



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 18, 2025

Mr. Tom Williams
Meridian Airport Authority
2811 Airport Blvd. South
Meridian MS, 39307
twilliams@meridianairport.com

Dear Mr. Williams:

Re: Meridian Airport Authority
Key Field Drainage Improvements
Lauderdale County
COE No. SAM-2017-00523-JMT
WQC No. WQC2024056

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

Meridian Airport Authority, Key Field Drainage Improvements: Project to fill 31 linear feet (LF) or 0.02 acre of intermittent stream, S1, to repair a culvert and levee structure in the southwest section of the airport. This work is currently being conducted to avoid imminent loss of infrastructure. Additionally, due to the requirement of a 1000-foot safety perimeter from the runway, approximately 848.88 LF of intermittent stream, S2, located in the northwest section of the airport, will be re-routed to meet the clearance requirement. Mitigation for impacts will be accomplished through the purchase of credits from an approved mitigation bank. This project is located at the existing Key Field in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi [SAM-2017-00523-JMT; WQC2024056].

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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. All wastewater, including process wastewater, shall be properly treated and disposed in accordance with 11 Mississippi Administrative code Part 6, Chapter 1. (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. Coverage under a Small Stormwater Construction General NPDES Permit shall be obtained prior to the start of construction activities. No construction activities shall begin until such approvals are obtained. (Statement B) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B)
4. Mitigation for the impacts to 879.88 linear feet of intermittent stream 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 879.88 linear feet of intermittent stream. 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 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.(3))
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 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,



Becky Simonson
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

BS:mb

cc: Clay Cromwell, Headwaters, Inc.
Richmond Alexander, Engineering Plus, Inc.
Angela Rangel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency