



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

December 11, 2020

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island
ATTN: Ms. Samantha Chavez, Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 2004
Clock Tower Building
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Re: Federal Register [Docket Number: COE-2020-0002] Proposal to Reissue and Modify
Nationwide Permits, September 15, 2020
CWA §401 Certification/Denial and applicable conditions
Illinois EPA Log no. C-0210-20

Dear Ms. Chavez:

On September 15, 2020 the Corps of Engineers issued the notice of proposed rulemaking concerning their determination to reissue and modify the current Nationwide Permits (NWP) that are set to expire on March 18, 2022. By letter dated October 13, 2020 your office officially requested CWA §401 certification for those nationwide permits applicable in Illinois and further described in the Federal Register. By this final determination document the Illinois EPA grants §401 water quality certification for forty (40) nationwide permits with the special and/or general conditions specified below. This document also provides notice of the Agency determination to deny six (6) of the proposed nationwide permits which are provided below with reasons in accordance with 40 CFR 121.7(e)(2).

CWA §401 certification is hereby granted, subject to General Conditions 1 through 12 below, for the following nationwide permits:

NWP 3 – Maintenance.
NWP 4 – Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Device and Activities
NWP 5 – Scientific Measurement Devices
NWP 7 – Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures
NWP 18 – Minor Discharges
NWP 19 – Minor Dredging
NWP 20 – Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances
NWP 22 – Removal of Vessels
NWP 25 – Structural Discharges
NWP 30 – Moist Soil Management for Wildlife
NWP 31 – Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities
NWP 33 – Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering
NWP 36 – Boat Ramps
NWP 41 – Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
NWP 45 – Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
NWP 46 – Discharges into Ditches

CWA §401 certification is hereby granted, subject to General Conditions 1 through 12 below and the Special Conditions which are contained in the referenced attachment for the following identified nationwide permits:

NWP 6 – Survey Activities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 6 in Attachment.

2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 278-5800
2009 Mall Street Collinsville, IL 62234 (618) 346-5120
9511 Harrison Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (847) 294-4000
595 S. State Street, Elgin, IL 60123 (847) 608-3131

2309 W. Main Street, Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 (618) 993-7200
412 SW Washington Street, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61602 (309) 671-3022
4302 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 (815) 987-7760

- NWP 12 – Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 12 in Attachment.
- NWP 13 – Bank Stabilization. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 13 in Attachment.
- NWP 14 – Linear Transportation Projects. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 14 in Attachment.
- NWP 15 – U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 15 in Attachment.
- NWP 16 – Return Water from Upland Contained Disposal Areas. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 16 in Attachment.
- NWP 17 – Hydropower Projects. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 17 in Attachment.
- NWP 23 – Approved Categorical Exclusions. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 23 in Attachment.
- NWP 27 – Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 27 in Attachment.
- NWP 29 – Residential Developments. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 29 in Attachment.
- NWP 32 – Completed Enforcement Actions. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 32 in Attachment.
- NWP 37 – Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 37 in Attachment.
- NWP 38 – Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 38 in Attachment.
- NWP 39 – Commercial and Institutional Developments. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 39 in Attachment.
- NWP 40 – Agricultural Activities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 40 in Attachment.
- NWP 42 – Recreational Facilities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 42 in Attachment.
- NWP 43 – Stormwater Management Facilities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 43 in Attachment.
- NWP 51 – Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 51 in Attachment.
- NWP 52 – Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 52 in Attachment.
- NWP 53 – Removal of Low-Head Dams. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 53 in Attachment.
- NWP 54 – Living Shorelines. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 54 in Attachment.
- NWP C – Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 12 in Attachment.
- NWP D – Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 12 in Attachment.

CWA §401 certification is hereby denied with reasons provided in accordance with 401 CFR 121.7 for the following NWPs:

NWP 21 – Surface Coal Mining Activities. The Illinois EPA has determined that a case-specific review is warranted for all surface mining activities including carbon extraction because pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 401.102, mining activities are identified as having, when certain refuse materials are used, the capability to cause or threaten to cause a nuisance or render waters harmful or detrimental to public health and to all legitimate uses including but not limited to livestock and wildlife uses. The likelihood that contaminants related to coal extraction, particularly acid producing minerals in mine refuse, would be found within overburden and soil stockpiles and therefore present within fill materials warrant a facility specific antidegradation assessment pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 302.105. Additionally, Illinois' Section 401 implementation rules at 35 Ill. Admin. Code Part 395 regarding material testing exemptions specifically exclude material with known sources of pollution. Therefore, Section 401 certification is denied for this nationwide permit (NWP21).

NWP 34 – Cranberry Production Activities. The Illinois EPA has determined that the area of impact that is allowed by an authorization under this nationwide permit exceeds 1/2 acre. 1/2 acre is determined to be representative of the maximum threshold for minimal degradation of existing uses of aquatic resources. Consequently, any activity authorized under this nationwide permit

must be subject to a case-specific antidegradation assessment pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 302.105. Therefore the Illinois EPA denies 401 certification for NWP 34.

NWP 44 – Mining Activities: The Illinois EPA has determined that a case-specific review is warranted for all surface mining activities because pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 401.102, mining activities are identified as having, when certain refuse materials are used, the capability to cause or threaten to cause a nuisance or render waters harmful or detrimental to public health and to all legitimate uses including but not limited to livestock and wildlife uses. Furthermore, all mining activities are regulated by the Illinois EPA under federal and state statute because of their potential to cause or threaten to cause water pollution. Therefore, for the above reasons, the Illinois EPA denies 401 certification for NWP 44.

NWP 48 – Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities: As proposed, the Illinois EPA believes this nationwide permit is inapplicable to waters of the U.S. that are found within the State of Illinois. Therefore, the Illinois EPA denies 401 certification for NWP 48.

NWP 49 – Coal Remining Activities: By reference to the certification denial explanation for NWP 21, the Illinois EPA denies 401 certification for NWP 49.

NWP 50 – Underground Coal Mining: By reference to the certification denial explanation for NWP 21, the Illinois EPA denies 401 certification for NWP 50.

NWP E – Water Reclamation and Reuse Facilities: As proposed in the Federal Register, this proposed nationwide permit would appear to allow utilization of existing natural waterbodies as treatment devices. According to 35 Ill. Admin. Code 301.440 such utilization is not permissible. Therefore, the Illinois EPA denies 401 certification for NWP E.

401 Certification General Conditions

General Conditions 1 through 12 shall be applicable to all NWPs that are granted 401 certification.

General Condition 1: Waterbodies that Require Individual Certification

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code Section 302.105(d)(6), an individual 401 water quality certification will be required for activities permitted under these Nationwide Permits for discharges to waters designated by the State of Illinois as waters of particular biological significance or Outstanding Resource Waters under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105(b). Biologically Significant Streams (BSS) are cataloged in Illinois DNR's publication "Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System" and may be identified at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/BiologicalStreamratings/Pages/default.aspx>.

General Condition 2: Water Quality Impairments

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code Section 302.105(a), 302.105(c)(2)(B) and 395.401(a), an individual 401 water quality certification will be required for activities permitted under these Nationwide Permits that may cause a discharge that, whether temporarily or permanently, may cause or contribute to additional loading of any pollutant, or deterioration of any water quality parameter, such as pH or dissolved oxygen, where such pollutant or parameter is also designated by the State of Illinois as a cause of water quality impairment of the particular segment of the receiving water body according to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Section 303(d) list. The most recent Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and

Section 303(d) List can be found at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/tmdls/Pages/303d-list.aspx>.

General Condition 3: Threatened and Endangered Species

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 302.105(f)(1)(F), prior to proceeding with any work in furtherance of activities permitted under these Nationwide Permits, potential impacts to State threatened or endangered species and Natural Areas shall be determined in accordance with applicable consultation procedures established under 17 Ill. Admin Code Part 1075. The Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool (EcoCAT) is available to complete consultation at <http://dnr.illinois.gov/EcoPublic/>. If IDNR determines that adverse impacts to protected natural resources are likely, the applicant shall address those identified concerns with IDNR through the consultation process. Please contact IDNR, Impact Assessment Section at 217-785-5500 if you have any questions regarding consultation.

General Condition 4: TMDLs

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 302.105(a), 302.105(c)(2)(B) and 395.401(a), activities permitted under these Nationwide Permits that may cause a discharge that, whether temporarily or permanently, may cause or contribute to additional loading of any pollutant, or deterioration of any water quality parameter, such as pH or dissolved oxygen, where such pollutant or parameter is addressed by a USEPA approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for the receiving water body shall develop and implement additional measures and or procedures which ensure consistency with the load allocations, assumptions and requirements of the TMDL report. TMDL program information and water listings are available at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/tmdls/Pages/reports.aspx>.

General Condition 5: Prohibitions

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 395.401(a), the applicant shall not cause:

- violation of applicable provisions of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act;
- water pollution defined and prohibited by the Illinois Environmental Protection Act;
- violation of applicable water quality standards of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, Title 35, Subtitle C: Water Pollution Rules and Regulation; or
- interference with water use practices near public recreation areas or water supply intakes.

