



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 10, 2022

Mr. William Cork
Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission
14054 Fred & Al Key Road
Kiln, Mississippi 39556

Dear Mr. Cork:

Re: Hancock County Port and
Harbor Commission
Stennis International Airport
Hancock County
COE No. SAM201900709PAH
WQC No. WQC2021022

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 Port and Harbor Commission, Stennis International Airport: The purpose of the project is for construction of assault landing strip for Stennis International Airport. The project will result in the filling of 65.77 acres of wetlands for the construction of a 5,500-foot taxiway; construction of (2) two new aprons approximately 113,700 square feet each; and creation of a new 50-foot buffer zone around the strip. The project will result in the placement of 85,000 cubic yards of fill material in waters of the US. The fill material will consist of fill dirt, asphalt, and concrete paving. Mitigation will be accomplished been proposed through the purchase of credits from an approved mitigation bank. This project discharges to waters of Bayou Marone, adjacent to the Stennis International Airport. This site is located in Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi. [SAM201900709PAH, WQC2021022].

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. All fill material and excavation areas shall have side slopes of at least 3:1 (horizontal: vertical) and shall be immediately seeded, stabilized and maintained. (Statement B) (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 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., 11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.3.4.B(7))
3. Coverage under a Storm Water Construction General NPDES Permit shall be obtained prior to the start of construction activities. (Statement C) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.1.1.B.)
4. Mitigation for the impacts of 65.77 acres of wetlands shall be provided by the purchase of mitigation credits jurisdictional wetlands shall be provided from an approved mitigation bank. The number of credits purchased must be in accordance with the banking prospectus and should be based upon that required for permanently impacting approximately 65.77 acres of jurisdictional wetlands. Written verification of credit purchase must be provided to the Office of Pollution Control prior to the commencement of any work in the wetland areas. (Statement D) (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)

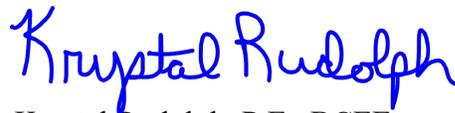
As part of the Scope of Review for Application Decisions, 11 Mississippi Administrative Code Part 6, Rule 1.3.4(B), the above conditions are necessary for the Department to ensure that appropriate measures will be taken to eliminate unreasonable degradation and irreparable harm to waters of the State, 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) The proposed activity in conjunction with other activities may result in adverse cumulative impacts.
- (C) Non-point source/stormwater management practices necessary to protect water quality have not been proposed.
- (D) 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 Montie Hardaway Glenn at (601) 961-5596.

Sincerely,



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

KR: mhg

cc: Philip Hegji, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Willa Brantley, Department of Marine Resources
Paul Necaise, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency
Cori Gavin, Neel-Schaffer, Inc.