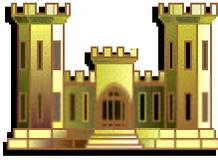


PUBLIC NOTICE



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

Notice No. 02-NWP5

Date: September 4, 2002

NATIONWIDE PERMITS FOR THE STATE OF OHIO

CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGULATORY PROGRAM ISSUANCE OF NATIONWIDE PERMITS

On January 15, 2002, the Corps of Engineers published, in the Federal Register, the final rule for the administration of its nationwide permit program regulations under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. The rule became effective on March 18, 2002.

The 15 January 2002 *Federal Register* notice is available on the Internet at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/>. As an alternative, World Wide Web users can access the *Federal Register* through the U.S. Government Printing Office at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html.

An integral part of the Corps' regulatory program is the concept of nationwide permits (NWP) for minor activities. NWP are activity specific, and are designed to relieve some of the administrative burdens associated with permit processing for both the applicant and the Federal government. The NWP, published in the January 15, 2002, Federal Register, Issuance of Nationwide Permits (67 FR 2020), are issued by the Chief of Engineers, and are intended to apply throughout the entire United States and its territories. For convenience, all NWP with the appropriate regional, general and special conditions are attached. This public notice is available at the Pittsburgh District Regulatory Home page:

<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/or/or-f/permits.htm>

In response to the January 15, 2002, Federal Register Notice (67 FR 2020), the State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) has finalized the Section 401 water quality certification, pending compliance with certain conditions and/or limitations, for the NWP 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43.

An individual State Water Quality certification is required for Nationwide Permit No. 17. Certification response is not applicable to NWP No. 24.

Authorization for discharges covered by nationwide permits is denied without prejudice if: (1) the State Certification has been denied; or (2) the discharge is not in compliance with conditions imposed in the State Certification. Applicants wishing to conduct such discharges must first obtain either an individual water quality certificate or waiver from:

Director
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Surface Water
Post Office Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-3669

Some nationwide permits require advance notification. The notification must be made in writing as early as possible prior to commencing the proposed activity. The notification procedures are located under General Condition 13. The notification to the Corps can be made concurrently with the request for individual state certification, if required.

For activities involving Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, the permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

Assistance and further information regarding all aspects of the Corps of Engineers regulatory program may be obtained by contacting:

BUFFALO DISTRICT

Name: Paul G. Leuchner, Chief Regulatory Branch
Address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York 14207-3199
Phone: 716-879-4330

HUNTINGTON DISTRICT

Name: Ginger Mullins, Chief, Regulatory Branch
Address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070
Phone: 304-529-5487

LOUISVILLE DISTRICT

Name: James Townsend, Chief Regulatory Branch
Address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District
Post Office Box 59
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-0059
Phone: 502-582-6461

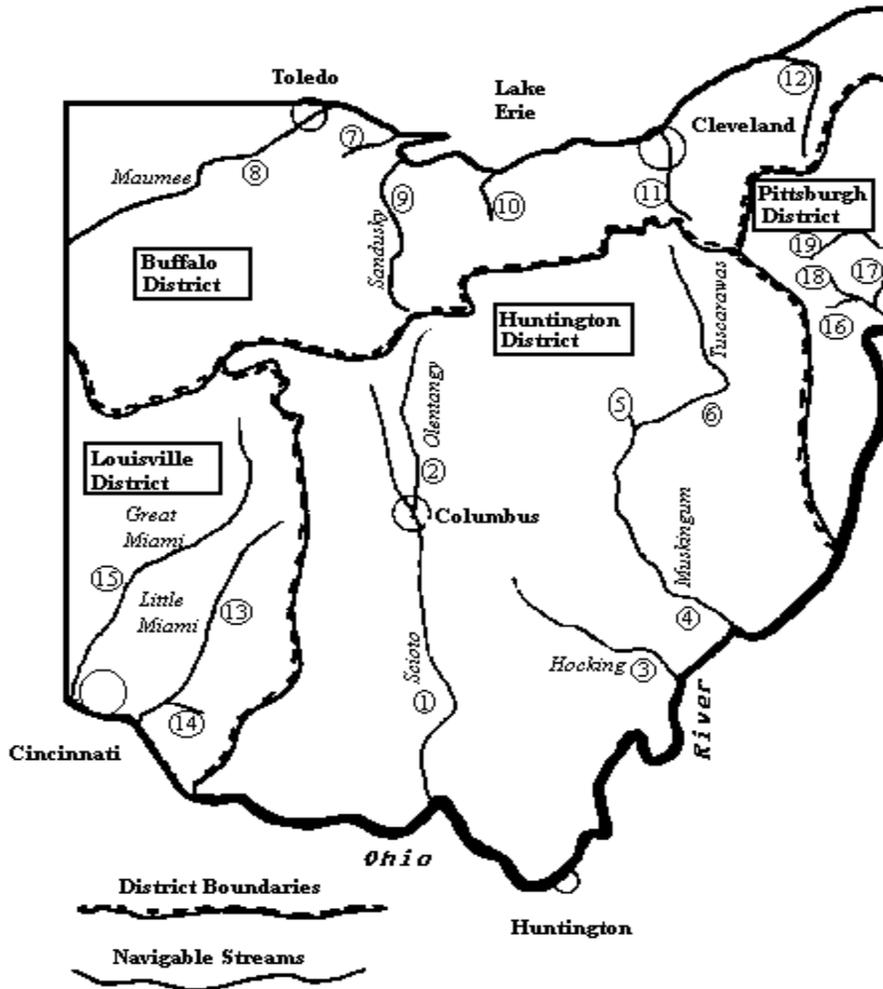
PITTSBURGH DISTRICT

Name: Al Rogalla, Chief Regulatory Branch
Address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District
William S. Moorhead Federal Building
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-4186
Phone: 412-395-7155

Attached is a map showing the district boundaries for the State of Ohio.

Albert H. Rogalla
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Corps Districts and Navigable Streams in The State of Ohio



Navigable Limits of Major Section 10 Streams in Ohio (Due to the scale of this map, all Section 10 Streams are not shown. Contact the proper District office for information.)

Huntington District

- Scioto River.....175.0 miles
- Olentangy River.....74.3 miles
- Hocking River.....79.0 miles
- Muskingum River.....112.5 miles
- Walhonding River.....8.8 miles
- Tuscarawas River.....113.3 miles

Louisville District

- Little Miami River.....90.7 miles
- E. Fk. Little Miami River.....6.4 miles
- Great Miami River.....117.0 miles

Buffalo District

- Portage River.....12.0 miles
- Maumee River.....To Ind. St. Line
- Sandusky River.....96.0 miles
- Huron River.....10.0 miles
- Cuyahoga River.....41.1 miles
- Grand River.....91.6 miles

Pittsburgh District

- Little Beaver Creek.....15.7 miles
- Middle Fk. L. B. Creek...17.3 miles
- North Fk. L. B. Creek.....14.3 miles
- Mahoning River.....41.0 miles

A. INDEX OF NATIONWIDE PERMITS, CONDITIONS, FURTHER INFORMATION, DEFINITIONS, REGIONAL GENERAL CONDITIONS, AND OHIO STATE CERTIFICATION GENERAL CONDITIONS

Nationwide Permits

1. Aids to Navigation

2. Structures in Artificial Canals

3. Maintenance

4. Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities

5. Scientific Measurement Devices

6. Survey Activities

7. Outfall Structures and Maintenance

8. Oil and Gas Structures

9. Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas

10. Mooring Buoys

11. Temporary Recreational Structures

12. Utility Line Activities

13. Bank Stabilization

14. Linear Transportation Projects

15. U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges

16. Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas

17. Hydropower Projects

18. Minor Discharges

19. Minor Dredging

20. Oil Spill Cleanup

21. Surface Coal Mining Activities

22. Removal of Vessels

23. Approved Categorical Exclusions

24. State Administered Section 404 Programs

25. Structural Discharges

26. [Reserved]

27. Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities

28. Modifications of Existing Marinas

29. Single-family Housing

30. Moist Soil Management for Wildlife

31. Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities

32. Completed Enforcement Actions

33. Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering

34. Cranberry Production Activities

35. Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins

36. Boat Ramps

37. Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation

38. Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste

39. Residential, Commercial, and Institutional Developments

40. Agricultural Activities

41. Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches

42. Recreational Facilities

[43. Stormwater Management Facilities](#)

[44. Mining Activities](#)

[*Nationwide Permit General Conditions*](#)

1. Navigation
2. Proper Maintenance
3. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls
4. Aquatic Life Movements
5. Equipment
6. Regional and Case-by-Case Conditions
7. Wild and Scenic Rivers
8. Tribal Rights
9. Water Quality
10. Coastal Zone Management
11. Endangered Species
12. Historic Properties
13. Notification
14. Compliance Certification
15. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.
16. Water Supply Intakes
17. Shellfish Beds
18. Suitable Material
19. Mitigation
20. Spawning Areas
21. Management of Water Flows
22. Adverse Effects from Impoundments
23. Waterfowl Breeding Areas
24. Removal of Temporary Fills
25. Designated Critical Resource Waters
26. Fills Within 100-year Floodplains
27. Construction Period

[*Further Information*](#)

[*Definitions*](#)

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Compensatory Mitigation

Creation

Enhancement

Ephemeral Stream

Farm Tract

Flood Fringe

Floodway

Independent Utility

Intermittent Stream

Loss of Waters of the US

Non-tidal Wetland
Open Water
Perennial Stream
Permanent Above-grade Fill
Preservation
Restoration
Riffle and Pool Complex
Single and Complete Project
Stormwater Management
Stormwater Management Facilities
Stream Bed
Stream Channelization
Tidal Wetland
Vegetated Buffer
Vegetated Shallows
Waterbody

Regional Conditions - Specific regional conditions are listed below each NWP. Regional General conditions are listed under Section F, titled “Regional General Conditions.”

Ohio State Certification General Conditions - are listed in Section G

B. NATIONWIDE PERMITS AND CONDITIONS.

1. *Aids to Navigation.* The placement of aids to navigation and Regulatory markers which are approved by and installed in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (See 33 CFR, chapter I, subchapter C part 66).
(Section 10)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

2. *Structures in Artificial Canals.* Structures constructed in artificial canals within principally residential developments where the connection of the canal to navigable water of the US has been previously authorized (see 33 CFR 322.5(g)).
(Section 10)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

3. *Maintenance.* Activities related to: (i) The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized, currently serviceable, structure, or fill, or of any currently serviceable structure or fill authorized by 33 CFR 330.3, provided that the structure or fill is not to be put to uses differing from those uses specified or contemplated for it in the original permit or the most recently authorized modification. Minor deviations in the structure's configuration or filled area including those due to changes in materials, construction techniques, or current construction codes or safety standards which are necessary to make repair, rehabilitation, or replacement are permitted, provided the adverse environmental effects resulting from such repair, rehabilitation, or replacement are minimal. Currently serviceable means useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction. This NWP authorizes the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of those structures or fills destroyed or damaged by storms, floods, fire or other discrete events, provided the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement is commenced, or is under contract to commence, within two years of the date of their destruction or damage. In cases of catastrophic events, such as hurricanes or tornadoes, this two-year limit may be waived by the District Engineer, provided the permittee can demonstrate funding, contract, or other similar delays.

(ii) Discharges of dredged or fill material, including excavation, into all waters of the US to remove accumulated sediments and debris in the vicinity of, and within, existing structures (e.g., bridges, culverted road crossings, water intake structures, etc.) and the placement of new or additional riprap to protect the structure, provided the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13. The removal of sediment is limited to the minimum necessary to restore the waterway in the immediate vicinity of the structure to the approximate dimensions that existed when the structure was built, but cannot extend further than 200 feet in any direction from the structure. The placement of rip rap must be the minimum necessary to protect the structure or to ensure the safety of the structure. All excavated materials must be deposited and retained in an upland area unless otherwise specifically approved by the District Engineer under separate authorization. Any bank stabilization measures not directly associated with the structure will require a separate authorization from the District Engineer.

(iii) Discharges of dredged or fill material, including excavation, into all waters of the US for activities associated with the restoration of upland areas damaged by a storm, flood, or other discrete event, including the construction, placement, or installation of upland protection structures and minor dredging to remove obstructions in a water of the US. (Uplands lost as a result of a storm, flood, or other discrete event can be replaced without a Section 404 permit provided the uplands are restored to their original pre-event location. This NWP is for the activities in waters of the US associated with the replacement of the uplands.) The permittee must notify the District Engineer, in accordance with General Condition 13, within 12-months of the date of the damage and the work must commence, or be under contract to commence, within two years of the date of the damage. The permittee should provide evidence, such as a recent topographic survey or photographs, to justify the extent of the proposed restoration. The restoration of the damaged areas cannot exceed the contours, or ordinary high water mark, that existed before the damage. The District Engineer retains the right to determine the extent of the pre-existing conditions and the extent of any restoration work authorized by this permit. Minor dredging to remove obstructions from the adjacent waterbody is limited to 50 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark, and is limited to the amount necessary to restore the pre-existing bottom contours of the waterbody. The dredging may not be done primarily to obtain fill for any restoration activities. The discharge of dredged or fill material and all related work needed to restore the upland must be part of a single and complete project. This permit cannot be used in conjunction with NWP 18 or NWP 19 to restore damaged upland areas. This permit cannot be used to reclaim historic lands lost, over an extended period, to normal erosion processes.

This permit does not authorize maintenance dredging for the primary purpose of navigation and beach restoration. This permit does not authorize new stream channelization or stream relocation projects. Any work authorized by this permit must not cause more than minimal degradation of water quality, more than minimal changes to the flow characteristics of the stream, or increase flooding (See General Conditions 9 and 21). (Sections 10 and 404)

Note: This NWP authorizes the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized structure or fill that does not qualify for the Section 404(f) exemption for maintenance.

Nationwide 3 Specific Regional Conditions

- i. (Maintenance) Notification required prior to the use of vertical sheet piling and closed structures in the special habitat waters of Lake Erie (See General Conditions, Critical Resource waters (1)).
- ii. (Discharges of dredged or fill material associated with removal of accumulated sediment and debris in the vicinity of existing structures) The Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) for activities involving the removal of accumulated sediments and debris in the vicinity of existing structures, to restore the waterway to the approximate dimensions that existed when the structure was built, must include evidence of such dimensions. If this information is not available, the PCN must include evidence of the existing depths immediately outside the proposed work area.

