



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 11, 2025

Mr. Scott Griffin
RaceTrac, Inc.
200 Galleria Parkway SE, Suite 900
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
sgriffin@racetrac.com

Dear Mr. Griffin:

Re: RaceTrac, Inc. - Travel Center
Moss Point, Jackson County
COE No. SAM202201164MJF
WQC No. WQC2024012

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

RaceTrac, Inc. – Moss Point Travel Center: As originally proposed, the project would fill 10.21 acres of wetlands associated with the construction of a travel center to incorporate and expand an existing gas station. The project will consist of a travel center building, gasoline and diesel pumps for larger transport trucks, and a large area of parking for use by transport trucks. The building will contain facilities for showering, sleeping, and eating for truckers and some facilities will be available for all users. The total project site is approximately 30.17 acres in size of which 26.62 acres have been identified as wetlands.

During regulatory review, the project underwent a minor site change to extend a driveway to an existing service road that terminates at the south property line. That change resulted in an increase in impacts to 10.44 acres of wetlands which include 10.38 acres of wet pine savanna and 0.06 acres of hardwood drain wetlands. The applicant will provide in-kind compensatory mitigation through

AI 85959 WQC2024012

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purchase of credits from an approved wetland mitigation bank. The project is located at the intersection of MS Hwy 63 and Sarracenia Road, Moss Point, Jackson County, Mississippi. [SAM202201164MJF, WQC2024012].

MDEQ 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 shall connect to an MDEQ approved wastewater collection and treatment system. (Statement G) (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 avoided wetland areas. In the event of any BMP failure, corrective actions shall be taken immediately. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
3. For construction projects five (5) acres or greater of total ground disturbances including clearing, grading, excavating, or other construction activities shall follow the conditions and limitations of the Large Construction General Permit. No construction activities shall begin until the necessary approvals and/or permits have been obtained. Construction activities include a disturbance to the land that results in the change in topography, existing soil cover (both vegetative and non-vegetative), or the existing topography that may result in accelerated stormwater runoff, leading to soil erosion and movement of sediment into surface waters or drainage systems. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B)
4. The final post-construction stormwater management plan submitted by MP Design Group on November 21, 2024 with subsequent revisions, shall be implemented concurrent with project construction and maintained as proposed. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R.1.3.4.A (9))
5. Mitigation for impacts to 10.44 acres of wetlands which include 10.38 acres of wet pine savanna and 0.06 acres of hardwood drain wetlands 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 be based upon that required for impacting impacts to 10.44 acres of wetlands which include 10.38 acres of wet pine savanna and 0.06 acres of hardwood drain wetlands. Written verification of credit purchase must be provided to MDEQ prior to the commencement of any work in the wetland or stream areas. (Statement E) (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.(3))
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 MDEQ 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.

MDEQ 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Becky Simonson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Becky Simonson
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

BS:chb

cc: Jack Schmidt, P.E., MP Design Group
Dana Sanders, Sanders Environmental, LLC
Maryellen Farmer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Willa Brantley, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency