



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

**Detroit District**

# Public Notice

Corps File No. LRE-2020-00006

Date: March 8, 2021

---

## **REISSUANCE OF NATIONWIDE PERMITS AND FINAL REGIONAL CONDITIONS IN MICHIGAN**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published a final rule in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 86, No. 8) on January 13, 2021 announcing the reissuance of 12 existing nationwide permits (NWP) and four new NWP, as well as the reissuance of NWP general conditions and definitions with some modifications. The following 16 NWP will go into effect on March 15, 2021, and will expire on March 14, 2026:

- NWP 12 – Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities
- NWP 21 – Surface Coal Mining Activities
- NWP 29 – Residential Developments
- NWP 39 – Commercial and Institutional Developments
- NWP 40 – Agricultural Activities
- NWP 42 – Recreational Facilities
- NWP 43 – Stormwater Management Facilities
- NWP 44 – Mining Activities
- NWP 48 – Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities
- NWP 50 – Underground Coal Mining Activities
- NWP 51 – Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
- NWP 52 – Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects
- NWP 55 – Seaweed Mariculture Activities
- NWP 56 – Finfish Mariculture Activities
- NWP 57 – Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities
- NWP 58 – Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances

The 12 existing NWP published in the January 13, 2021 final rule replace the 2017 versions of these NWP. The 2017 versions of NWP 12, 21, 29, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 48, 50, 51, and 52 expire on March 14, 2021.

There are 40 existing NWP that were not reissued or modified by the January 13, 2021 final rule. Those 40 NWP were published in the January 6, 2017, issue of the *Federal Register* (82 FR 1860) and those NWP remain in effect until the Corps issues a final rule reissuing those NWP or March 18, 2022, whichever comes first. The terms, conditions, regional conditions, and Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the 40 existing NWP

remain in effect for the duration of these 2017 NWP's.

The January 13, 2021, *Federal Register* notice is available for viewing at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/01/13/2021-00102/reissuance-and-modification-of-nationwide-permits>. As an alternative, interested parties can access the January 13, 2021, final rule and related documents at: <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/>

In addition, regional conditions were developed which will provide additional protection for the aquatic environment by ensuring that the NWP's authorize only those activities with minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. Regional conditions will help ensure protection of high value waters within Michigan. NWP's 48 and 55, and 56 are not available in Michigan as they only authorize work in marine waters. The Great Lakes & Ohio River Division revoked NWP's 21, 44, 50 and 52 in Michigan because the District was unable to determine that the work allowed under these permits would result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse impacts to the aquatic environment. NWP's 40, 48, 55 and 56 were issued without additional regional conditions. NWP's 12, 29, 39, 42, 43, 51, 57 and 58 were issued with additional District regional conditions.

Three different agencies are responsible for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) in their respective parts of Michigan. The State of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) administers WQC on non-tribal lands in Michigan. EGLE is also responsible for administering the State of Michigan's Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). On tribal lands in Michigan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers WQC on all Federally recognized tribal lands except for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) tribal lands. The KBIC administers WQC on their tribal lands. In response to the September 15, 2020 Federal Register Notice and the Detroit District's subsequent September 29, 2020 Public Notice, the three agencies made determinations regarding WQC and CZMA consistency as shown in the table included in Section A.

The Detroit District prepared supplemental documents for the Michigan regional conditions for the reissued and new NWP's. These documents are available at Detroit District office and on the Internet at <https://www.lre.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/>. The Division Engineer for the Great Lakes & Ohio River Division approved the Detroit District supplemental documents for the Michigan regional conditions.

Attached is an index of the NWP's with a summary of the WQC/CZMA status in Michigan (Section A), the text of the NWP's and regional conditions applicable to specific NWP's in Michigan (Section B), the Detroit District regional conditions applicable to all NWP's in Michigan (Section C), the EGLE regional conditions applicable to all NWP's for WQC /CZMA consistency (Section D), the General Conditions (Section E), and Further Information (Section F).

If you have questions on the regional conditions or Nationwide permits in the Detroit District contact Robert Morningstar, at 313-226-2015, or e-mail at [Robert.L.Morningstar@usace.army.mil](mailto:Robert.L.Morningstar@usace.army.mil).

Charles M. Simon  
Chief, Regulatory Office  
Engineering and Technical Services Division

## Section A

### A. Index of the Nationwide Permits and WQC/CZMA status in Michigan:

	<u>EGLE WQC/CZMA in MI</u>	<u>EPA WQC on Tribal Lands</u> <u>(Excluding KBIC Lands)</u>	<u>WQC on KBIC</u> <u>Tribal Lands</u>
<b>Nationwide Permit</b>			
12. Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities	C	D	D
21. Surface Coal Mining Activities <sup>#</sup>	#	#	#
29. Residential Developments	C	C	D
39. Commercial and Institutional Developments	D	C	D
40. Agricultural Activities	C	C	D
42. Recreational Facilities	C	C	D
43. Stormwater Management Facilities	C	C	D
44. Mining Activities <sup>#</sup>	#	#	#
48. Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities <sup>*</sup>	*	*	*
50. Underground Coal Mining Activities <sup>#</sup>	#	#	#
51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities	W/D	C	D
52. Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects <sup>#</sup>	#	#	#
55. Seaweed Mariculture Activities <sup>*</sup>	*	*	*
56. Finfish Mariculture Activities <sup>*</sup>	*	*	*
57. Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities	C	D	D
58. Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances	C	D	D

\* Not applicable in Michigan, as NWP authorizes work in marine waters

# Revoked by Detroit District

**C** – WQC Approved with Conditions; **D** – WQC Denied; W – Waived.



**B. Nationwide Permits and regional conditions applicable to specific NWP:**

**12. Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities.** Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of oil and natural gas pipelines and associated facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project.

*Oil or natural gas pipelines:* This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States and structures or work in navigable waters for crossings of those waters associated with the construction, maintenance, or repair of oil and natural gas pipelines. There must be no change in pre-construction contours of waters of the United States. An "oil or natural gas pipeline" is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any form of oil or natural gas, including products derived from oil or natural gas, such as gasoline, jet fuel, diesel fuel, heating oil, petrochemical feedstocks, waxes, lubricating oils, and asphalt.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, 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 side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line crossing of each waterbody.

*Oil or natural gas pipeline substations:* This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities (e.g., oil or natural gas or gaseous fuel custody transfer stations, boosting stations, compression stations, metering stations, pressure regulating stations) associated with an oil or natural gas pipeline in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

*Foundations for above-ground oil or natural gas pipelines:* This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for above-ground oil or natural gas pipelines in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary.

*Access roads:* This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines, in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize oil or natural gas pipelines in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (see 33 CFR part 322). Oil or natural gas pipelines routed in, over, or under section 10 waters without a discharge of dredged or fill material may require a section 10 permit.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that Department of the Army authorization is required, temporary structures, fills, and work necessary for the remediation of inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States through sub-soil fissures or fractures that might occur during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing oil or natural gas pipelines. These remediation activities must be done as soon as practicable, to restore the affected waterbody. District engineers may add special conditions to this NWP to require a remediation plan for addressing inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing oil or natural gas pipelines.

## Section B

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to conduct the oil or natural gas pipeline activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. After construction, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) a section 10 permit is required; (2) the discharge will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States; or (3) the proposed oil or natural gas pipeline activity is associated with an overall project that is greater than 250 miles in length and the project purpose is to install new pipeline (vs. conduct repair or maintenance activities) along the majority of the distance of the overall project length. If the proposed oil or gas pipeline is greater than 250 miles in length, the pre-construction notification must include the locations and proposed impacts (in acres or other appropriate unit of measure) for all crossings of waters of the United States that require DA authorization, including those crossings authorized by an NWP would not otherwise require pre-construction notification. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** Where the oil or natural gas pipeline is constructed, installed, or maintained in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, a copy of the NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), for charting the oil or natural gas pipeline to protect navigation.