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations:

- 1) Total surface water and vegetation impacts on either side of the replacement structure shall be limited to the greater of 25 feet beyond the structure, or 25 feet beyond the toe of the slope of the structure's approach embankment. [Where the use of a crane is necessary to conduct a maintenance activity, total impacts shall not exceed 50 feet on either side of the structure or approach embankment]. In either case, total impacts, including the structure, shall not exceed 200 feet [except for stabilization projects]. Width shall be measured at the structure's narrowest point as it crosses the waterbody, and be measured parallel to stream flow.
- 2) Culvert replacement:
 - a. This Certification shall only authorize minor deviations from the existing structure's centerline and minor deviations in culvert dimensions, unless these deviations are necessary to follow current safety standards.
- 3) Bridge Replacement:
 - a. This Certification shall only authorize minor deviations from the existing structure's centerline, unless these deviations are necessary to follow current safety standards.
 - b. Bridge replacements shall not result in additional lanes unless necessary to follow current safety standards.
- 4) Maintenance or repair of existing fills (stabilization projects):
 - a. Impacts from maintenance or repair of existing fills shall not exceed the dimensions of the fill prior to the damage; and
 - b. This nationwide shall not authorize the replacement of existing open structures, such as piers, with closed structures that are open to the flow of water with structures that are not open to the flow of water.
- 5) For replacement vertical bulkheads, the following conditions apply:
 - a. For ship channels and harbors adjacent to federal navigation channels within the following harbors: Sandusky Harbor, Huron Harbor, Vermilion Harbor, Lorain Harbor, Conneaut Harbor, Port Clinton Harbor, Rocky River Harbor, Cleveland Harbor, Fairport Harbor, Ashtabula Harbor, and Toledo Harbor, 1,000 feet of existing vertical bulkheads may be replaced if recessed areas for aquatic habitat, or other aquatic habitat improvements, are incorporated within the design and construction of the replacement vertical bulkhead;
 - b. For all other areas, except Lake Erie, Lake Erie Islands, or Sandusky Bay, up to 1,000 feet of existing vertical bulkheads may be replaced. Toe stone shall be placed at the

base of these new replacement vertical bulkheads except in areas where the shoreline is composed of bedrock and slopes are predominately greater than 75 percent;

- c. Replacement vertical bulkheads are not to be placed more than one foot waterward of the intersection of the ordinary high water level of the waterbody and the existing shoreline;
 - d. Minor dredging necessary for the installation of the replacement vertical bulkhead is authorized;
 - e. Placement of fill between the replacement vertical bulkhead and existing shoreline is authorized; and
 - f. Toe stone shall be placed at the base of these new replacement vertical bulkheads except in areas where the original shoreline is composed of bedrock and slopes are predominately greater than 75 percent or where the placement of toe stone would interfere with shipping activity. When required, toe stone shall be placed at an average rate of one-third the total height of the replacement vertical bulkhead at a 2:1 slope.
- 6) Removal of accumulated sediment:
- a. Removal of accumulated sediment shall occur only once per year, except in cases of emergency situations which threaten life or property.
 - b. Removal of accumulated sediments shall be limited to low-flow conditions whenever practicable, except in cases of emergency situations which threaten life or property.

4. Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities.

Fish and wildlife harvesting devices and activities such as pound nets, crab traps, crab dredging, eel pots, lobster traps, duck blinds, clam and oyster digging; and small fish attraction devices such as open water fish concentrators (sea kites, etc.). This NWP authorizes shellfish seeding provided this activity does not occur in wetlands or sites that support submerged aquatic vegetation (including sites where submerged aquatic vegetation is documented to exist, but may not be present in a given year.). This NWP does not authorize artificial reefs or impoundments and semi-impoundments of waters of the US for the culture or holding of motile species such as lobster or the use of covered oyster trays or clam racks. **(Sections 10 and 404)**

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations: This Nationwide Permit shall not authorize weirs and flumes.

5. Scientific Measurement Devices. Devices, whose purpose is to measure and record scientific data such as staff gages, tide gages, water recording devices, water quality testing and

improvement devices and similar structures. Small weirs and flumes constructed primarily to record water quantity and velocity are also authorized provided the discharge is limited to 25 cubic yards and further for discharges of 10 to 25 cubic yards provided the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification” General Condition.
(Sections 10 and 404)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations: This Nationwide Permit shall not authorize weirs and flumes.

6. Survey Activities. Survey activities including core sampling, seismic exploratory operations, plugging of seismic shot holes and other exploratory-type bore holes, soil survey, sampling, and historic resources surveys. Discharges and structures associated with the recovery of historic resources are not authorized by this NWP. Drilling and the discharge of excavated material from test wells for oil and gas exploration is not authorized by this NWP; the plugging of such wells is authorized. Fill placed for roads, pads and other similar activities is not authorized by this NWP. The NWP does not authorize any permanent structures. The discharge of drilling mud and cuttings may require a permit under Section 402 of the CWA.
(Sections 10 and 404)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

7. Outfall Structures and Maintenance. Activities related to: (i) Construction of outfall structures and associated intake structures where the effluent from the outfall is authorized, conditionally authorized, or specifically exempted, or are otherwise in compliance with regulations issued under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (Section 402 of the CWA), and

(ii) Maintenance excavation, including dredging, to remove accumulated sediments blocking or restricting outfall and intake structures, accumulated sediments from small impoundments associated with outfall and intake structures, and accumulated sediments from canals associated with outfall and intake structures, provided that the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- a. The permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13;
- b. The amount of excavated or dredged material must be the minimum necessary to restore the outfalls, intakes, small impoundments, and canals to original design capacities and design configurations (i.e., depth and width);
- c. The excavated or dredged material is deposited and retained at an upland site, unless otherwise approved by the District Engineer under separate authorization; and
- d. Proper soil erosion and sediment control measures are used to minimize reentry of sediments into waters of the US.

The construction of intake structures is not authorized by this NWP, unless they are directly associated with an authorized outfall structure. For maintenance excavation and dredging to remove accumulated sediments, the notification must include information regarding

the original design capacities and configurations of the facility and the presence of special aquatic sites (e.g., vegetated shallows) in the vicinity of the proposed work.
(Sections 10 and 404)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations:

- 1) This Certification shall only authorize outfall structures which have been authorized by a Permit-to-Install (PTI) and/or National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by Ohio EPA pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6111, and Ohio Administrative Code Chapters 3745-31 and -33 and outfall structures from stormwater ponds that do not require an NPDES permit.

8. Oil and Gas Structures. Structures for the exploration, production, and transportation of oil, gas, and minerals on the outer continental shelf within areas leased for such purposes by the DOI, Minerals Management Service (MMS). Such structures shall not be placed within the limits of any designated shipping safety fairway or traffic separation scheme, except temporary anchors that comply with the fairway regulations in 33 CFR 322.5(l). (Where such limits have not been designated, or where changes are anticipated, District Engineers will consider asserting discretionary authority in accordance with 33 CFR 330.4(e) and will also review such proposals to ensure they comply with the provisions of the fairway regulations in 33 CFR 322.5(l). Any Corps review under this permit will be limited to the effects on navigation and national security in accordance with 33 CFR 322.5(f)). Such structures will not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas as designated in 33 CFR part 334; nor will such structures be permitted in EPA or Corps designated dredged material disposal areas.

(Section 10)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

9. Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas. Structures, buoys, floats and other devices placed within anchorage or fleeting areas to facilitate moorage of vessels where the USCG has established such areas for that purpose.

(Section 10)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

10. Mooring Buoys. Non-commercial, single-boat, mooring buoys.

(Section 10)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

11. *Temporary Recreational Structures.* Temporary buoys, markers, small floating docks, and similar structures placed for recreational use during specific events such as water skiing competitions and boat races or seasonal use provided that such structures are removed within 30 days after use has been discontinued. At Corps of Engineers reservoirs, the reservoir manager must approve each buoy or marker individually.
(Section 10)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

12. *Utility Line Activities.* Activities required for the construction, maintenance and repair of utility lines and associated facilities in waters of the US as follows:

(i) Utility lines: The construction, maintenance, or repair of utility lines, including outfall and intake structures and the associated excavation, backfill, or bedding for the utility lines, in all waters of the US, provided there is no change in preconstruction contours. A “utility line” is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substance, for any purpose, and any cable, line, or wire for the transmission for any purpose of electrical energy, telephone, and telegraph messages, and radio and television communication (see Note 1, below). Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast (up to three months) into waters of the US, provided that the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. The District Engineer may extend the period of temporary side casting not to exceed a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6” to 12” of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. Furthermore, the trench cannot be constructed in such a manner as to drain waters of the US (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). For example, utility line trenches can be backfilled with clay blocks to ensure that the trench does not drain the waters of the US through which the utility line is installed. Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line crossing of each waterbody.

(ii) Utility line substations: The construction, maintenance, or expansion of a substation facility associated with a power line or utility line in non-tidal waters of the US, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the US.

(iii) Foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors: The construction or maintenance of foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors in all waters of the US, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary and separate footings for each tower leg (rather than a larger single pad) are used where feasible.

(iv) Access roads: The construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of utility lines, including overhead power lines and utility line substations, in non-tidal waters of the US, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters, provided the discharges do not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the US. Access roads shall be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes the adverse effects on waters of the US and as near as possible to preconstruction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above preconstruction contours and elevations in waters of the US must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

The term “utility line” does not include activities which drain a water of the US, such as drainage tile, or french drains; however, it does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area. For the purposes of this NWP, the loss of waters of the US includes the filled area plus waters of the US that are adversely affected by flooding, excavation, or drainage as a result of the project. Activities authorized by paragraph (i) through (iv) may not exceed a total of 1/2-acre loss of waters of the US. Waters of the US temporarily affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage, where the project area is restored to preconstruction contours and elevation, is not included in the calculation of permanent loss of waters of the US. This includes temporary construction mats (e.g., timber, steel, geotextile) used during construction and removed upon completion of the work. Where certain functions and values of waters of the US are permanently adversely affected, such as the conversion of a forested wetland to a herbaceous wetland in the permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation will be required to reduce the adverse effects of the project to the minimal level.

Mechanized land clearing necessary for the construction, maintenance, or repair of utility lines and the construction, maintenance and expansion of utility line substations, foundations for overhead utility lines, and access roads is authorized, provided the cleared area is kept to the minimum necessary and preconstruction contours are maintained as near as possible. The area of waters of the US that is filled, excavated, or flooded must be limited to the minimum necessary to construct the utility line, substations, foundations, and access roads. Excess material must be removed to upland areas immediately upon completion of construction. This NWP may authorize utility lines in or affecting navigable waters of the US even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (See 33 CFR part 322).

Notification: The permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13, if any of the following criteria are met:

- (a) Mechanized land clearing in a forested wetland for the utility line right-of-way;
- (b) A Section 10 permit is required;
- (c) The utility line in waters of the US, excluding overhead lines, exceeds 500 feet;
- (d) The utility line is placed within a jurisdictional area (i.e., water of the US), and it runs parallel to a stream bed that is within that jurisdictional area;
- (e) Discharges associated with the construction of utility line substations that result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the US;
- (f) Permanent access roads constructed above grade in waters of the US for a distance of more than 500 feet; or
- (g) Permanent access roads constructed in waters of the US with impervious materials.

(Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: Overhead utility lines constructed over Section 10 waters and utility lines that are routed in or under Section 10 waters without a discharge of dredged or fill material require a Section 10 permit; except for pipes or pipelines used to transport gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substances over navigable waters of the US, which are considered to be bridges, not utility lines, and may require a permit from the USCG pursuant to Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. However, any discharges of dredged or fill material associated with such pipelines will require a Corps permit under Section 404.

Note 2: Access roads used for both construction and maintenance may be authorized, provided they meet the terms and conditions of this NWP. Access roads used solely for construction of the utility line must be removed upon completion of the work and the area restored to preconstruction contours, elevations, and wetland conditions. Temporary access roads for construction may be authorized by NWP 33.

Note 3: Where the proposed utility line is constructed or installed in navigable waters of the US (i.e., Section 10 waters), copies of the PCN and NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), for charting the utility line to protect navigation.

Nationwide 12 Specific Regional Conditions

- i. Notification for aerial transmission lines over Section 10 waters must include the nominal system voltage and the additional clearance above low steel for bridges, if available, or above maximum high water elevation. See note below.
- ii. (Utility line substations) Notification is required for all work in waters of the U.S., including special aquatic sites.
- iii. (Foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors) Notification is required for all stream work (perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral).
- iv. (Access roads) Notification is required for impacts greater than 1/10 acre in waters of the U.S., including wetlands.

Note: Nationwide permit 12(i) for Utility Activities - All aerial crossings will have the following minimum additional clearances above existing fixed bridges, or the clearances which would be required by the U.S. Coast Guard for new fixed bridges:

<u>NOMINAL SYSTEM VOLTAGE, KV</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL CLEARANCE, FEET</u>
115 and below	20
138	22
161	24
230	26
350	30
500	35
700	42
750 – 765	45

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations:

- 1) The length of any buried utility buried line within any single waterbody shall not exceed twice the width of that waterbody at the location of the crossing.
- 2) This Certification shall not authorize the crossing installation of buried utility lines in more than five hundred (500) total linear feet (cumulative for the entire project) of forested wetlands (woody vegetation 6 meters tall or taller).

- 3) Buried utility line stream crossings shall not exceed a total of three (3) per stream mile per stream.
- 4) The total width of any mechanized land clearing or grading for buried utility lines shall not exceed twenty five (25) feet on either side of a utility line, or for a total width of fifty (50) feet on both sides of a utility line.
- 5) All hydric topsoil removed from a trench shall be separated and saved for later placement as the topmost backfill layer when the trench is refilled.
- 6) This Certification shall not authorize the stockpiling of side cast dredged material in excess of 3 months.
- 7) Applicants who intend to use chemicals regulated by the Ohio Department of Agriculture in any waters of the State (including wetlands) shall comply with all Ohio Department of Agriculture requirements regarding the use and application of the chemicals.
- 8) New buried utility lines crossing more than 1,500 feet (cumulative for the entire project) of surface waters (including isolated and non-isolated wetlands, and ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial streams (measured bank-to-bank) and with impacts located in three or more than two Ohio EPA 8-digit hydrologic units as defined in Ohio Administrative Code 3745-1-54(F) are not certified.

