



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

June 18, 2024

Mr. Mike Smith
Jackson County Port Authority
3033 Pascagoula Street
Pascagoula MS 39567

Dear Mr. Smith:

Re: Jackson County Port Authority
Bayou Casotte Maintenance Dredging
Jackson County
COE No. SAM-2013-01299-PAH
WQC No. WQC2024007

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, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Jackson County Port Authority, Dredging Bayou Casotte: Proposed project to conduct maintenance dredging of the Bayou Casotte Channel adjacent to Terminals E&F and G&H at the Port of Pascagoula East Bank Facility. The dredge location includes the boat slip and dock areas and extends out to the Federal Channel. The approximate center point of the proposed dredge is 30.345687, -88.505227. The Bayou Casotte Harbor to be dredged is approximately 1,000 feet in length with the docking basin being approximately 400 feet wide. Both the harbor and the basin are at a depth of -35 to -38 feet mean low water. The Bayou Casotte Harbor is bounded on the north by First Chemical, on the south by Chevron, on the east by the Bayou Casotte Port facilities and land, and on the west by the Bayou Casotte Federal Channel Followed by additional industrial facilities occupied by Halter Marine and Signal International. The Port of Pascagoula proposes to dredge the areas adjacent to the docks at the E&F terminal, the G&H terminal, the G dock extension and the docking basin to maintain access to the dock areas. The project will involve dredging within a Section 10 Water of the United States to a previously established depth of -38 feet with a two feet advanced maintenance dredging for a total depth of -40 feet. The JCPA proposes to place the dredge material into a Beneficial Use location or the previously permitted Bayou Casotte Dredge

Material Management Site (BCDMMS). The dredging volume is calculated to be 82,000 cubic yards initially with an additional 45,000 cubic yards every three to four years over a ten-year period [SAM-2013-01299-PAH, WQC2024007].

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 channel depth shall gradually increase toward open water and shall not exceed the controlling navigational depth. No “sumps” shall be created by proposed dredging. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
2. Best management practices should be used at all times during construction to minimize turbidity at both the dredge and spoil disposal site. The disposal sites shall be constructed and maintained in a manner that minimizes the discharge of turbid waters into waters of the State. Best management practices should include, but not limited to, the use of staged construction and the installation of turbidity screens around the immediate project site. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
3. 3. 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.(3))
4. 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) There is a feasible alternative to the activity which reduces adverse consequences on water quality and classified or existing uses of waters of the State.
- (C) The proposed activity adversely impacts waters containing State or federally recognized threatened or endangered species.

- (D) The proposed activity adversely impacts a special or unique aquatic habitat, such as National or State Wild and Scenic Rivers and/or State Outstanding Resource Waters.
- (E) The proposed activity in conjunction with other activities may result in adverse cumulative impacts.
- (F) Nonpoint source/storm water management practices necessary to protect water quality have not been proposed.
- (G) Denial of wastewater permits and/or approvals by the State with regard to the proposed activities.
- (H) The proposed activity results in significant environmental impacts which may adversely impact water quality.

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 Carrie Barefoot.

Sincerely,



Becky Simonson
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

BS:chb:mb

cc: Christopher Pickering, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Katie Nelson, Department of Marine Resources
Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency
Lisa Morrison, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.