**Note 2:** For oil or natural gas pipeline activities crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Oil or natural gas pipeline activities must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

**Note 3:** 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 oil or natural gas pipeline must be removed upon completion of the work, in accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.

**Note 4:** Pipes or pipelines used to transport gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substances over navigable waters of the United States are considered to be bridges, and may require a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to the General Bridge Act of 1946. However, any discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with such oil or natural gas pipelines will require a section 404 permit (see NWP 15).

**Note 5:** This NWP authorizes oil or natural gas pipeline maintenance and repair activities that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f) exemption for maintenance of currently serviceable fills or fill structures.

**Note 6:** For NWP 12 activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include 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, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

### *Detroit District Regional Conditions for NWP 12:*

- a. *For substations and permanent access roads, no discharge is authorized in areas below the OHWM, areas subject to inundation by the adjacent water body, or areas which otherwise provide fish habitat functions.*
- b. *Impacts for substations and permanent access roads are limited to 1/4 acre in wetlands adjacent to navigable waters of the U.S.*
- c. *Impacted wetlands outside of permanently maintained rights of way shall be restored to the same or more valuable wetland type (e.g., forested wetlands shall be restored to forested wetlands). Within permanently maintained rights of way, impacted wetlands shall be restored, unless otherwise authorized by the Corps.*
- d. *For utility lines placed across the channel of an authorized Federal navigation project, the following conditions apply:*
  - 1) *the line must be embedded at least 6 feet below the authorized Federal channel depth;*

## Section B

- 2) existing and proposed elevation information on precise plan and section scale drawings are required;
  - 3) within 60 days after construction, an as-built survey must be provided indicating the points of entry and exit of the installation.
- e. The application must provide the latitude and longitude (or UTM coordinates) of each end of the utility line at the limits of Corps jurisdiction (OHWM or upland limit of wetlands), and for each point between where the utility changes direction.
  - f. All excavated and dredged material, other than that used to backfill the trench as authorized pursuant to NWP 12, shall be disposed of on uplands.

*EGLE Water Quality Certification/CZMA consistency on non-tribal lands for NWP 12: EGLE granted certification based on the following conditions:*

1. NWP 12 shall not be used in waters regulated under Part 325, Great Lakes Submerged Lands, of the NREPA.
2. For substations and access roads, no discharge is authorized in areas below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), areas subject to inundation by the adjacent water body, or areas which otherwise provide fish habitat functions.
3. Impacts for substations and access roads are limited to 0.10 acre. Applicants must demonstrate that upland alternatives are not practicable. Permanent access roads shall not be authorized.
4. Impacted wetlands outside of permanently maintained rights-of-way shall be restored to the same or more valuable wetland type (e.g., forested wetlands shall be restored to forested wetlands). Within permanently maintained rights of way, impacted wetlands shall be restored, unless otherwise authorized by the EGLE and the USACE.
5. All excavated and dredged material, other than that used to backfill the trench as authorized pursuant to NWP 12, shall be properly disposed of in uplands (i.e., outside of wetlands, floodplains, or inland lakes and streams).
6. All revegetation of wetland sites must be with plant species that are native to Michigan according to the Floristic Quality Assessment for the State of Michigan.

*Water Quality Certification on All Tribal Lands Except for KBIC tribal lands for NWP 12: EPA denied certification for NWP 12.*

*Water Quality Certification on KBIC tribal lands for NWP 12: KBIC denied certification for NWP 12.*

**21. Surface Coal Mining Activities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with surface coal mining and reclamation operations, provided the following criteria are met:

- (a) The activities are already authorized, or are currently being processed by states with approved programs under Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 or by the Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement;
- (b) The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into tidal waters or non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters; and
- (c) The discharge is not associated with the construction of valley fills. A "valley fill" is a fill structure that is typically constructed within valleys associated with steep, mountainous terrain, associated with surface coal mining activities.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

*The Detroit District has revoked NWP 21.*

**29. Residential Developments.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction or expansion of a single residence, a multiple unit residential development, or a residential subdivision. This NWP authorizes the construction of building foundations and building pads and attendant features that are necessary for the use of the residence or residential development. Attendant features may include but are

## Section B

not limited to roads, parking lots, garages, yards, utility lines, storm water management facilities, septic fields, and recreation facilities such as playgrounds, playing fields, and golf courses (provided the golf course is an integral part of the residential development).

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

**Subdivisions:** For residential subdivisions, the aggregate total loss of waters of United States authorized by this NWP cannot exceed 1/2-acre. This includes any loss of waters of the United States associated with development of individual subdivision lots.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

### *Detroit District Regional Conditions for NWP 29:*

- a. *The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/4 acre of wetlands adjacent to navigable waters of the U.S.*
- b. *No discharge is authorized in areas waterward of the OHWM, areas subject to inundation by the adjacent waterbody, or areas which provide fish habitat functions.*
- c. *The following attendant features are authorized under this NWP: garage, driveway, parking/turn areas, lawn up to 15 feet surrounding the buildings, storage shed, septic field, utilities, deck foundations, and access paths.*
- d. *Culverts and other measures to maintain pre-existing drainage patterns across the site are required.*
- e. *Where the option is available, on-site sewage treatment systems shall utilize pump-back systems to upland.*

*EGLE Water Quality Certification/CZMA consistency on non-tribal lands for NWP 29: EGLE granted certification based on the following conditions:*

1. *NWP 29 is limited to the construction or expansion of a single family residence with less than 0.1 acre of wetland impact on properties that have been owned within an immediate family since 1980.*
2. *NWP 29 is not authorized where rare or imperiled habitat types (S1, S2, or S3 ranked) as defined by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory would be impacted.*
3. *NWP 29 shall not be used in waters regulated under Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams; and Part 325, Great Lakes Submerged Lands, of the NREPA.*

*Water Quality Certification on All Tribal Lands Except for KBIC tribal lands for NWP 29: EPA granted certification based on the following conditions:*

*All applicants must provide notice to EPA Region 5 prior to commencing construction to provide EPA Region 5 with the opportunity to inspect the activity for the purposes of determining whether any discharge from the proposed project will violate this water quality certification. Where the Corps requires a Pre-construction Notification (PCN) for the applicable NWP, the applicant should also provide the PCN to Region 5. EPA Region 5 will provide written notification to the applicant if the proposed project will violate the water quality certification of the NWP.*

*Water Quality Certification on KBIC tribal lands for NWP 29: KBIC denied certification for NWP 29.*

**39. Commercial and Institutional Developments.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction or expansion of 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, storm water management facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, and recreation facilities such as playgrounds and playing fields. 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 construction of new golf courses and new ski areas is not authorized by this NWP.

## Section B

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** For any activity that involves the construction of a wind energy generating structure, solar tower, or overhead transmission line, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

*Detroit District Regional Conditions for NWP 39:*

- a. *No discharge is authorized in areas below the OHWM, areas subject to inundation by the adjacent water body, or areas which otherwise provide fish habitat functions of any kind.*
- b. *The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/4 acre of wetlands adjacent to navigable waters of the U.S.*

*EGLE Water Quality Certification/CZMA consistency on non-tribal lands for NWP 39: EGLE denied WQC/CZMA consistency for NWP 39.*

*Water Quality Certification on All Tribal Lands Except for KBIC tribal lands for NWP 39: EPA granted certification based on the following conditions:*

*All applicants must provide notice to EPA Region 5 prior to commencing construction to provide EPA Region 5 with the opportunity to inspect the activity for the purposes of determining whether any discharge from the proposed project will violate this water quality certification. Where the Corps requires a Pre-construction Notification (PCN) for the applicable NWP, the applicant should also provide the PCN to Region 5. EPA Region 5 will provide written notification to the applicant if the proposed project will violate the water quality certification of the NWP.*

*Water Quality Certification on KBIC tribal lands for NWP 39: KBIC denied certification for NWP 39.*

**40. Agricultural Activities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for agricultural activities, including 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 United States; and similar activities.

This NWP also authorizes the construction of farm ponds in non-tidal waters of the United States, excluding perennial streams, provided the farm pond is used solely for agricultural purposes. This NWP does not authorize the construction of aquaculture ponds.

This NWP also authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal jurisdictional waters of the United States to relocate existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

**Note:** Some discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States for agricultural activities may qualify for an exemption under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (see 33 CFR 323.4). This NWP authorizes the construction of farm ponds that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f)(1)(C) exemption because of the recapture provision at section 404(f)(2).

*The Detroit District has no Regional Conditions for NWP 40.*

*EGLE Water Quality Certification/CZMA consistency on non-tribal lands for NWP 40: EGLE granted certification based on the following conditions:*

1. *NWP 40 is limited to building pads for farm buildings impacting a maximum of 0.50 acre of wetland within areas that have been in existing, on-going agricultural production since at least 1980.*

*Water Quality Certification on All Tribal Lands Except for KBIC tribal lands for NWP 40: EPA granted certification based on the following conditions:*

*All applicants must provide notice to EPA Region 5 prior to commencing construction to provide EPA Region 5 with the opportunity to inspect the activity for the purposes of determining whether any discharge from the proposed project will violate this water quality certification. Where the Corps requires a Pre-construction Notification (PCN) for the applicable NWP, the applicant should also provide the PCN to Region 5. EPA Region 5 will provide written notification to the applicant if the proposed project will violate the water quality certification of the NWP.*

*Water Quality Certification on KBIC tribal lands for NWP 40: KBIC denied certification for NWP 40.*

**42. Recreational Facilities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Examples of recreational facilities that may be authorized by this NWP include playing fields (e.g., football fields, baseball fields), basketball courts, tennis courts, hiking trails, bike paths, golf courses, ski areas, horse paths, nature centers, and campgrounds (excluding recreational vehicle parks). 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, but it does not authorize the construction of hotels, restaurants, racetracks, stadiums, arenas, or similar facilities.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

*Detroit District Regional Conditions for NWP 42:*

- a. *No discharge is authorized in areas below the OHWM, areas subject to inundation by the adjacent water body, or areas which otherwise provide fish habitat functions of any kind.*
- b. *The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/4 acre of wetlands adjacent to navigable waters of the U.S.*
- c. *Golf courses and ski areas are not authorized.*

*EGLE Water Quality Certification/CZMA consistency on non-tribal lands for NWP 42: EGLE granted certification based on the following conditions:*

1. *NWP 42 is limited to fill pathways on public lands and open pile or floating boardwalks and docks.*
2. *Fill pathways shall be limited to 6 feet in width and a maximum of 200 feet in length.*

*Water Quality Certification on All Tribal Lands Except for KBIC tribal lands for NWP 42: EPA granted certification based on the following conditions:*

*All applicants must provide notice to EPA Region 5 prior to commencing construction to provide EPA Region 5 with the opportunity to inspect the activity for the purposes of determining whether any discharge from the proposed project will violate this water quality certification. Where the Corps requires a Pre-construction Notification (PCN) for the applicable NWP, the applicant should also provide the PCN to Region 5. EPA Region 5 will provide written notification to the applicant if the proposed project will violate the water quality certification of the NWP.*

*Water Quality Certification on KBIC tribal lands for NWP 42: KBIC denied certification for NWP 42.*

**43. Stormwater Management Facilities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction of stormwater management facilities, including stormwater detention basins and retention basins and other stormwater management facilities; the construction of water control structures, outfall structures and emergency spillways; the construction of low impact development integrated management features such as bioretention facilities (e.g., rain gardens), vegetated filter strips, grassed swales, and infiltration trenches; and the construction of pollutant reduction green infrastructure features designed to reduce inputs of sediments, nutrients, and other pollutants into waters, such as features needed to meet reduction targets established under Total Maximum Daily Loads set under the Clean Water Act.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that a section 404 permit is required, discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the maintenance of stormwater management facilities, low impact development integrated management features, and pollutant reduction green infrastructure features. The maintenance of stormwater management facilities, low impact development integrated management features, and pollutant reduction green infrastructure features that are not waters of the United States does not require a section 404 permit.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction of new stormwater management facilities in perennial streams.