13. Bank Stabilization. Bank stabilization activities necessary for erosion prevention provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- a. No material is placed in excess of the minimum needed for erosion protection;
- b. The bank stabilization activity is less than 500 feet in length;
- c. The activity will not exceed an average of one cubic yard per running foot placed along the bank below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line;
- d. No material is placed in any special aquatic site, including wetlands;
- e. No material is of the type, or is placed in any location, or in any manner, to impair surface water flow into or out of any wetland area;
- f. No material is placed in a manner that will be eroded by normal or expected high flows (properly anchored trees and treetops may be used in low energy areas); and,
- g. The activity is part of a single and complete project.

Bank stabilization activities in excess of 500 feet in length or greater than an average of one cubic yard per running foot may be authorized if the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the "Notification" General Condition 13 and the District Engineer determines the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP and the adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively. This NWP may not be used for the channelization of waters of the US. (**Sections 10 and 404**)

Nationwide 13 Specific Regional Conditions

- Notification is required for the use of vertical bulkheads.

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Limitations and Conditions:

- 1) The following conditions apply to new vertical bulkheads:
 - a. Up to 1,000 feet of new vertical bulkhead may be placed on shorelines on Lake Erie, Lake Erie Islands, and Sandusky Bay that are composed of bedrock with slopes predominately greater than 75 percent. No toe stone shall be placed at the base of these new vertical bulkheads.
 - b. Up to 50 feet of new vertical bulkhead for boat docking purposes may be placed anywhere on Lake Erie, Lake Erie Islands, and Sandusky Bay. Toe stone shall be placed at the base of these new vertical bulkheads except in areas where the shoreline is composed of bedrock and slopes are predominately greater than 75 percent.
 - c. For areas not located on Lake Erie, Lake Erie Islands, or Sandusky Bay, up to 200 feet of new vertical bulkheads may be placed in areas with less than 35 percent of the existing shoreline in the immediate area already with vertical bulkheads. The 35 percent threshold is exceeded when more than 700 of the 2,000 feet of adjacent shoreline (1,000 feet measured from both sides of the proposed vertical bulkhead) is already in vertical bulkhead. Toe stone shall be placed at the base of these new vertical bulkheads except in areas where the shoreline is composed of bedrock and slopes are predominately greater than 75 percent.
 - d. Vertical bulkheads may not be placed more than one foot waterward of the intersection of the ordinary high water level of the waterbody and the existing shoreline;
 - e. Minor dredging necessary for the installation of the vertical bulkhead is authorized;
 - f. Placement of fill between the vertical bulkhead and existing shoreline is authorized; and
 - g. Toe stone, when required, is installed at an average rate of one-third the total height of the vertical bulkhead at a 2:1 slope.
- 2) The following conditions apply to bank stabilization projects not involving vertical bulkheads:
 - a. This Nationwide Permit shall only authorize the use of rock, stone, vegetative erosion control measures, broken concrete (without exposed reinforcing bar) and clean soil.
 - b. Bank stabilization projects on Lake Erie shall be in known Coastal Erosion Areas established by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
- 3) The following conditions apply to all bank stabilization projects:

- a. No material shall be placed in such a manner so as to restrict surface water flow into or out of any tributary.
- b. Any fill used for bank stabilization shall be limited to that amount necessary to provide erosion protection.
- c. This Nationwide Permit shall not authorize bank stabilization projects over 1,000 feet in length.

14. Linear Transportation Projects. Activities required for the construction, expansion, modification, or improvement of linear transportation crossings (e.g., highways, railways, trails, airport runways, and taxiways) in waters of the US, including wetlands, if the activity meets the following criteria:

- a. This NWP is subject to the following acreage limits:
 - (1) For linear transportation projects in non-tidal waters, provided the discharge does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the US; or
 - (2) For linear transportation projects in tidal waters, provided the discharge does not cause the loss of greater than 1/3-acre of waters of the US.
- b. The permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13 if any of the following criteria are met:
 - (1) The discharge causes the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the US; or
 - (2) There is a discharge in a special aquatic site, including wetlands;
- c. The notification must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset permanent losses of waters of the US to ensure that those losses result only in minimal adverse effects to the aquatic environment and a statement describing how temporary losses will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable;
- d. For discharges in special aquatic sites, including wetlands, and stream riffle and pool complexes, the notification must include a delineation of the affected special aquatic sites;
- e. The width of the fill is limited to the minimum necessary for the crossing;
- f. This permit does not authorize stream channelization, and the authorized activities must not cause more than minimal changes to the hydraulic flow characteristics of the stream, increase flooding, or cause more than minimal degradation of water quality of any stream (see General Conditions 9 and 21);
- g. This permit cannot be used to authorize non-linear features commonly associated with transportation projects, such as vehicle maintenance or storage buildings, parking lots, train stations, or aircraft hangars; and
- h. The crossing is a single and complete project for crossing waters of the US. Where a road segment (i.e., the shortest segment of a road with independent utility that is part of a larger project) has multiple crossings of streams (several single and complete projects) the Corps will consider whether it should use its discretionary authority to require an Individual Permit.

(Sections 10 and 404)

Note: Some discharges for the construction of farm roads, forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining equipment may be eligible for an exemption from the need for a Section 404 permit (see 33 CFR 323.4).

Nationwide 14 Specific Regional Conditions

- Notification is required for activities in Section 10 waters.
- Notification is required for all perennial and intermittent stream impacts greater than 200 feet and all ephemeral stream impacts greater than 300 feet.

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations:

- 1) Total surface water and vegetation impacts on either side of the structure shall be limited to the greater of 25 feet beyond the structure, or 25 feet beyond the toe of the slope of the structure's approach embankment. [Where the use of a crane is necessary to construct a linear transportation project, total width of the impacts shall not exceed 50 feet on either side of the structure or approach embankment]. In either case, total impacts, including the structure, shall not exceed 200 feet. Width shall be measured at the structure's narrowest point as it crosses the waterbody, and be measured parallel to stream flow.
- 2) Stream crossings shall not exceed a total of three (3) per stream mile per stream.
- 3) Culverts [except for ephemeral streams]
 - a. At least the lower 10% of all culvert bottoms shall be buried below the existing stream grade. Hydraulic design shall be based upon the remaining open portion of the culvert.
 - b. Additional flood plain culverts shall be installed where the flood prone area is greater than twice the width of the stream at Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM).

15. U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges. Discharges of dredged or fill material incidental to the construction of bridges across navigable waters of the US, including cofferdams, abutments, foundation seals, piers, and temporary construction and access fills provided such discharges have been authorized by the USCG as part of the bridge permit. Causeways and approach fills are not included in this NWP and will require an individual or regional Section 404 permit.

(Section 404)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

16. Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas. Return water from upland, contained dredged material disposal area. The dredging itself may require a Section 404 permit (33 CFR 323.2(d)), but will require a Section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the US. The return water from a contained disposal area is administratively defined as a discharge of dredged material by 33 CFR 323.2(d), even though the disposal itself occurs on the upland and does not require a Section 404 permit. This NWP satisfies the technical requirement for a Section

404 permit for the return water where the quality of the return water is controlled by the state through the Section 401 certification procedures.
(Section 404)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations: This Nationwide Permit shall be limited to the authorization of the disposal of dredged materials dredged from state-owned properties, where there are no known areas of contaminated sediments, provided best management practices are used to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

17. Hydropower Projects. Discharges of dredged or fill material associated with (a) small hydropower projects at existing reservoirs where the project, which includes the fill, are licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the Federal Power Act of 1920, as amended; and has a total generating capacity of not more than 5000 kW; and the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification” General Condition; or (b) hydropower projects for which the FERC has granted an exemption from licensing pursuant to Section 408 of the Energy Security Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2705 and 2708) and Section 30 of the Federal Power Act, as amended; provided the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification” General Condition.
(Section 404)

Ohio State Certification for this nationwide permit has been denied.

18. Minor Discharges. Minor discharges of dredged or fill material into all waters of the US if the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- a. The quantity of discharged material and the volume of area excavated do not exceed 25 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line;
- b. The discharge, including any excavated area, will not cause the loss of more than 1/10-acre of a special aquatic site, including wetlands. For the purposes of this NWP, the acreage limitation includes the filled area and excavated area plus special aquatic sites that are adversely affected by flooding and special aquatic sites that are drained so that they would no longer be a water of the US as a result of the project;
- c. If the discharge, including any excavated area, exceeds 10 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line or if the discharge is in a special aquatic site, including wetlands, the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification” General Condition. For discharges in special aquatic sites, including wetlands, the notification must also include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands (also see 33 CFR 330.1(e)); and
- d. The discharge, including all attendant features, both temporary and permanent, is part of a single and complete project and is not placed for the purpose of a stream diversion.

(Sections 10 and 404)

The Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Limitations and Conditions:

- 1) If used to authorize utility line backfills and bedding, this Nationwide Permit shall authorize sidecasting or stockpiling of dredged or fill material for a maximum of 3 months.
- 2) Dredged material shall be placed directly at an upland site in such a way that sediment runoff to any surface water is controlled and minimized.
- 3) This Nationwide Permit shall not authorize disposal of fill material into Lake Erie, where that is the primary project purpose.

19. Minor Dredging. Dredging of no more than 25 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the mean high water mark from navigable waters of the US (i.e., Section 10 waters) as part of a single and complete project. This NWP does not authorize the dredging or degradation through siltation of coral reefs, sites that support submerged aquatic vegetation (including sites where submerged aquatic vegetation is documented to exist, but may not be present in a given year), anadromous fish spawning areas, or wetlands, or the connection of canals or other artificial waterways to navigable waters of the US (see 33 CFR 322.5(g)). **(Sections 10 and 404)**

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Limitations and Conditions:

- 1) This Nationwide Permit shall not authorize dredging in stream riffles as defined in 40 CFR 230.45.
- 2) This Nationwide Permit shall not authorize dredging in surface waters that contain contaminated sediments. The applicant shall contact Ohio EPA for a determination whether particular surface water contains contaminated sediments.

20. Oil Spill Cleanup. Activities required for the containment and cleanup of oil and hazardous substances which are subject to the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR part 300) provided that the work is done in accordance with the Spill Control and Countermeasure Plan required by 40 CFR 112.3 and any existing state contingency plan and provided that the Regional Response Team (if one exists in the area) concurs with the proposed containment and cleanup action. **(Sections 10 and 404)**

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

21. Surface Coal Mining Activities. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US associated with surface coal mining and reclamation operations provided the coal mining activities are authorized by the DOI, Office of Surface Mining (OSM), or by states with approved programs under Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 and provided the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification”

General Condition. In addition, to be authorized by this NWP, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively and must notify the project sponsor of this determination in writing. The Corps, at the discretion of the District Engineer, may require a bond to ensure success of the mitigation, if no other Federal or state agency has required one. For discharges in special aquatic sites, including wetlands, and stream riffle and pool complexes, the notification must also include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands. (also, see 33 CFR 330.1(e))

Mitigation: In determining the need for as well as the level and type of mitigation, the District Engineer will ensure no more than minimal adverse effects to the aquatic environment occur. As such, District Engineers will determine on a case-by-case basis the requirement for adequate mitigation to ensure the effects to aquatic systems are minimal. In cases where OSM or the state has required mitigation for the loss of aquatic habitat, the Corps may consider this in determining appropriate mitigation under Section 404.

(Sections 10 and 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Limitations and Conditions:

Water quality certification is provided for stream and wetland impacts to the following thresholds for surface coal mining, including mining within previously mined areas, conducted under a permit issued by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mineral Resources Management (DMRM) that incorporates the standards of the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, and including activities conducted under contracts to reclaim forfeited coal mining operations or abandoned mine land areas. This certification would allow a maximum extent of 3,000 linear feet of total impacts to intermittent and perennial streams, and impacts to certain wetland acreages as qualified below:

- 1) For natural stream reaches, the aggregate total of impacts to intermittent and/or perennial streams authorized under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 21 shall not exceed 1,500 linear feet with no more than 500 linear feet of impacts permitted to undesignated perennial streams.
- 2) No impacts to streams designated as Warmwater Habitat or having an equivalent or higher designation, as set forth in OAC rule 3745-1-07 through 32, are permitted under NWP 21. Projects that impact streams designated Warmwater Habitat or with an equivalent or higher designation require individual 401 water quality certification.
- 3) Impacts to an additional 1,500 linear feet of streams impacted by previous mining may be authorized by this certification.
- 4) Total perennial, intermittent and ephemeral stream length and Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (or equivalent) data in a form prescribed by Ohio EPA and including a copy of the mining permit map showing the ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial sections of each stream shall be provided to Ohio EPA both prior to any impacts and five years following stream reconstruction.

- 5) Impacts to any waterways with a slope greater than 2% authorized under NWP 21 shall be reclaimed and/or reconstructed using natural stream channel design standards identified in the ODNR/DMRM-Ohio EPA Joint Stream Reconstruction Guidelines, when appropriate. The reclamation of streams with less than 2% slope will be completed using natural channel design techniques.
- 6) A maximum of 3 acres of total wetland impacts would be allowable under this NWP 21, with:
 - a. No more than 3 acres of impacts to Category 1 wetlands permitted.
 - b. No more than ½ acre of impacts to Category 2 wetlands permitted.
 - c. No impacts to Category 3 wetlands permitted.
 - d. Wetland mitigation shall be provided in accordance with Ohio EPA’s wetland water quality standards (OAC rule 3745-1-50 through 54).

22. Removal of Vessels. Temporary structures or minor discharges of dredged or fill material required for the removal of wrecked, abandoned, or disabled vessels, or the removal of man-made obstructions to navigation. This NWP does not authorize the removal of vessels listed or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places unless the District Engineer is notified and indicates that there is compliance with the “Historic Properties” General Condition. This NWP does not authorize maintenance dredging, shoal removal, or riverbank snagging. Vessel disposal in waters of the US may need a permit from EPA (see 40 CFR 229.3).
(Sections 10 and 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

23. Approved Categorical Exclusions. Activities undertaken, assisted, authorized, regulated, funded, or financed, in whole or in part, by another Federal agency or department where that agency or department has determined, pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulation for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR part 1500 et seq.), that the activity, work, or discharge is categorically excluded from environmental documentation, because it is included within a category of actions which neither individually nor cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment, and the Office of the Chief of Engineers (ATTN: CECW-OR) has been furnished notice of the agency's or department's application for the categorical exclusion and concurs with that determination. Before approval for purposes of this NWP of any agency's categorical exclusions, the Chief of Engineers will solicit public comment. In addressing these comments, the Chief of Engineers may require certain conditions for authorization of an agency's categorical exclusions under this NWP.
(Sections 10 and 404)

Nationwide 23 Specific Regional Conditions

- Notification is required for use of this Nationwide permit.
- Notification should also include a copy of the CE determination; delineation of special aquatic sites, and a mitigation plan for impacts greater than 1/10 acre of waters of the United States.

