



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 19, 2025

Mr. Rodney Lincoln
City of Starkville
George M. Bryan Airport
120 Airport Road
Starkville, MS 39759

Dear Mr. Lincoln,

Re: City of Starkville
George M. Bryan Airport
Runway Extension
Oktibbeha County
COE No. SAM-2017-00956-JMT
WQC No. WQC2025004

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 City of Starkville – George M. Bryan Airport, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

City of Starkville, George M. Bryan Airport, Runway Extension: Project to discharge 10,468 cubic yards of fill material into 0.76 acre of non-forested wetland for grading associated with the construction of a Runway Safety Area (RSA) at the George M. Bryan Airport in Starkville, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. The 68-acre project area extends south from the southern end of the runway at the George M. Bryan Airport. The project area primarily consists of cleared, undeveloped uplands, with 0.76 acres of non-forested wetlands in the southwest quadrant of the project area. Mississippi Highway 25 is west of the project area, pastureland is south of the project area, undeveloped forested land is east of the project area, and the George M. Bryan airport is immediately north of the project area. Based on the surrounding land use, the project area likely

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consisted of pastureland, cropland, and forested land prior to the construction of the airport in 1934. The RSA will be constructed in association with the extension of the runway. In accordance with FAA Advisory Circular 150/5300-13B, the RSA must be 500 feet wide and extend 1,000 feet beyond the terminus of the extended runway [SAM-2017-00956-JMT; WQC2025004].

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. All fill material and excavation areas shall have side slopes of 3:1 (horizontal:vertical) or flatter and shall be immediately seeded, stabilized and maintained. (Statement F) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R.1.3.4.A (9))
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.1.3.4.A (9))
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 Clearwater Consultants dated May 2025, 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 the impacts of 0.76 acre of non-forested wetland 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 0.76 acre of non-forested wetland. **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))

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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.

August 19, 2025

Sincerely,



Becky Simonson
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

cc: Jevon Coleman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Jamie Becker, Environmental Protection Agency
Bart Pittman, Pittman Environmental Services, LLC
Carey Hardin, Clearwater Consultants, Inc.