**Notification:** For discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction of new stormwater management facilities or pollutant reduction green infrastructure features, or the expansion of existing stormwater management facilities or pollutant reduction green infrastructure features, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) Maintenance activities do not require pre-construction notification if they are limited to restoring the original design capacities of the stormwater management facility or pollutant reduction green infrastructure feature. (Authority: Section 404)

*Detroit District Regional Conditions for NWP 43:*

1. *Construction of new facilities is not authorized.*

*EGLE Water Quality Certification/CZMA consistency on non-tribal lands for NWP 43: EGLE granted certification based on the following conditions:*

1. *NWP 43 maintenance activities are limited to 0.50 acre, in facilities which were designed for the primary purpose of stormwater detention, retention and/or treatment.*
2. *NWP 43 may be used only to authorize maintenance activities in facilities constructed and used for the primary purpose of providing stormwater detention, retention, and treatment.*
3. *All dredged or excavated materials shall be disposed of in upland (i.e. outside of wetlands, floodplains, or inland lakes and streams).*

*Water Quality Certification on All Tribal Lands Except for KBIC tribal lands for NWP 43: EPA granted certification based on the following conditions:*

*All applicants must provide notice to EPA Region 5 prior to commencing construction to provide EPA Region 5 with the opportunity to inspect the activity for the purposes of determining whether any discharge from the proposed project will violate this water quality certification. Where the Corps requires a Pre-construction Notification (PCN) for the applicable NWP, the applicant should also provide the PCN to Region 5. EPA Region 5 will provide written notification to the applicant if the proposed project will violate the water quality certification of the NWP.*

*Water Quality Certification on KBIC tribal lands for NWP 43: KBIC denied certification for NWP 43.*

**44. Mining Activities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for mining activities, except for coal mining activities, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

## Section B

(a) For mining activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal jurisdictional wetlands, the discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal jurisdictional wetlands;

(b) For mining activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material in non-tidal jurisdictional open waters (e.g., rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds) or work in non-tidal navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters), the mined area, including permanent and temporary impacts due to discharges of dredged or fill material into jurisdictional waters, must not exceed 1/2-acre; and

(c) The acreage loss under paragraph (a) plus the acreage impact under paragraph (b) does not exceed 1/2-acre.

This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) If reclamation is required by other statutes, then a copy of the final reclamation plan must be submitted with the pre-construction notification. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

*The Detroit District has revoked NWP 44.*

**48. Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities.** Structures or work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States necessary for new and continuing commercial shellfish mariculture operations (i.e., the cultivation of bivalve mollusks such as oysters, mussels, clams, and scallops) in authorized project areas. For the purposes of this NWP, the project area is the area in which the operator is authorized to conduct commercial shellfish mariculture activities, as identified through a lease or permit issued by an appropriate state or local government agency, a treaty, or any easement, lease, deed, contract, or other legally binding agreement that establishes an enforceable property interest for the operator.

This NWP authorizes the installation of buoys, floats, racks, trays, nets, lines, tubes, containers, and other structures into navigable waters of the United States. This NWP also authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States necessary for shellfish seeding, rearing, cultivating, transplanting, and harvesting activities. Rafts and other floating structures must be securely anchored and clearly marked.

This NWP does not authorize:

- (a) The cultivation of a nonindigenous species unless that species has been previously cultivated in the waterbody;
- (b) The cultivation of an aquatic nuisance species as defined in the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990; or
- (c) Attendant features such as docks, piers, boat ramps, stockpiles, or staging areas, or the deposition of shell material back into waters of the United States as waste.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the activity directly affects more than 1/2-acre of submerged aquatic vegetation. If the operator will be conducting commercial shellfish mariculture activities in multiple contiguous project areas, he or she can either submit one PCN for those contiguous project areas or submit a separate PCN for each project area. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** The permittee should notify the applicable U.S. Coast Guard office regarding the project.