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

This Nationwide Permit shall only authorize activities described in 23 CFR Part 771.117 of the Federal Highway regulations.

24. State Administered Section 404 Program. Any activity permitted by a state administering its own Section 404 permit program pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1344(g)-(l) is permitted pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Those activities that do not involve a Section 404 state permit are not included in this NWP, but certain structures will be exempted by Section 154 of Pub. L. 94-587, 90 Stat. 2917 (33 U.S.C. 591) (see 33 CFR 322.3(a)(2)).

(Section 10)

Not Applicable.

25. Structural Discharges. Discharges of material such as concrete, sand, rock, etc., into tightly sealed forms or cells where the material will be used as a structural member for standard pile supported structures, such as bridges, transmission line footings, and walkways or for general navigation, such as mooring cells, including the excavation of bottom material from within the form prior to the discharge of concrete, sand, rock, etc. This NWP does not authorize filled structural members that would support buildings, building pads, homes, house pads, parking areas, storage areas and other such structures. The structure itself may require a Section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the US.

(Section 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

26. [Reserved]

27. Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities. Activities in waters of the US associated with the restoration of former waters, the enhancement of degraded tidal and non-tidal wetlands and riparian areas, the creation of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and riparian areas, and the restoration and enhancement of non-tidal streams and non-tidal open water areas as follows:

(a) The activity is conducted on:

- (1) Non-Federal public lands and private lands, in accordance with the terms and conditions of a binding wetland enhancement, restoration, or creation agreement between the landowner and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Ocean Service, or voluntary wetland restoration, enhancement, and creation actions documented by the NRCS pursuant to NRCS regulations; or

(2) Reclaimed surface coal mine lands, in accordance with a Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act permit issued by the OSM or the applicable state agency (the future reversion does not apply to streams or wetlands created, restored, or enhanced as mitigation for the mining impacts, nor naturally due to hydrologic or topographic features, nor for a mitigation bank); or

(3) Any other public, private or tribal lands;

(b) Notification: For activities on any public or private land that are not described by paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) above, the permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13; and

(c) Planting of only native species should occur on the site.

Activities authorized by this NWP include, to the extent that a Corps permit is required, but are not limited to: the removal of accumulated sediments; the installation, removal, and maintenance of small water control structures, dikes, and berms; the installation of current deflectors; the enhancement, restoration, or creation of riffle and pool stream structure; the placement of in-stream habitat structures; modifications of the stream bed and/or banks to restore or create stream meanders; the backfilling of artificial channels and drainage ditches; the removal of existing drainage structures; the construction of small nesting islands; the construction of open water areas; the construction of oyster habitat over unvegetated bottom in tidal waters; activities needed to reestablish vegetation, including plowing or discing for seed bed preparation and the planting of appropriate wetland species; mechanized land clearing to remove non-native invasive, exotic or nuisance vegetation; and other related activities.

This NWP does not authorize the conversion of a stream to another aquatic use, such as the creation of an impoundment for waterfowl habitat. This NWP does not authorize stream channelization. This NWP does not authorize the conversion of natural wetlands to another aquatic use, such as creation of waterfowl impoundments where a forested wetland previously existed. However, this NWP authorizes the relocation of non-tidal waters, including non-tidal wetlands, on the project site provided there are net gains in aquatic resource functions and values. For example, this NWP may authorize the creation of an open water impoundment in a non-tidal emergent wetland, provided the non-tidal emergent wetland is replaced by creating that wetland type on the project site. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of tidal waters or the conversion of tidal waters, including tidal wetlands, to other aquatic uses, such as the conversion of tidal wetlands into open water impoundments.

Reversion. For enhancement, restoration, and creation projects conducted under paragraphs (a)(3), this NWP does not authorize any future discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the reversion of the area to its prior condition. In such cases a separate permit would be required for any reversion. For restoration, enhancement, and creation projects conducted under paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2), this NWP also authorizes any future discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the reversion of the area to its documented prior condition and use (i.e., prior to the restoration, enhancement, or creation activities). The

reversion must occur within five years after expiration of a limited term wetland restoration or creation agreement or permit, even if the discharge occurs after this NWP expires. This NWP also authorizes the reversion of wetlands that were restored, enhanced, or created on prior-converted cropland that has not been abandoned, in accordance with a binding agreement between the landowner and NRCS or FWS (even though the restoration, enhancement, or creation activity did not require a Section 404 permit). The five-year reversion limit does not apply to agreements without time limits reached under paragraph (a)(1). The prior condition will be documented in the original agreement or permit, and the determination of return to prior conditions will be made by the Federal agency or appropriate state agency executing the agreement or permit. Before any reversion activity the permittee or the appropriate Federal or state agency must notify the District Engineer and include the documentation of the prior condition. Once an area has reverted to its prior physical condition, it will be subject to whatever the Corps Regulatory requirements will be at that future date.

(Sections 10 and 404)

Note: Compensatory mitigation is not required for activities authorized by this NWP, provided the authorized work results in a net increase in aquatic resource functions and values in the project area. This NWP can be used to authorize compensatory mitigation projects, including mitigation banks, provided the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13, and the project includes compensatory mitigation for impacts to waters of the US caused by the authorized work. However, this NWP does not authorize the reversion of an area used for a compensatory mitigation project to its prior condition. NWP 27 can be used to authorize impacts at a mitigation bank, but only in circumstances where it has been approved under the Interagency Federal Mitigation Bank Guidelines.

Nationwide 27 Specific Regional Condition

- Notification is required for all work in waters of the U.S., including special aquatic sites.

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations: This Certification does not authorize impacts to more than ½ acre of Category 2 forested wetlands unless Ohio EPA is a signatory to a Mitigation Banking Review Team (MBRT) instrument which addresses the impact.

28. Modifications of Existing Marinas. Reconfiguration of existing docking facilities within an authorized marina area. No dredging, additional slips, dock spaces, or expansion of any kind within waters of the US is authorized by this NWP.

(Section 10)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

29. Single-family Housing. Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the US, including non-tidal wetlands for the construction or expansion of a single-family

home and attendant features (such as a garage, driveway, storage shed, and/or septic field) for an Individual Permittee provided that the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- a. The discharge does not cause the loss of more than 1/4-acre of non-tidal waters of the US, including non-tidal wetlands;
- b. The permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification” General Condition;
- c. The permittee has taken all practicable actions to minimize the on-site and off-site impacts of the discharge. For example, the location of the home may need to be adjusted on-site to avoid flooding of adjacent property owners;
- d. The discharge is part of a single and complete project; furthermore, that for any subdivision created on or after November 22, 1991, the discharges authorized under this NWP may not exceed an aggregate total loss of waters of the US of 1/4-acre for the entire subdivision;
- e. An individual may use this NWP only for a single-family home for a personal residence;
- f. This NWP may be used only once per parcel;
- g. This NWP may not be used in conjunction with NWP 14 or NWP 18, for any parcel; and,
- h. Sufficient vegetated buffers must be maintained adjacent to all open water bodies, streams, etc., to preclude water quality degradation due to erosion and sedimentation.

For the purposes of this NWP, the acreage of loss of waters of the US includes the filled area previously permitted, the proposed filled area, and any other waters of the US that are adversely affected by flooding, excavation, or drainage as a result of the project. This NWP authorizes activities only by individuals; for this purpose, the term “individual” refers to a natural person and/or a married couple, but does not include a corporation, partnership, or similar entity. For the purposes of this NWP, a parcel of land is defined as “the entire contiguous quantity of land in possession of, recorded as property of, or owned (in any form of ownership, including land owned as a partner, corporation, joint tenant, etc.) by the same individual (and/or that individual's spouse), and comprises not only the area of wetlands sought to be filled, but also all land contiguous to those wetlands, owned by the individual (and/or that individual's spouse) in any form of ownership.”

(Sections 10 and 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

30. Moist Soil Management for Wildlife. Discharges of dredged or fill material and maintenance activities that are associated with moist soil management for wildlife performed on non-tidal Federally-owned or managed, state-owned or managed property, and local government agency-owned or managed property, for the purpose of continuing ongoing, site-specific, wildlife management activities where soil manipulation is used to manage habitat and feeding areas for wildlife. Such activities include, but are not limited to: The repair, maintenance or replacement of existing water control structures; the repair or maintenance of dikes; and plowing or discing to impede succession, prepare seed beds, or establish fire breaks. Sufficient vegetated buffers must be maintained adjacent to all open water bodies, streams, etc., to preclude water

quality degradation due to erosion and sedimentation. This NWP does not authorize the construction of new dikes, roads, water control structures, etc. associated with the management areas. This NWP does not authorize converting wetlands to uplands, impoundments or other open water bodies.

Section 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

31. Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities. Discharge of dredge or fill material resulting from activities associated with the maintenance of existing flood control facilities, including debris basins, retention/detention basins, and channels that

- (i) were previously authorized by the Corps by Individual Permit, General Permit, by 33 CFR 330.3, or did not require a permit at the time it was constructed, or
- (ii) were constructed by the Corps and transferred to a non-Federal sponsor for operation and maintenance. Activities authorized by this NWP are limited to those resulting from maintenance activities that are conducted within the “maintenance baseline,” as described in the definition below. Activities including the discharges of dredged or fill materials, associated with maintenance activities in flood control facilities in any watercourse that has previously been determined to be within the maintenance baseline, are authorized under this NWP. The NWP does not authorize the removal of sediment and associated vegetation from the natural water courses except to the extent that these have been included in the maintenance baseline. All dredged material must be placed in an upland site or an authorized disposal site in waters of the US, and proper siltation controls must be used. (Activities of any kind that result in only incidental fallback, or only the cutting and removing of vegetation above the ground, e.g., mowing, rotary cutting, and chainsawing, where the activity neither substantially disturbs the root system nor involves mechanized pushing, dragging, or other similar activities that redeposit excavated soil material, do not require a Section 404 permit in accordance with 33 CFR 323.2(d)(2)).

Notification: After the maintenance baseline is established, and before any maintenance work is conducted, the permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification” General Condition. The notification may be for activity-specific maintenance or for maintenance of the entire flood control facility by submitting a five year (or less) maintenance plan.

Maintenance Baseline: The maintenance baseline is a description of the physical characteristics (e.g., depth, width, length, location, configuration, or design flood capacity, etc.) of a flood control project within which maintenance activities are normally authorized by NWP 31, subject to any case-specific conditions required by the District Engineer. The District Engineer will approve the maintenance baseline based on the approved or constructed capacity of the flood control facility, whichever is smaller, including any areas where there are no constructed channels, but which are part of the facility. If no evidence of the constructed capacity exist, the approved constructed capacity will be used. The prospective permittee will provide documentation of the physical characteristics of the flood control facility (which will normally consist of as-built or approved drawings) and documentation of the design capacities of the flood control facility. The documentation will also include BMPs to ensure that the impacts to the

aquatic environment are minimal, especially in maintenance areas where there are no constructed channels. (The Corps may request maintenance records in areas where there has not been recent maintenance.) Revocation or modification of the final determination of the maintenance baseline can only be done in accordance with 33 CFR 330.5. Except in emergencies as described below, this NWP can not be used until the District Engineer approves the maintenance baseline and determines the need for mitigation and any regional or activity-specific conditions. Once determined, the maintenance baseline will remain valid for any subsequent reissuance of this NWP. This permit does not authorize maintenance of a flood control facility that has been abandoned. A flood control facility will be considered abandoned if it has operated at a significantly reduced capacity without needed maintenance being accomplished in a timely manner.

Mitigation: The District Engineer will determine any required mitigation one-time only for impacts associated with maintenance work at the same time that the maintenance baseline is approved. Such one-time mitigation will be required when necessary to ensure that adverse environmental impacts are no more than minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Such mitigation will only be required once for any specific reach of a flood control project. However, if one-time mitigation is required for impacts associated with maintenance activities, the District Engineer will not delay needed maintenance, provided the District Engineer and the permittee establish a schedule for identification, approval, development, construction and completion of any such required mitigation. Once the one-time mitigation described above has been completed, or a determination made that mitigation is not required, no further mitigation will be required for maintenance activities within the maintenance baseline. In determining appropriate mitigation, the District Engineer will give special consideration to natural water courses that have been included in the maintenance baseline and require compensatory mitigation and/or BMPs as appropriate.

Emergency Situations: In emergency situations, this NWP may be used to authorize maintenance activities in flood control facilities for which no maintenance baseline has been approved. Emergency situations are those which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if action is not taken before a maintenance baseline can be approved. In such situations, the determination of mitigation requirements, if any, may be deferred until the emergency has been resolved. Once the emergency has ended, a maintenance baseline must be established expeditiously, and mitigation, including mitigation for maintenance conducted during the emergency, must be required as appropriate.

(Sections 10 and 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations: This Nationwide Permit shall only authorize projects constructed by the Corps of Engineers and maintained by the Corps or transferred by the Corps to a local sponsor.

32. Completed Enforcement Actions. Any structure, work or discharge of dredged or fill material, remaining in place, or undertaken for mitigation, restoration, or environmental benefit in compliance with either:

- (i) The terms of a final written Corps non-judicial settlement agreement resolving a violation of section 404 of the CWA and/or section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; or the terms of an EPA 309(a) order on consent resolving a violation of section 404 of the CWA, provided that:
 - a. The unauthorized activity affected no more than 5 acres of non-tidal wetlands or 1 acre of tidal wetlands;
 - b. The settlement agreement provides for environmental benefits, to an equal or greater degree, than the environmental detriments caused by the unauthorized activity that is authorized by this NWP; and
 - c. The District Engineer issues a verification letter authorizing the activity subject to the terms and conditions of this NWP and the settlement agreement, including a specified completion date; or
- (ii) The terms of a final Federal court decision, consent decree, or settlement agreement resulting from an enforcement action brought by the U.S. under Section 404 of the CWA and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; or
- (iii) The terms of a final court decision, consent decree, settlement agreement, or non-judicial settlement agreement resulting from a natural resource damage claim brought by a trustee or trustees for natural resources (as defined by the National Contingency Plan at 40 CFR subpart G) under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund), Section 312 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA), Section 1002 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), or the Park System Resource Protection Act at 16 U.S.C. '19jj, to the extent that a Corps permit is required.

