



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 5, 2025

Matthew Hosey
Jackson County Board of Supervisors
2915 Canty Street, Suite H
PO Box 998
Pascagoula, MS 39568

Dear Mr. Hosey:

Re: Jackson County Board of Supervisors
Seacliffe Bayou Maintenance Dredging
Jackson County
COE No. SAM-2022-00413-KMN
WQC No. WQC2025002

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

Jackson County Board of Supervisors, Seacliffe Bayou Maintenance Dredging: Proposed project to maintenance dredge approximately 7,677 cubic yards from Seacliffe Bayou, two unnamed tributaries to Seacliffe Bayou, and the Mississippi Sound in Gautier. The areas to be dredged are located south of Graveline Road, west of Cedar Point Road, east of Seacliffe Drive, and into the Mississippi Sound. Seacliffe Bayou, Alignment 1, would be dredged beginning in the Mississippi Sound into Seacliffe Bayou along approximately 2,900 linear feet with a proposed bottom width of 10 feet, with removal of approximately 4,227 cubic yards of material. An unnamed tributary to Seacliffe Bayou, Alignment 2, would be dredged approximately 683 linear feet with a proposed bottom width of 10 feet, with removal of approximately 2,157 cubic yards of material. An un-named tributary to Seacliffe Bayou, Alignment 3, would be dredged along approximately

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600 linear feet with a proposed bottom width of 10 feet, with removal approximately 1,293 cubic yards of material. The water bottom of all three alignments would be dredged at a 3:1 slope from the current depth of approximately -3.0 feet Mean Low Low Water (MLLW), to a proposed depth of -5.0 MLLW. The alignments would be dredged by mechanical/hydraulic dredging from a barge or by hydraulic dredging. The substrate consists of unconsolidated sand and silt. A submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) survey was completed on September 18, 2020, along Seacliffe Bayou, Alignment 1; a second SAV survey was completed on June 15, 2022, on Alignments 1, 2, and 3; and a third SAV survey was completed on August 21, 2024, on Alignment 3 which included the expanded portion of the alignment. No vegetation was observed during any of the three SAV surveys for the proposed project area. No dredging would occur within 10 feet of any marsh vegetation along the lake. The dredged material would be moved to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) approved beneficial use disposal site or upland disposal site [SAM-202-00413-KMN: WQC2025002].

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. 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 us at (601) 961-5171.

Sincerely,



Becky Simonson
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

cc: Kaaren Neumann, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Monica Patel, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
Lisa Morrison, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.
Willa Brantley, Department of Marine Resources