

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 development /facility shall connect to an Office of Pollution Control approved wastewater collection and treatment system. No construction

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shall begin until all wastewater approvals are obtained. (Statement C)
(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 and/or waters. 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. (Statement B) (11 Miss. Admin Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
3. A site-specific post-construction storm water management plan shall be developed for future phases of the project and shall be consistent with the conceptual plan submitted by Compton Engineering, Inc. dated February 10, 2021. Pertinent plans and specifications detailing the implementation and design of the controls and maintenance shall be submitted to this office for review at least 60 days prior to the start of any construction activities on future phases. No construction shall begin in the subject individual phase until written approval of the plan is received from the Department. (Statement B) (11 Miss. Admin Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
4. The Post-Construction Stormwater Quality Management Plan for Phase 1 dated June 8, 2022 shall be implemented and maintained as proposed. (Statement B) (11 Miss. Admin Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
5. Mitigation for the impacts of 13.8 acres of wetland 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 13.8 acres of wetland. Written verification of credit purchase must be provided to the Office of Pollution Control prior to the commencement of any work in the wetland or stream areas. (Statement A & D) (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.

(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.

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. Carrie Barefoot.

Sincerely,



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

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cc: Ms. Lisa Morrison, Compton Engineering
Mr. Philip Hegji, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Mr. Greg Christodolou, Department of Marine Resources