For either (i), (ii) or (iii) above, compliance is a condition of the NWP itself. Any authorization under this NWP is automatically revoked if the permittee does not comply with the terms of this NWP or the terms of the court decision, consent decree, or judicial/non-judicial settlement agreement or fails to complete the work by the specified completion date. This NWP does not apply to any activities occurring after the date of the decision, decree, or agreement that are not for the purpose of mitigation, restoration, or environmental benefit. Before reaching any settlement agreement, the Corps will ensure compliance with the provisions of 33 CFR part 326 and 33 CFR 330.6 (d)(2) and (e).

(Sections 10 and 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Limitations and Conditions:

- 1) This Nationwide Permit shall not authorize any project with greater than 3 acres of wetland impacts, or impacts over 500 linear feet in any stream unless Ohio EPA has been informed in writing of each specific project that exceeds these criteria, and based on this information, has chosen not to issue a State Administrative Order, or Consent Order resulting from a State enforcement action.

- 2) The Corps of Engineers shall provide notification to Ohio EPA prior to any settlement agreement being finalized. The Corps shall provide such notification with a copy of the draft settlement document for Ohio EPA's review and comment. Ohio EPA will provide notice to the Corps that it intends to provide substantive site-specific comments within 5 days of the receipt of the draft settlement document. Ohio EPA will provide these comments to the Corps within 16 days of the receipt of the draft document. The Corps shall fully consider Ohio EPA's comments prior to finalizing the settlement document, and provide Ohio EPA with a copy of the final settlement agreement

33. Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering. Temporary structures, work and discharges, including cofferdams, necessary for construction activities or access fills or dewatering of construction sites; provided that the associated primary activity is authorized by the Corps of Engineers or the USCG, or for other construction activities not subject to the Corps or USCG regulations. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain near normal downstream flows and to minimize flooding. Fill must be of materials, and placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. The use of dredged material may be allowed if it is determined by the District Engineer that it will not cause more than minimal adverse effects on aquatic resources.

Temporary fill must be entirely removed to upland areas, or dredged material returned to its original location, following completion of the construction activity, and the affected areas must be restored to the pre-project conditions. Cofferdams cannot be used to dewater wetlands or other aquatic areas to change their use. Structures left in place after cofferdams are removed require a Section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the U.S. (See 33 CFR part 322). The permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with the "Notification" General Condition. The notification must also include a restoration plan of reasonable measures to avoid and minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources. The District Engineer will add Special Conditions, where necessary, to ensure environmental adverse effects is minimal. Such conditions may include: limiting the temporary work to the minimum necessary; requiring seasonal restrictions; modifying the restoration plan; and requiring alternative construction methods (e.g. construction mats in wetlands where practicable.).

(Sections 10 and 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Limitations and Conditions:

- 1) Temporary shall be defined as less than one year in duration;
- 2) This Nationwide Permit does not authorize construction, or maintenance, or modification of marina basins;
- 3) This Nationwide Permit does not authorize activities in special aquatic sites as defined in 40 CFR 230.3(q-1);

- 4) This Nationwide Permit shall not authorize temporary construction access and dewatering associated with mining activities.

34. Cranberry Production Activities. Discharges of dredged or fill material for dikes, berms, pumps, water control structures or leveling of cranberry beds associated with expansion, enhancement, or modification activities at existing cranberry production operations provided that the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- a. The cumulative total acreage of disturbance per cranberry production operation, including but not limited to, filling, flooding, ditching, or clearing, does not exceed 10 acres of waters of the U.S., including wetlands;
- b. The permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification” General Condition. The notification must include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands; and,
- c. The activity does not result in a net loss of wetland acreage.

This NWP does not authorize any discharge of dredged or fill material related to other cranberry production activities such as warehouses, processing facilities, or parking areas. For the purposes of this NWP, the cumulative total of 10 acres will be measured over the period that this NWP is valid.

(Section 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

35. Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins. Excavation and removal of accumulated sediment for maintenance of existing marina basins, access channels to marinas or boat slips, and boat slips to previously authorized depths or controlling depths for ingress/egress, whichever is less, provided the dredged material is disposed of at an upland site and proper siltation controls are used.

(Section 10)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

36. Boat Ramps. Activities required for the construction of boat ramps provided:

- a. The discharge into waters of the U.S. does not exceed 50 cubic yards of concrete, rock, crushed stone or gravel into forms, or placement of pre-cast concrete planks or slabs. (Unsuitable material that causes unacceptable chemical pollution or is structurally unstable is not authorized);
- b. The boat ramp does not exceed 20 feet in width;
- c. The base material is crushed stone, gravel or other suitable material;
- d. The excavation is limited to the area necessary for site preparation and all excavated material is removed to the upland; and,
- e. No material is placed in special aquatic sites, including wetlands.

Dredging to provide access to the boat ramp may be authorized by another NWP, Regional General Permit, or Individual Permit pursuant to Section 10 if located in navigable waters of the United States.

(Sections 10 and 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations: This Nationwide Permit shall not authorize boat ramps where dredging is required to establish water depths necessary for boat launching.

- 37. *Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation.*** Work done by or funded by:
- a. The NRCS which is a situation requiring immediate action under its emergency Watershed Protection Program (7 CFR part 624); or
 - b. The USFS under its Burned-Area Emergency Rehabilitation Handbook (FSH 509.13); or
 - c. The DOI for wildland fire management burned area emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (DOI Manual part 620, Ch. 3).

For all of the above provisions, the District Engineer must be notified in accordance with the General Condition 13. (Also, see 33 CFR 330.1(e)).

(Sections 10 and 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

38. *Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste.* Specific activities required to effect the containment, stabilization, or removal of hazardous or toxic waste materials that are performed, ordered, or sponsored by a government agency with established legal or regulatory authority provided the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification” General Condition. For discharges in special aquatic sites, including wetlands, the notification must also include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands. Court ordered remedial action plans or related settlements are also authorized by this NWP. This NWP does not authorize the establishment of new disposal sites or the expansion of existing sites used for the disposal of hazardous or toxic waste. Activities undertaken entirely on a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) site by authority of CERCLA as approved or required by EPA, are not required to obtain permits under Section 404 of the CWA or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

(Sections 10 and 404)

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

39. *Residential, Commercial, and Institutional Developments.* Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the U.S., excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal

waters, for the construction or expansion of residential, commercial, and institutional building foundations and building pads and attendant features that are necessary for the use and maintenance of the structures. Attendant features may include, but are not limited to, roads, parking lots, garages, yards, utility lines, stormwater management facilities, and recreation facilities such as playgrounds, playing fields, and golf courses (provided the golf course is an integral part of the residential development). The construction of new ski areas or oil and gas wells is not authorized by this NWP. Residential developments include multiple and single unit developments. Examples of commercial developments include retail stores, industrial facilities, restaurants, business parks, and shopping centers. Examples of institutional developments include schools, fire stations, government office buildings, judicial buildings, public works buildings, libraries, hospitals, and places of worship. The activities listed above are authorized, provided the activities meet all of the following criteria:

- a. The discharge does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the U.S., excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters;
- b. The discharge does not cause the loss of greater than 300 linear-feet of a stream bed, unless for intermittent stream beds this criterion is waived in writing pursuant to a determination by the District Engineer, as specified below, that the project complies with all terms and conditions of this NWP and that any adverse impacts of the project on the aquatic environment are minimal, both individually and cumulatively;
- c. The permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13, if any of the following criteria are met:
 - (1) The discharge causes the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of non-tidal waters of the US, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters; or
 - (2) The discharge causes the loss of any open waters, including perennial or intermittent streams, below the ordinary high water mark (see Note, below); or
 - (3) The discharge causes the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of intermittent stream bed. In such case, to be authorized the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;
- d. For discharges in special aquatic sites, including wetlands, the notification must include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites;
- e. The discharge is part of a single and complete project;
- f. The permittee must avoid and minimize discharges into waters of the US at the project site to the maximum extent practicable. The notification, when required, must include a written statement explaining how avoidance and minimization of losses of waters of the US were achieved on the project site. Compensatory mitigation will normally be required to offset the losses of waters of the US. (See General Condition 19.) The notification must also include a compensatory mitigation proposal for offsetting unavoidable losses of waters of the US. If an applicant asserts that the adverse effects of the project are minimal without mitigation, then the applicant may submit justification explaining why compensatory mitigation should not be required for the District Engineer's consideration;

- g. When this NWP is used in conjunction with any other NWP, any combined total permanent loss of waters of the US exceeding 1/10-acre requires that the permittee notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13;
- h. Any work authorized by this NWP must not cause more than minimal degradation of water quality or more than minimal changes to the flow characteristics of any stream (see General Conditions 9 and 21);
- i. For discharges causing the loss of 1/10-acre or less of waters of the US, the permittee must submit a report, within 30 days of completion of the work, to the District Engineer that contains the following information: (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the permittee; (2) The location of the work; (3) A description of the work; (4) The type and acreage of the loss of waters of the US (e.g., 1/12-acre of emergent wetlands); and (5) The type and acreage of any compensatory mitigation used to offset the loss of waters of the US (e.g., 1/12-acre of emergent wetlands created on-site);
- j. If there are any open waters or streams within the project area, the permittee will establish and maintain, to the maximum extent practicable, wetland or upland vegetated buffers next to those open waters or streams consistent with General Condition 19. Deed restrictions, conservation easements, protective covenants, or other means of land conservation and preservation are required to protect and maintain the vegetated buffers established on the project site.

Only residential, commercial, and institutional activities with structures on the foundation(s) or building pad(s), as well as the attendant features, are authorized by this NWP. The compensatory mitigation proposal that is required in paragraph (f) of this NWP may be either conceptual or detailed. The wetland or upland vegetated buffer required in paragraph (j) of this NWP will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the District Engineer for addressing water quality concerns. The required wetland or upland vegetated buffer is part of the overall compensatory mitigation requirement for this NWP.

If the project site was previously used for agricultural purposes and the farm owner/operator used NWP 40 to authorize activities in waters of the US to increase production or construct farm buildings, NWP 39 cannot be used by the developer to authorize additional activities in waters of the United States on the project site in excess of the acreage limit for NWP 39 (i.e., the combined acreage loss authorized under NWPs 39 and 40 cannot exceed 1/2-acre).

Subdivisions: For residential subdivisions, the aggregate total loss of waters of US authorized by NWP 39 can not exceed 1/2-acre. This includes any loss of waters associated with development of individual subdivision lots.

(Sections 10 and 404)

Note: Areas where wetland vegetation is not present should be determined by the presence or absence of an ordinary high water mark or bed and bank. Areas that are waters of the US based on this criterion would require a PCN although water is infrequently present in the stream channel (except for ephemeral waters, which do not require PCNs).

Nationwide 39 Specific Regional Conditions

- Notification is required for all impacts to Section 10 waters and wetlands adjacent to Section 10 waters.
- Notification is required for all perennial and intermittent stream impacts.
- Notification is required for ephemeral stream impacts greater than 300 linear feet.

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

40. Agricultural Activities. Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the US, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters, for improving agricultural production and the construction of building pads for farm buildings. Authorized activities include the installation, placement, or construction of drainage tiles, ditches, or levees; mechanized land clearing; land leveling; the relocation of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in waters of the US; and similar activities, provided the permittee complies with the following terms and conditions:

- a. For discharges into non-tidal wetlands to improve agricultural production, the following criteria must be met if the permittee is an United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Program participant:
 - (1) The permittee must obtain a categorical minimal effects exemption, minimal effect exemption, or mitigation exemption from NRCS in accordance with the provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.);
 - (2) The discharge into non-tidal wetlands does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal wetlands on a farm tract;
 - (3) The permittee must have NRCS-certified wetland delineation;
 - (4) The permittee must implement an NRCS-approved compensatory mitigation plan that fully offsets wetland losses, if required; and
 - (5) The permittee must submit a report, within 30 days of completion of the authorized work, to the District Engineer that contains the following information:
 - (a) The name, address, and telephone number of the permittee;
 - (b) The location of the work;
 - (c) A description of the work;
 - (d) The type and acreage (or square feet) of the loss of wetlands (e.g., 1/3-acre of emergent wetlands); and
 - (e) The type, acreage (or square feet), and location of compensatory mitigation (e.g. 1/3-acre of emergent wetland on a farm tract; credits purchased from a mitigation bank); or
- b. For discharges into non-tidal wetlands to improve agricultural production, the following criteria must be met if the permittee is not a USDA Program participant (or a USDA Program participant for which the proposed work does not qualify for authorization under paragraph (a) of this NWP):
 - (1) The discharge into non-tidal wetlands does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal wetlands on a farm tract;
 - (2) The permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13, if the discharge results in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of non-tidal wetlands;
 - (3) The notification must include a delineation of affected wetlands; and

- (4) The notification must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US; or
- c. For the construction of building pads for farm buildings, the discharge does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal wetlands that were in agricultural production prior to December 23, 1985, (i.e., farmed wetlands) and the permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13; and
- d. Any activity in other waters of the US is limited to the relocation of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of greater than 300 linear-feet of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams unless, for drainage ditches constructed in intermittent non-tidal streams, the District Engineer waives this criterion in writing, and the District Engineer has determined that the project complies with all terms and conditions of this NWP, and that any adverse impacts of the project on the aquatic environment are minimal, both individually and cumulatively. For impacts exceeding 300-linear feet of impacts to existing serviceable ditches constructed in intermittent non-tidal streams, the permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification” General Condition 13.

The term “farm tract” refers to a parcel of land identified by the Farm Service Agency. The Corps will identify other waters of the US on the farm tract. NRCS will determine if a proposed agricultural activity meets the terms and conditions of paragraph a. of this NWP, except as provided below. For those activities that require notification, the District Engineer will determine if a proposed agricultural activity is authorized by paragraphs b., c., and/or d. of this NWP. USDA Program participants requesting authorization for discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US authorized by paragraphs (c) or (d) of this NWP, in addition to paragraph (a), must notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13 and the District Engineer will determine if the entire single and complete project is authorized by this NWP. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US associated with completing required compensatory mitigation are authorized by this NWP. However, total impacts, including other authorized impacts under this NWP, may not exceed the 1/2-acre limit of this NWP. This NWP does not affect, or otherwise regulate, discharges associated with agricultural activities when the discharge qualifies for an exemption under Section 404(f) of the CWA, even though a categorical minimal effects exemption, minimal effect exemption, or mitigation exemption from NRCS pursuant to the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, may be required. Activities authorized by paragraphs a. through d. may not exceed a total of 1/2-acre on a single farm tract. If the site was used for agricultural purposes and the farm owner/operator used either paragraphs a., b., or c. of this NWP to authorize activities in waters of the US to increase agricultural production or construct farm buildings, and the current landowner wants to use NWP 39 to authorize residential, commercial, or industrial development activities in waters of the US on the site, the combined acreage loss authorized by NWPs 39 and 40 cannot exceed 1/2-acre (see General Condition 15).