General Condition 6: Erosion and Sedimentation Control Measures

Pursuant to the Illinois Environmental Protection Act Section 39(a)[415 ILCS 5/39(a)] and 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.203 and 395.402(b)(2), the applicant shall implement all necessary sedimentation and erosion control measures consistent with the current edition of the "Illinois Urban Manual" found at <https://illinoisurbanmanual.org/>. Interim measures to prevent erosion during construction shall be taken and may include the installation of sedimentation basins, silt fencing and temporary mulching. All construction within the waterway shall be conducted during zero or low flow conditions. All areas affected by construction shall be seeded and stabilized as soon after construction as possible.

General Condition 7: NPDES Stormwater Construction Permit

Pursuant to the Illinois Environmental Protection Act Section 39(a)[415 ILCS 5/39(a)] and 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 395.402(b)(2), the applicant shall be responsible for obtaining an NPDES Storm Water Permit required by the federal Clean Water Act prior to initiating construction if the construction activity associated with the project will result in the disturbance of 1 (one) or more acres, total land area. An NPDES Storm Water Permit may be

applied for at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/forms/water-permits/storm-water/Pages/construction.aspx>.

General Condition 8: Spill Response Plan

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401, 302.203 and 302.208, the applicant shall ensure that a spill avoidance and response plan has been developed and implemented for management of accidental releases of petroleum, oil, and lubricant products to the aquatic environment during construction and for emergency notification of applicable downstream water supply operators. Absorbent pads, containment booms and skimmers shall be available to facilitate the cleanup of petroleum spills. If floating hydrocarbon (oil and gas) products are observed, the applicant or his designated individual will be responsible for directing that work be halted so that appropriate corrective measures are taken in accordance with the plan prior to resuming work.

General Condition 9: Hydraulic Machinery

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.203, 302.304, and 302.515, all hydraulic machinery utilized for the permitted activity and used in or immediately adjacent to waters of the State shall utilize biodegradable or bio-based hydraulic fluids to minimize pollution in the case of broken or leaking hydraulic equipment.

General Condition 10: Temporary Structures and Work

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.203, 395.204, and 395.401(b), temporary work pads, cofferdams, access roads and other temporary fills are approved provided that such activities are constructed with clean coarse aggregate or non-erodible non-earthen fill material that will not cause siltation. Sandbags, pre-fabricated rigid materials, sheet piling, inflatable bladders and fabric lined basins may be used for temporary facilities. Temporary fills within streams, creeks or rivers shall utilize adequate bypass measures (i.e. dam and pump, flumes, culverts, etc.) to minimize sedimentation and erosion and to maintain normal stream flow during construction.

General Condition 11: Construction Site Dewatering

Dewatering of a construction site is authorized provided the dewatering activity is limited to the immediate work area within a cofferdam or otherwise isolated from waters of the State, and the work site is free from sources of contamination including those of natural origin. Dewatering activities shall incorporate Best Management Practices in accordance with the current edition of the "Illinois Urban Manual" <https://illinoisurbanmanual.org/> Practice Standard for Dewatering (no. 813) or as otherwise appropriate to ensure that return flows from the dewatering activity are free of unnatural turbidity and floating debris and meet applicable water quality standards. Dewatering or discharge of flush water from construction of drilled piers or boreholes is not authorized and must be conducted in accordance with an NPDES permit issued by the Illinois EPA.

General Condition 12: Discharged Material Quality

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.203, 302.208 and 395.401(b), any spoil material excavated, dredged or otherwise produced must not be returned to the water body but must be deposited in a self-contained area in compliance with all state statutes. Except as specifically allowed by special condition, any backfilling must be done with clean material that is predominantly sand or larger size material, with no more than 20% passing a #230 U. S. sieve and placed in a manner to prevent violation of applicable water quality standards.

401 Certification Special Conditions

Special Conditions including the conditional exclusions of 401 certification coverage that are listed within the Attachment: “Special Conditions for Illinois EPA 401 Water Quality Certifications of Certain Nationwide Permits” shall be applicable as stated therein.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the content of this nationwide certification, please contact Darren Gove at 217-782-3362.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Darin E. LeCrone, P.E.
Manager, Permit Section
Division of Water Pollution Control

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Attachment: Special Conditions for Illinois EPA 401 Water Quality Certifications of Certain Nationwide Permits Regarding Federal Register [Docket Number: COE-2020-0002] Proposal to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits dated September 15, 2020

cc: Records Unit
CoE, Chicago District
CoE, Louisville District (Indianapolis Office)
CoE, Louisville District (Newburgh Regulatory Office)
CoE, Memphis District
CoE, St. Louis District
IDNR, Bartlett
IDNR, OWR, Chicago
IDNR, OWR, Springfield
USEPA, Region 5
USFWS, Rock Island, Barrington and Marion

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 17
Hydropower Projects**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(b), an individual Section 401 water quality certification will be required for any project that is not previously approved by a Section 401 water quality certification issued by the Illinois EPA for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license or permit.