



State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES
Governor

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHRIS WELLS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 13, 2026

Mr. Mathew Hosey
Jackson County Board of Supervisors
2915 Canty Street, Suite H
Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568
(228) 769-3088

Dear Mr. Hosey:

Re: McInnis Bayou Dredging
Jackson County
COE No. SAM-2024-00970-APS
WQC No. WQC2025094

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

Jackson County Board of Supervisors, McInnis Bayou Dredging: Project to mechanically dredge sand and silt from 10,580 linear feet of water bottoms in McInnis Bayou to restore and maintain navigational depths over a 10-year period within four channels. The project is located within the waters of McInnis Bayou, which is part of the Pascagoula River in Sections 10, 15, 22 and 77, Township 7 South, Range 6 West; near Latitude 30.40746° North and Longitude 88.56115° West; in Moss Point, Jackson County, Mississippi.

The proposed project will dredge accumulated sand and silt from McInnis Bayou to restore and maintain navigational depths. Active dredging zones will be fully contained using floating turbidity barriers to control suspended sediments. The proposed dredge will not result in any direct or indirect impacts to jurisdictional wetlands or submerged aquatic vegetation as dredging operations will be confined to the existing navigation channels. Dredged material will be placed on the

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AI 89931 WQC WQC2025094

Beardslee Lake Beneficial Use Site. McInnis Bayou area of Jackson County is within a General Use District and is exempt from additional testing of sediment spoils before Beneficial Use [SAM-2024-00970-APS; WQC2025094].

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. Slopes of canal banks shall be one vertical to three horizontal or flatter to promote colonization by littoral vegetation, which provides nutrient uptake, habitat and bank stabilization. Any bulkheading shall be done above ordinary high water. (Statement A) (11 Miss. Admin. Code Pt. 6, R. 1.3.4.C.(1) Exhibit A)
2. 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.)
3. 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.)
4. 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))
5. 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 MEQ 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

cc: Amiee Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Brandon Pasquini, Michael Baker International
Willa Brantley, Department of Marine Resources