(Section 404)

Nationwide 40 Specific Regional Conditions

- Notification is required for all perennial stream impacts.

- Notification is required for all intermittent stream impacts greater than 200 linear feet and all ephemeral stream impacts greater than 300 linear feet.
Note: These regional conditions apply to non-USDA program participants.

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations: This Certification shall be used only once per farm. For the purposes of this condition, farm shall be defined to include all individual farm tracts, whether or not such tracts are contiguous, that are owned by the applicant.

41. Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches. Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the US, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters, to modify the cross-sectional configuration of currently serviceable drainage ditches constructed in waters of the US. The reshaping of the ditch cannot increase drainage capacity beyond the original design capacity. Nor can it expand the area drained by the ditch as originally designed (i.e., the capacity of the ditch must be the same as originally designed and it cannot drain additional wetlands or other waters of the US). Compensatory mitigation is not required because the work is designed to improve water quality (e.g., by regrading the drainage ditch with gentler slopes, which can reduce erosion, increase growth of vegetation, increase uptake of nutrients and other substances by vegetation, etc.).

Notification: The permittee must notify the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13 if greater than 500 linear feet of drainage ditch will be reshaped. Material resulting from excavation may not be permanently sidecast into waters but may be temporarily sidecast (up to three months) into waters of the US, provided the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. The District Engineer may extend the period of temporary sidecasting not to exceed a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In general, this NWP does not apply to reshaping drainage ditches constructed in uplands, since these areas are generally not waters of the US, and thus no permit from the Corps is required, or to the maintenance of existing drainage ditches to their original dimensions and configuration, which does not require a Section 404 permit (see 33 CFR 323.4(a)(3)). This NWP does not authorize the relocation of drainage ditches constructed in waters of the US; the location of the centerline of the reshaped drainage ditch must be approximately the same as the location of the centerline of the original drainage ditch. This NWP does not authorize stream channelization or stream relocation projects.

(Section 404)

Nationwide 41 Specific Regional Conditions

- Notification is required for all impacts

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations:

- 1) This Certification only authorizes impacts to existing maintained and channelized ephemeral water conveyances.
- 2) Reshaping of existing agricultural and roadway drainage ditches greater than 200 linear feet but less than 500 linear feet in total length that have been created or previously modified and maintained for the purpose of draining abutting existing agricultural land or existing roadways shall not require an individual Section 401 Certification if either:
 - a) The ditch was man-made and is existing; or
 - b) The stream/ditch has existing entrenchment ratios that are less than 1.4 and the proposed dredging impacts do not reduce the sinuosity of the stream/ditch channel.
- 3) Prior to the commencement of the project, all drainage ditch reshaping projects must be certified in writing by either the Natural Resources Conservation Service or Soil and Water Conservation District or County Engineer in the County where the project occurs, or by a certified professional engineer, that the project complies with the above criteria. In order to be authorized under this paragraph, such certification shall be maintained by the person or entity engaged in the project and a copy shall be sent to: Ohio EPA, Division of Surface Water, Section 401 Unit, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049.

42. Recreational Facilities. Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the US, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters, for the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- a. The discharge does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the US, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters;
- b. The discharge does not cause the loss of greater than 300 linear-feet of a stream bed, unless for intermittent stream beds this criterion is waived in writing pursuant to a determination by the District Engineer, as specified below, that the project complies with all terms and conditions of this NWP and that any adverse impacts of the project on the aquatic environment are minimal, both individually and cumulatively;
- c. The permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the "Notification" General Condition 13 for discharges exceeding 300 linear feet of impact of intermittent stream beds. In such cases, to be authorized the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine the adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive this limitation in writing before the permittee may proceed;
- d. For discharges causing the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of non-tidal waters of the US, the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 13;
- e. For discharges in special aquatic sites, including wetlands, the notification must include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites;
- f. The discharge is part of a single and complete project; and
- g. Compensatory mitigation will normally be required to offset the losses of waters of the US. The notification must also include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset authorized losses of waters of the US.

For the purposes of this NWP, the term “recreational facility” is defined as a recreational activity that is integrated into the natural landscape and does not substantially change preconstruction grades or deviate from natural landscape contours. For the purpose of this permit, the primary function of recreational facilities does not include the use of motor vehicles, buildings, or impervious surfaces. Examples of recreational facilities that may be authorized by this NWP include hiking trails, bike paths, horse paths, nature centers, and campgrounds (excluding trailer parks). This NWP may authorize the construction or expansion of golf courses and the expansion of ski areas, provided the golf course or ski area does not substantially deviate from natural landscape contours. Additionally, these activities are designed to minimize adverse effects to waters of the US and riparian areas through the use of such practices as integrated pest management, adequate stormwater management facilities, vegetated buffers, reduced fertilizer use, etc. The facility must have an adequate water quality management measures in accordance with General Condition 9, such as a stormwater management facility, to ensure that the recreational facility results in no substantial adverse effects to water quality. This NWP also authorizes the construction or expansion of small support facilities, such as maintenance and storage buildings and stables that are directly related to the recreational activity. This NWP does not authorize other buildings, such as hotels, restaurants, etc. The construction or expansion of playing fields (e.g., baseball, soccer, or football fields), basketball and tennis courts, racetracks, stadiums, arenas, and the construction of new ski areas are not authorized by this NWP. **(Section 404)**

Nationwide 42 Specific Regional Conditions

- Notification is required for all impacts to Section 10 waters and wetlands adjacent to Section 10 waters.
- Notification is required for all perennial and intermittent stream impacts.
- Notification is required for ephemeral stream impacts greater than 300 linear feet.

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations: This Certification shall not authorize the construction, modification or expansion of golf courses or ski areas.

43. Stormwater Management Facilities. Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the US, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters, for the construction and maintenance of stormwater management facilities, including activities for the excavation of stormwater ponds/facilities, detention basins, and retention basins; the installation and maintenance of water control structures, outfall structures and emergency spillways; and the maintenance dredging of existing stormwater management ponds/facilities and detention and retention basins, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- a. The discharge for the construction of new stormwater management facilities does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the US, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters;
- b. The discharge does not cause the loss of greater than 300 linear-feet of a stream bed, unless for intermittent stream beds this criterion is waived in writing pursuant to a determination by the District Engineer, as specified below, that the project complies with

all terms and conditions of this NWP and that any adverse impacts of the project on the aquatic environment are minimal, both individually and cumulatively;

c. For discharges causing the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of intermittent stream beds, the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification” General Condition 13. In such cases, to be authorized the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine the adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive this limitation in writing before the permittee may proceed;

d. The discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction of new stormwater management facilities in perennial streams is not authorized;

e. For discharges or excavation for the construction of new stormwater management facilities or for the maintenance of existing stormwater management facilities causing the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of non-tidal waters, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters, provided the permittee notifies the District Engineer in accordance with the “Notification” General Condition 13. In addition, the notification must include:

(1) A maintenance plan. The maintenance plan should be in accordance with state and local requirements, if any such requirements exist;

(2) For discharges in special aquatic sites, including wetlands and submerged aquatic vegetation, the notification must include a delineation of affected areas; and

(3) A compensatory mitigation proposal that offsets the loss of waters of the US. Maintenance in constructed areas will not require mitigation provided such maintenance is accomplished in designated maintenance areas and not within compensatory mitigation areas (i.e., District Engineers may designate non-maintenance areas, normally at the downstream end of the stormwater management facility, in existing stormwater management facilities). (No mitigation will be required for activities that are exempt from Section 404 permit requirements);

f. The permittee must avoid and minimize discharges into waters of the US at the project site to the maximum extent practicable, and the notification must include a written statement to the District Engineer detailing compliance with this condition (i.e. why the discharge must occur in waters of the US and why additional minimization cannot be achieved);

g. The stormwater management facility must comply with General Condition 21 and be designed using BMPs and watershed protection techniques. Examples may include forebays (deeper areas at the upstream end of the stormwater management facility that would be maintained through excavation), vegetated buffers, and siting considerations to minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources. Another example of a BMP would be bioengineering methods incorporated into the facility design to benefit water quality and minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources from storm flows, especially downstream of the facility, that provide, to the maximum extent practicable, for long term aquatic resource protection and enhancement;

h. Maintenance excavation will be in accordance with an approved maintenance plan and will not exceed the original contours of the facility as approved and constructed; and

i. The discharge is part of a single and complete project.

(Section 404)

Nationwide 43 Specific Regional Conditions

- Notification is required for all impacts to Section 10 waters and wetlands adjacent to Section 10 waters.
- Notification is required for all perennial and intermittent stream impacts.
- Notification is required for ephemeral stream impacts greater than 300 linear feet.

Ohio State Certification General Limitations and Conditions apply to this nationwide permit.

Ohio State Certification Special Conditions and Limitations: This Certification shall not authorize the construction of new stormwater management facilities.

44. *Mining Activities.* Revoked from use in Ohio. This NWP generally covers non-coal mining activities.

C. NATIONWIDE PERMIT GENERAL CONDITIONS

The following General Conditions must be followed in order for any authorization by an NWP to be valid:

1. **Navigation.** No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.
2. **Proper Maintenance.** Any structure or fill authorized shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety.
3. **Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls.** Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow.
4. **Aquatic Life Movements.** No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life-cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. Culverts placed in streams must be installed to maintain low flow conditions.
5. **Equipment.** Heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.
6. **Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions.** The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state or tribe in its Section 401 Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.
7. **Wild and Scenic Rivers.** No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System; or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system, while the river is in an official study status; unless the appropriate Federal agency, with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation, or study status. Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency in the area (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).
8. **Tribal Rights.** No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.
9. **Water Quality.** (a) In certain states and tribal lands an individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (See 33 CFR 330.4(c)).
(b) For NWPs 12, 14, 17, 18, 32, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44, where the state or tribal 401 certification (either generically or individually) does not require or approve water quality management measures, the permittee must provide water quality management measures that will ensure that the authorized work does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality (or the Corps determines that compliance with state or local standards, where applicable, will ensure no more than minimal adverse effect on water quality). An

important component of water quality management includes stormwater management that minimizes degradation of the downstream aquatic system, including water quality (refer to General Condition 21 for stormwater management requirements). Another important component of water quality management is the establishment and maintenance of vegetated buffers next to open waters, including streams (refer to General Condition 19 for vegetated buffer requirements for the NWP). This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect water quality. While appropriate measures must be taken, in most cases it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or to require monitoring.

10. **Coastal Zone Management.** In certain states, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)).
11. **Endangered Species. (a)** No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. Non-federal permittees shall notify the District Engineer if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or is located in the designated critical habitat and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or that utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work. As a result of formal or informal consultation with the FWS or NMFS the District Engineer may add species-specific regional endangered species conditions to the NWPs.
(b) Authorization of an activity by a NWP does not authorize the “take” of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with “incidental take” provisions, etc.) from the USFWS or the NMFS, both lethal and non-lethal “takes” of protected species are in violation of the ESA. Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the USFWS and NMFS or their World Wide Web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/r9endspp/endspp.html> and http://www.nfms.gov/prot_res/esahome.html respectively.
12. **Historic Properties.** No activity which may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places is authorized, until the District Engineer has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR part 325, Appendix C. The prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer if the authorized activity may affect any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible, or which the prospective permittee has reason to believe may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and shall not begin the activity until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. Information on the location and existence of historic resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the notification must state

which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property.

13. Notification. (a) Timing; where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer with a preconstruction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The District Engineer must determine if the notification is complete within 30 days of the date of receipt and can request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the District Engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the notification is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the District Engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity:

- (1) Until notified in writing by the District Engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the District or Division Engineer; or
- (2) If notified in writing by the District or Division Engineer that an Individual Permit is required; or
- (3) Unless 45 days have passed from the District Engineer's receipt of the complete notification and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the District or Division Engineer. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) Contents of Notification: The notification must be in writing and include the following information:

- (1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;
- (2) Location of the proposed project;
- (3) Brief description of the proposed project; the project's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause; any other NWP(s), Regional General Permit(s), or Individual Permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity. Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP (Sketches usually clarify the project and when provided result in a quicker decision.);
- (4) For NWPs 7, 12, 14, 18, 21, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43, the PCN must also include a delineation of affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands, vegetated shallows (e.g., submerged aquatic vegetation, seagrass beds), and riffle and pool complexes (see paragraph 13(f));
- (5) For NWP 7 (Outfall Structures and Maintenance), the PCN must include information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of those areas of the facility where maintenance dredging or excavation is proposed;
- (6) For NWP 14 (Linear Transportation Projects), the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset permanent losses of waters of the US and a statement describing how temporary losses of waters of the US will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable;
- (7) For NWP 21 (Surface Coal Mining Activities), the PCN must include an Office of Surface Mining (OSM) or state-approved mitigation plan, if applicable. To be authorized by this NWP, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are minimal

both individually and cumulatively and must notify the project sponsor of this determination in writing;

(8) For NWP 27 (Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities), the PCN must include documentation of the prior condition of the site that will be reverted by the permittee;

(9) For NWP 29 (Single-Family Housing), the PCN must also include:

(i) Any past use of this NWP by the Individual Permittee and/or the permittee's spouse;

(ii) A statement that the single-family housing activity is for a personal residence of the permittee;

(iii) A description of the entire parcel, including its size, and a delineation of wetlands. For the purpose of this NWP, parcels of land measuring 1/4-acre or less will not require a formal on-site delineation. However, the applicant shall provide an indication of where the wetlands are and the amount of wetlands that exists on the property. For parcels greater than 1/4-acre in size, formal wetland delineation must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. (See paragraph 13(f));

(iv) A written description of all land (including, if available, legal descriptions) owned by the prospective permittee and/or the prospective permittee's spouse, within a one mile radius of the parcel, in any form of ownership (including any land owned as a partner, corporation, joint tenant, co-tenant, or as a tenant-by-the-entirety) and any land on which a purchase and sale agreement or other contract for sale or purchase has been executed;

(10) For NWP 31 (Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities), the prospective permittee must either notify the District Engineer with a PCN prior to each maintenance activity or submit a five year (or less) maintenance plan. In addition, the PCN must include all of the following:

(i) Sufficient baseline information identifying the approved channel depths and configurations and existing facilities. Minor deviations are authorized, provided the approved flood control protection or drainage is not increased;

(ii) A delineation of any affected special aquatic sites, including wetlands; and,

(iii) Location of the dredged material disposal site;

(11) For NWP 33 (Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering), the PCN must also include a restoration plan of reasonable measures to avoid and minimize adverse effects to aquatic resources;

(12) For NWPs 39, 43 and 44, the PCN must also include a written statement to the District Engineer explaining how avoidance and minimization for losses of waters of the US were achieved on the project site;

(13) For NWP 39 and NWP 42, the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US or justification explaining why compensatory mitigation should not be required. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;

(14) For NWP 40 (Agricultural Activities), the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of greater than 300 linear-feet of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams unless, for drainage ditches constructed in intermittent non-tidal streams, the District Engineer waives this criterion in writing, and the District Engineer has determined that the project complies with all terms and conditions of this NWP, and that any adverse impacts of the project on the aquatic environment are minimal, both individually and cumulatively;

(15) For NWP 43 (Stormwater Management Facilities), the PCN must include, for the construction of new stormwater management facilities, a maintenance plan (in accordance with state and local requirements, if applicable) and a compensatory mitigation proposal to offset losses of waters of the US. For discharges that cause the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of an intermittent stream bed, to be authorized, the District Engineer must determine that the activity complies with the other terms and conditions of the NWP, determine adverse environmental effects are minimal both individually and cumulatively, and waive the limitation on stream impacts in writing before the permittee may proceed;

(16) For NWP 44 (Mining Activities), the PCN must include a description of all waters of the US adversely affected by the project, a description of measures taken to minimize adverse effects to waters of the US, a description of measures taken to comply with the criteria of the NWP, and a reclamation plan (for all aggregate mining activities in isolated waters and non-tidal wetlands adjacent to headwaters and any hard rock/mineral mining activities);

(17) For activities that may adversely affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species, the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that may be affected by the proposed work or utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work; and

(18) For activities that may affect historic properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property.

(c) Form of Notification: The standard Individual Permit application form (Form ENG 4345) may be used as the notification but must clearly indicate that it is a PCN and must include all of the information required in (b) (1)-(18) of General Condition 13. A letter containing the requisite information may also be used.

(d) District Engineer's Decision: In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the District Engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. The prospective permittee may submit a proposed mitigation plan with the PCN to expedite the process. The District Engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment of the proposed work are minimal. If the District Engineer determines that the activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse effects on the aquatic environment are minimal, after considering mitigation, the District Engineer will notify the permittee and include any conditions the District Engineer deems necessary. The District Engineer must approve any compensatory

mitigation proposal before the permittee commences work. If the prospective permittee is required to submit a compensatory mitigation proposal with the PCN, the proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the District Engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The District Engineer must review the plan within 45 days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the conceptual or specific proposed mitigation would ensure no more than minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. If the net adverse effects of the project on the aquatic environment (after consideration of the compensatory mitigation proposal) are determined by the District Engineer to be minimal, the District Engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the project can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP. If the District Engineer determines that the adverse effects of the proposed work are more than minimal, then the District Engineer will notify the applicant either: (1) That the project does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an Individual Permit; (2) that the project is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation proposal that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level; or (3) that the project is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the District Engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse effects occur to the aquatic environment, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or specific mitigation or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation proposal that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level. When conceptual mitigation is included, or a mitigation plan is required under item (2) above, no work in waters of the US will occur until the District Engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan.

(e) Agency Coordination: The District Engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the project's adverse environmental effects to a minimal level. For activities requiring notification to the District Engineer that result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the US, the District Engineer will provide immediately (e.g., via facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy to the appropriate Federal or state offices (USFWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will then have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to telephone or fax the District Engineer notice that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. If so contacted by an agency, the District Engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the notification. The District Engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame, but will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The District Engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. As required by Section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the District Engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations. Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps multiple copies of notifications to expedite agency notification.

(f) Wetland Delineations: Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps (For NWP 29 see paragraph (b)(9)(iii) for parcels less than (1/4-acre in size). The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic site. There may be some delay if the Corps does the delineation. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the wetland delineation has been completed and submitted to the Corps, where appropriate

14. **Compliance Certification.** Every permittee who has received NWP verification from the Corps will submit a signed certification regarding the completed work and any required mitigation. The certification will be forwarded by the Corps with the authorization letter and will include:
 - (a) A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the Corps authorization, including any general or specific conditions;
 - (b) A statement that any required mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions; and
 - (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the work and mitigation.
15. **Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits.** The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when the acreage loss of waters of the US authorized by the NWPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit (e.g. if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the US for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre).
16. **Water Supply Intakes.** No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake except where the activity is for repair of the public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.
17. **Shellfish Beds.** No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWP 4.
18. **Suitable Material.** No activity, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, may consist of unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.) and material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see Section 307 of the CWA).
19. **Mitigation.** The District Engineer will consider the factors discussed below when determining the acceptability of appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to offset adverse effects on the aquatic environment that are more than minimal.
 - (a) The project must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects to waters of the US to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).
 - (b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing or compensating) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal.
 - (c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland impacts requiring a PCN, unless the District Engineer determines in writing that some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate and provides a project-specific waiver of this requirement. Consistent with National policy, the District Engineer

will establish a preference for restoration of wetlands as compensatory mitigation, with preservation used only in exceptional circumstances.

(d) Compensatory mitigation (i.e., replacement or substitution of aquatic resources for those impacted) will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of some of the NWPs. For example, 1/4-acre of wetlands cannot be created to change a 3/4-acre loss of wetlands to a 1/2-acre loss associated with NWP 39 verification. However, 1/2-acre of created wetlands can be used to reduce the impacts of a 1/2-acre loss of wetlands to the minimum impact level in order to meet the minimal impact requirement associated with NWPs.

(e) To be practicable, the mitigation must be available and capable of being done considering costs, existing technology, and logistics in light of the overall project purposes. Examples of mitigation that may be appropriate and practicable include, but are not limited to: reducing the size of the project; establishing and maintaining wetland or upland vegetated buffers to protect open waters such as streams; and replacing losses of aquatic resource functions and values by creating, restoring, enhancing, or preserving similar functions and values, preferably in the same watershed.

(f) Compensatory mitigation plans for projects in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the establishment, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., easements, deed restrictions) of vegetated buffers to open waters. In many cases, vegetated buffers will be the only compensatory mitigation required. Vegetated buffers should consist of native species. The width of the vegetated buffers required will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the vegetated buffer will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the District Engineers may require slightly wider vegetated buffers to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the Corps will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., stream buffers or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where vegetated buffers are determined to be the most appropriate form of compensatory mitigation, the District Engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland impacts.

(g) Compensatory mitigation proposals submitted with the “notification” may be either conceptual or detailed. If conceptual plans are approved under the verification, then the Corps will condition the verification to require detailed plans be submitted and approved by the Corps prior to construction of the authorized activity in waters of the US.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee arrangements or separate activity-specific compensatory mitigation. In all cases that require compensatory mitigation, the mitigation provisions will specify the party responsible for accomplishing and/or complying with the mitigation plan.

20. **Spawning Areas.** Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., excavate, fill, or smother downstream by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.
21. **Management of Water Flows.** To the maximum extent practicable, the activity must be designed to maintain preconstruction downstream flow conditions (e.g., location, capacity, and flow rates). Furthermore, the activity must not permanently restrict or impede the

passage of normal or expected high flows (unless the primary purpose of the fill is to impound waters) and the structure or discharge of dredged or fill material must withstand expected high flows. The activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, provide for retaining excess flows from the site, provide for maintaining surface flow rates from the site similar to preconstruction conditions, and provide for not increasing water flows from the project site, relocating water, or redirecting water flow beyond preconstruction conditions. Stream channelizing will be reduced to the minimal amount necessary, and the activity must, to the maximum extent practicable, reduce adverse effects such as flooding or erosion downstream and upstream of the project site, unless the activity is part of a larger system designed to manage water flows. In most cases, it will not be a requirement to conduct detailed studies and monitoring of water flow. This condition is only applicable to projects that have the potential to affect waterflows. While appropriate measures must be taken, it is not necessary to conduct detailed studies to identify such measures or require monitoring to ensure their effectiveness. Normally, the Corps will defer to state and local authorities regarding management of water flow.

22. **Adverse Effects From Impoundments.** If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to the acceleration of the passage of water, and/or the restricting its flow shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. This includes structures and work in navigable waters of the US, or discharges of dredged or fill material.
23. **Waterfowl Breeding Areas.** Activities, including structures and work in navigable waters of the US or discharges of dredged or fill material, into breeding areas for migratory waterfowl must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.
24. **Removal of Temporary Fills.** Any temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to their preexisting elevation.
25. **Designated Critical Resource Waters.** Critical resource waters include, NOAA-designated marine sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, critical habitat for Federally listed threatened and endangered species, coral reefs, state natural heritage sites, and outstanding national resource waters or other waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance and identified by the District Engineer after notice and opportunity for public comment. The District Engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for comment.
 - (a) Except as noted below, discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters. Discharges of dredged or fill materials into waters of the US may be authorized by the above NWPs in National Wild and Scenic Rivers if the activity complies with General Condition 7. Further, such discharges may be authorized in designated critical habitat for Federally listed threatened or endangered species if the activity complies with General Condition 11 and the USFWS or the NMFS has concurred in a determination of compliance with this condition.
 - (b) For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, and 38, notification is required in accordance with General Condition 13, for any activity proposed in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The District Engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after it is determined that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

26. **Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains.** For purposes of this General Condition, 100-year floodplains will be identified through the existing Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps or FEMA-approved local floodplain maps.
- (a) Discharges in Floodplain; Below Headwaters. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the mapped 100-year floodplain, below headwaters (i.e. five cfs), resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWPs 39, 40, 42, 43, and 44.
- (b) Discharges in Floodway; Above Headwaters. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the US within the FEMA or locally mapped floodway, resulting in permanent above-grade fills, are not authorized by NWPs 39, 40, 42, and 44.
- (c) The permittee must comply with any applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.
27. **Construction Period.** For activities that have not been verified by the Corps and the project was commenced or under contract to commence by the expiration date of the NWP (or modification or revocation date), the work must be completed within 12-months after such date (including any modification that affects the project). For activities that have been verified and the project was commenced or under contract to commence within the verification period, the work must be completed by the date determined by the Corps. For projects that have been verified by the Corps, an extension of a Corps approved completion date maybe requested. This request must be submitted at least one month before the previously approved completion date.

D. FURTHER INFORMATION

1. District Engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project.

E. DEFINITIONS

- **Best Management Practices (BMPs):** BMPs are policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or non-structural. A BMP policy may affect the limits on a development.
- **Compensatory Mitigation:** For purposes of Section 10/404, compensatory mitigation is the restoration, creation, enhancement, or in exceptional circumstances, preservation of wetlands and/or other aquatic resources for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.
- **Creation:** The establishment of a wetland or other aquatic resource where one did not formerly exist.
- **Enhancement:** Activities conducted in existing wetlands or other aquatic resources that increase one or more aquatic functions.

- **Ephemeral Stream:** An ephemeral stream has flowing water only during and for a short duration after, precipitation events in a typical year. Ephemeral stream beds are located above the water table year-round. Groundwater is not a source of water for the stream. Runoff from rainfall is the primary source of water for stream flow.
- **Farm Tract:** A unit of contiguous land under one ownership that is operated as a farm or part of a farm.
- **Flood Fringe:** That portion of the 100-year floodplain outside of the floodway (often referred to as "floodway fringe").
- **Floodway:** The area regulated by Federal, state, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated amount (not to exceed one foot as set by the National Flood Insurance Program) within the 100-year floodplain.
- **Independent Utility:** A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete project in the Corps regulatory program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.
- **Intermittent Stream:** An intermittent stream has flowing water during certain times of the year, when groundwater provides water for stream flow. During dry periods, intermittent streams may not have flowing water. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.
- **Loss of Waters of the US:** Waters of the US that include the filled area and other waters that are permanently adversely affected by flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent above-grade, at-grade, or below-grade fills that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the US is the threshold measurement of the impact to existing waters for determining whether a project may qualify for an NWP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and values. The loss of stream bed includes the linear feet of stream bed that is filled or excavated. Impacts to ephemeral streams are not included in the linear foot measurement of loss of stream bed for the purpose of determining compliance with linear foot limits of NWPs 39, 40, 42, and 43. Waters of the US temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to preconstruction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the US.
- **Non-tidal Wetland:** A non-tidal wetland is a wetland (i.e., a water of the US) that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. The definition of a wetland can be found at 33 CFR 328.3(b). Non-tidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).
- **Open Water:** An area that, during a year with normal patterns of precipitation, has standing or flowing water for sufficient duration to establish an ordinary high water mark. Aquatic vegetation within the area of standing or flowing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. The term "open water"

includes rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. For the purposes of the NWP, this term does not include ephemeral waters.

- **Perennial Stream:** A perennial stream has flowing water year-round during a typical year. The water table is located above the stream bed for most of the year. Groundwater is the primary source of water for stream flow. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.
- **Permanent Above-grade Fill:** A discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the US, including wetlands, that results in a substantial increase in ground elevation and permanently converts part or all of the waterbody to dry land. Structural fills authorized by NWPs 3, 25, 36, etc. are not included.
- **Preservation:** The protection of ecologically important wetlands or other aquatic resources in perpetuity through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation may include protection of upland areas adjacent to wetlands as necessary to ensure protection and/or enhancement of the overall aquatic ecosystem.
- **Restoration:** Re-establishment of wetland and/or other aquatic resource characteristics and function(s) at a site where they have ceased to exist, or exist in a substantially degraded state.
- **Riffle and Pool Complex:** Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a coarse substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.
- **Single and Complete Project:** The term “single and complete project” is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers (see definition of independent utility). For linear projects, the “single and complete project” (i.e., a single and complete crossing) will apply to each crossing of a separate water of the US (i.e., a single waterbody) at that location. An exception is for linear projects crossing a single waterbody several times at separate and distant locations: each crossing is considered a single and complete project. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies.
- **Stormwater Management:** Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.
- **Stormwater Management Facilities:** Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and BMPs, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.
- **Stream Bed:** The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

- **Stream Channelization:** The manipulation of a stream channel to increase the rate of water flow through the stream channel. Manipulation may include deepening, widening, straightening, armoring, or other activities that change the stream cross-section or other aspects of stream channel geometry to increase the rate of water flow through the stream channel. A channelized stream remains a water of the US, despite the modifications to increase the rate of water flow.
- **Tidal Wetland:** A tidal wetland is a wetland (i.e., water of the US) that is inundated by tidal waters. The definitions of a wetland and tidal waters can be found at 33 CFR 328.3(b) and 33 CFR 328.3(f), respectively. Tidal waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line) and are inundated by tidal waters two times per lunar month, during spring high tides.
- **Vegetated Buffer:** A vegetated upland or wetland area next to rivers, streams, lakes, or other open waters which separates the open water from developed areas, including agricultural land. Vegetated buffers provide a variety of aquatic habitat functions and values (e.g., aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms, moderation of water temperature changes, and detritus for aquatic food webs) and help improve or maintain local water quality. A vegetated buffer can be established by maintaining an existing vegetated area or planting native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants on land next to open-waters. Mowed lawns are not considered vegetated buffers because they provide little or no aquatic habitat functions and values. The establishment and maintenance of vegetated buffers is a method of compensatory mitigation that can be used in conjunction with the restoration, creation, enhancement, or preservation of aquatic habitats to ensure that activities authorized by NWRPs result in minimal adverse effects to the aquatic environment. (See General Condition 19.)
- **Vegetated Shallows:** Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal circumstances have rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.
- **Waterbody:** A waterbody is any area that in a normal year has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that evidence of an ordinary high water mark is established. Wetlands contiguous to the waterbody are considered part of the waterbody.

F. REGIONAL GENERAL CONDITIONS:

- Notifications for all Nationwide permits should include a location map (USGS topographical map) and project drawings on 8 1/2" x 11" paper.
- Nationwide Permits shall not authorize any activity which impacts bogs and/or fens.
- No Nationwide permit may be used in Lake Erie for purposes of diverting water from the Great Lakes.

- In order to determine if a project meets the terms and conditions of the Ohio EPA's 401 water quality certification, **two copies of** the following information is necessary:
 - All wetland delineations must include the latest approved version of the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) for wetland evaluation, long form. (This will assist OEPA in determining the category of wetland the applicant proposes to impact.)
 - Photographs of the wetland.

NOTE: This information is in addition to the required information listed under General Condition 13 (Notification) of the NWP.

- Notification is required for all work in Critical Resource Waters.

The following are designated as **Critical Resource Waters**:

- Special habitat waters of Lake Erie including the shoreline, off shore islands, rock outcrops, and adjacent waters within the boundaries defined as 82° 22' 30" West Longitude, 83° 07' 30" West Longitude, 41° 33' 00" North Latitude, and 42°33'00" North Latitude. This portion of Lake Erie is designated as a CRW because the Lake Erie water snake (*Nerodia sipedon insularum*), a Federally listed threatened species resides in portions of this geographic area.
- In Ohio, two areas have been designated critical habitat for the piping plover (Charadrius melodus) and are defined as lands 0.62 miles inland from normal high water line. Unit OH-1, extends from the mouth of Sawmill Creek to the western property boundary of Sheldon Marsh State Natural Area, Erie County, encompassing approximately 2.0 miles. Unit OH-2, extends from the eastern boundary line of Headland Dunes Nature Preserve to the western boundary of the Nature Preserve and Headland Dunes State Park, Lake County, encompassing approximately 0.5 mile.
- Big and Little Darby Creeks (National Wild and Scenic River System): Big Darby Creek from Champaign-Union County line downstream to the Conrail railroad trestle and from the confluence with the Little Darby Creek downstream to the Scioto River. Little Darby Creek from the Lafayette Plain City Road Bridge downstream to within 0.8 mile from the confluence with Big Darby Creek. Total designation is approximately 82 miles.
- Little Beaver Creek (National Wild and Scenic River System): Little Beaver Creek main stem, from the confluence of West Fork with Middle Fork near Williamsport to mouth; North Fork from confluence of Brush Run and North Fork to confluence of North Fork with main stem at Fredericktown; Middle Fork from vicinity of Co. Rd. 901 (Elkton Road) bridge crossing to confluence of Middle Fork with West Fork near Williamsport; West Fork from vicinity of Co. Rd. 914 (Y-Camp Road) bridge crossing east to confluence of West Fork with Middle Fork near Williamsport. Total designation is 33 miles
- Little Miami (Scenic component of the National System from Clifton to Foster) The portion from Foster to the Ohio River was designated a Recreational component of the National system. Total designation is 92 miles.

- Notification is required for all activities in state Wild and Scenic Rivers (see list below).
The following are **State Wild and Scenic Rivers** :

Little Miami River - Clermont County line at Loveland to headwaters, including North Fork, Clermont County line at Loveland to confluence with East Fork and from the confluence with East Fork to Ohio River. Miles designated (approximate): 105

Sandusky River - US Rt. 30 in Upper Sandusky to Roger Young Memorial Park in Fremont. Miles designated (approximate): 65

Olentangy River - Delaware Dam to Old Wilson Bridge Road in Worthington. Miles designated (approximate): 22

Little Beaver Creek - *Wild segments* - West Fork from 1/4 mile downstream from Twp. Rd. 914 to confluence with Middle Fork. North Fork from Twp Rd. 952 to confluence with Little Beaver Creek. Little Beaver Creek from confluence of West and Middle Forks downstream to 3/4 mile north of Grimm's Bridge. *Scenic segments* - North Fork from Ohio-Pennsylvania line downstream to Jackman Road. Middle Fork from Elkton Rd. (Twp. Rd. 901) downstream to confluence with West Fork. Little Beaver Creek from 3/4 mile north of Grimm's Bridge downstream to the Ohio-Pennsylvania line. Miles designated (approximate): Wild 20, Scenic 16

Grand River - *Wild segment* - from Harpersfield covered bridge downstream to Norfolk and Western Railroad trestle south of Painesville. *Scenic segment* - from St. Rt. 322 Bridge in Ashtabula County downstream to Harpersfield covered bridge. Miles designated (approximate): Scenic 33, Wild 23

Upper Cuyahoga River - Troy-Burton Township line in Geauga County to US Rt. 14. Miles designated (approximate): 25

Maumee River - *Scenic segment* - Ohio-Indiana line to St. Rt. 24 bridge west of Defiance. *Recreational segment* - St. Rt. 24 Bridge west of Defiance to US Rt. 25 Bridge near Perrysburg. Miles designated (approximate): Scenic 43, Recreational 53

Stillwater River System - *Recreational segment* - Englewood dam to confluence with Great Miami River. *Scenic segments* - Stillwater River from Riffle Road bridge in Darke Co. to Englewood dam. Greenville Creek from the Ohio-Indiana state line to the confluence with the Stillwater. Miles designated (approximate): Scenic 83, Recreational 10

Chagrin River - Aurora Branch from St. Rt. 82 bridge downstream to confluence with Chagrin. Chagrin River from confluence with Aurora Branch downstream to St. Rt. 6 bridge. East Branch from Heath Road bridge downstream to confluence with Chagrin. Miles designated (approximate): 49

Big and Little Darby Creeks - Big Darby Creek from the Champaign-Union County line downstream to the U.S. Rt. 40 Bridge, from the northern boundary of Battelle-Darby Creek Metro Park to the confluence with the Little Darby Creek downstream to the Scioto River. Little Darby Creek from the Lafayette-Plain City Road Bridge downstream to the confluence with Big Darby Creek. Miles designated (approximate): 84

Kokosing River - Knox/Morrow County line to confluence with Mohican River. North Branch of Kokosing from confluence with East Branch downstream to confluence with main stem. Miles designated (approximate): 48

G. OHIO STATE CERTIFICATION GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMITS.

A) Streams:

- 1) Temporary or permanent impacts to intermittent and perennial streams for any single and complete project are limited to a maximum of two hundred (200) linear feet [except for NWP 3, 12, 21, 27, and 41];
- 2) Temporary or permanent impacts to ephemeral streams for any single and complete project are limited to a maximum of three hundred (300) linear feet [except for NWP 3, 12, 21, 27, and 41];
- 3) Temporary or permanent impacts to Exceptional Warmwater Habitat, Cold Water Habitat, Seasonal Salmonid, or any equivalent designation, or with an antidegradation category of State Resource Water, Superior High Quality Water (except as it applies to Lake Erie), Outstanding National Resource Waters, or Outstanding High Quality Waters are prohibited [except for NWP 3 and maintenance activities covered under NWP 7, 12, and 33];
- 4) Temporary or permanent impacts to the designated portions of national or state scenic rivers are prohibited [except for NWP 3 and maintenance activities covered under NWP 12];
- 5) Stream reconstruction activities shall adhere to natural channel design techniques;
- 6) Off-site stream or buffer improvements and/or mitigative measures required by the Corps:
 - a. In order of priority, these measures shall focus on 1) the stream segment being impacted, 2) upstream segments and tributaries, 3) the receiving stream. The measures should, to the extent practicable, consider the causes and sources of impairment of the stream where the measures would be undertaken if the stream is listed as impaired in the most recent final report submitted to the United States environmental protection agency by the director of Ohio EPA to fulfill the

requirements of Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. The current list of impaired streams, as of the date of this certification, can be found on the Ohio EPA web site at: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/tmdl/303dnotc.html> (Tables 1 through 6).

b. If the applicant cannot find appropriate mitigation on streams listed in section a) above, mitigation shall be in the Ohio EPA 8-digit watershed.

7) On-site stream or buffer improvements and/or mitigative measures required by the Corps:

- a) Vegetative buffers on both stream banks an appropriate length; and
- b) A minimum width of 25 feet for preservation of existing vegetative buffers; or
- c) A minimum width of 50 feet for re-vegetating buffers cleared during construction.

8) Compensatory mitigation for linear projects (e.g., highways) in streams may be mitigated for by the following, in descending order of practicability:

- a) Stream impacts associated with a linear project may be mitigated on-site, defined as within one mile of the linear project, in each Ohio EPA 8-digit watershed as shown in OAC 3745-1-54(F)(2); or
- b) Stream impacts associated with a linear project may be mitigated at a single stream mitigation location or stream mitigation bank (if and when such a bank is established), acceptable to the director, within each Ohio EPA 8-digit watershed in which such impacts occur; or
- c) If no stream mitigation bank, acceptable to the director, is located within the Ohio EPA 8-digit watershed in which the impact occurs, then mitigation may occur in another Ohio EPA 8-digit watershed impacted by the linear project; at a single stream mitigation location, or a stream mitigation bank, acceptable to the director; or
- d) If no stream mitigation bank exists within any of the watersheds connected with the linear project, then mitigation should occur within the watershed in which the largest impacts (in terms of area) occur.

B) Wetlands:

- 1) Temporary or permanent impacts to Category 3 wetlands are prohibited.
- 2) Temporary or permanent impacts to Category 1 and 2 wetlands for any single and complete project are limited to a maximum total of ½ acre [except for NWP 21 & 27].
- 3) Wetland mitigation shall adhere to the requirements set forth in Ohio EPA's Wetland Water Quality Standards (OAC 3745-1-50 through 54). [In the event that suitable mitigation cannot be located on-site (within one mile) or within the watershed, mitigation may be located outside of the watershed if there are significant ecological reasons to do so].

C) General:

- 1) Impacts shall be measured linearly from upstream to downstream, including the length of stream impoundments, when calculating the total length of stream impacts [except for NWP 12, for which impacts shall be measured bank-to-bank].
- 2) NWPs cannot be combined to increase any of the aforementioned limitations.
- 3) Authorization under this Certification does not relieve the permittee from the responsibility of obtaining any other federal, state or local permits, approvals or authorizations required by law, including without limitation, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits or Permits to install (PTIs).
- 4) In order to control pollution of public waters by soil sediment from accelerated stream channel erosion and flood plain erosion caused by accelerated stormwater runoff from development areas, permittees shall comply with Ohio Administrative Code 1501:15-1-05 Stream Channel and Floodplain Erosion, or successor rule, as applicable to the project pursuant to OAC 1501:15-1-02.
- 5) OAC 1501:15-1-05 states that the peak rates of runoff from an area after development may be no greater than the peak rates of runoff from the same area before development for all twenty-four-hour storms from one to one-hundred-year frequency.
- 6) Locally required post development stormwater ponds shall incorporate specific design features for water quality such as those listed in Chapter One of the Ohio Department of Natural Resource's *Rainwater and Land Development: Ohio's Standards for Stormwater Management, Land Development and Urban Stream Protection. 2nd Ed. Mecklenburg, Dan. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Conservation. 1996* (or successor document), to the extent allowed by local stormwater requirements. These features include: infiltration trenches, extended detention, wet pools, forebays, aquatic benches and wetlands, optimum flow length, reverse flow pipe, optimum pool depth, shading and buffer plants, and runoff reuse.
- 7) The Best Management Practices (BMPs) listed below shall be utilized with all NWPs when applicable.
 - a) The filling of, and discharge of dredged material into, Category 3 wetlands is prohibited under this permit;
 - b) Only suitable material, free of toxic contaminants in other than trace quantities, shall be used as fill material;
 - c) The use of asphalt and rubber tires as fill is prohibited under this permit;
 - d) All hydric topsoil removed from a trench shall be separated and saved for later placement as the topmost backfill layer when the trench is refilled;
 - e) The stockpiling of side-cast dredged material in wetlands in excess of three (3) months is prohibited;
 - f) The applicant will comply with all requirements for final stabilization of the site contained in applicable NPDES construction stormwater permits for the site;

- g) Vegetated buffer strips extending to the top of both stream banks and beyond as stipulated by the Corps or Ohio EPA, using native tree and shrub species with rapid growth characteristics, shall be planted as soon as practicable after impacting stream channel slopes;
- h) Impacts to surface water buffer vegetation shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable;
- i) Excavating equipment shall not be placed below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) of any surface water, except when no other alternative is practicable. When no other alternative is practicable to placing excavating equipment below the OHWM, entry to surface waters shall be through a single point of access per stream bank whenever practicable to minimize disturbance to buffer vegetation;
- j) In-stream activities shall not result in the permanent destabilization of the stream banks or stream bed so that degradation to aquatic habitat from turbidity, erosion or scouring is minimized;
- k) In-stream work shall be conducted during low-flow conditions whenever practicable in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality away from the project site, except in cases of emergency situations which threaten human life or property;
- l) All dredged material placed at an upland site shall be controlled so that sediment runoff to remaining streams and wetlands is minimized to the maximum extent practicable; and
- m) Disturbed areas shall be controlled so that sediment runoff to remaining streams and wetlands is minimized to the maximum extent practicable.