**Note 2:** To prevent introduction of aquatic nuisance species, no material that has been taken from a different waterbody may be reused in the current project area, unless it has been treated in accordance with the applicable regional aquatic nuisance species management plan.

**Note 3:** The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 defines "aquatic nuisance species" as "a nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters."

*NWP 48 does not apply in Michigan.*



**50. Underground Coal Mining Activities**. Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States associated with underground coal mining and reclamation operations provided the activities are authorized, or are currently being processed by the Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, or by states with approved programs under Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters. This NWP does not authorize coal preparation and processing activities outside of the mine site.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer. (See general condition 32.) If reclamation is required by other statutes, then a copy of the reclamation plan must be submitted with the pre-construction notification. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

*The Detroit District has revoked NWP 50.*

**51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities**. Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction, expansion, or modification of land-based renewable energy production facilities, including attendant features. Such facilities include infrastructure to collect solar (concentrating solar power and photovoltaic), wind, biomass, or geothermal energy. Attendant features may include, but are not limited to roads, parking lots, and stormwater management facilities within the land-based renewable energy generation facility.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if the discharge results in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** Electric utility lines constructed to transfer the energy from the land-based renewable energy generation facility to a distribution system, regional grid, or other facility are generally considered to be linear projects and each separate and distant crossing of a waterbody is eligible for treatment as a separate single and complete linear project. Those electric utility lines may be authorized by NWP 57 or another Department of the Army authorization.

**Note 2:** If the only activities associated with the construction, expansion, or modification of a land-based renewable energy generation facility that require Department of the Army authorization are discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States to construct, maintain, repair, and/or remove electric utility lines and/or road crossings, then NWP 57 and/or NWP 14 shall be used if those activities meet the terms and conditions of NWPs 57 and 14, including any applicable regional conditions and any case-specific conditions imposed by the district engineer.

**Note 3:** For any activity that involves the construction of a wind energy generating structure, solar tower, or overhead transmission line, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

*Detroit District has no Regional Conditions for NWP 51.*

*EGLE Water Quality Certification/CZMA consistency on non-tribal lands for NWP 51: EGLE Water Quality Certification is considered waived, and EGLE denied CZMA consistency for NWP 51.*

*Water Quality Certification on All Tribal Lands Except for KBIC tribal lands for NWP 51: EPA granted certification based on the following conditions:*

*All applicants must provide notice to EPA Region 5 prior to commencing construction to provide EPA Region 5 with the opportunity to inspect the activity for the purposes of determining whether any discharge from the proposed project will violate this water quality certification. Where the Corps requires a Pre-construction Notification (PCN) for the applicable NWP, the applicant should also provide the PCN to Region 5. EPA Region 5*

*will provide written notification to the applicant if the proposed project will violate the water quality certification of the NWP.*

*Water Quality Certification on KBIC tribal lands for NWP 51: KBIC denied certification for NWP 51.*

**52. Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects** Structures and work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States for the construction, expansion, modification, or removal of water-based wind, water-based solar, wave energy, or hydrokinetic renewable energy generation pilot projects and their attendant features. Attendant features may include, but are not limited to, land-based collection and distribution facilities, control facilities, roads, parking lots, and stormwater management facilities.

For the purposes of this NWP, the term “pilot project” means an experimental project where the water-based renewable energy generation units will be monitored to collect information on their performance and environmental effects at the project site.

The placement of a transmission line on the bed of a navigable water of the United States from the renewable energy generation unit(s) to a land-based collection and distribution facility is considered a structure under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (see 33 CFR 322.2(b)), and the placement of the transmission line on the bed of a navigable water of the United States is not a loss of waters of the United States for the purposes of applying the 1/2-acre limit.

For each single and complete project, no more than 10 generation units (e.g., wind turbines, wave energy devices, or hydrokinetic devices) are authorized. For floating solar panels in navigable waters of the United States, each single and complete project cannot exceed 1/2-acre in water surface area covered by the floating solar panels.

This NWP does not authorize activities in coral reefs. Structures in an anchorage area established by the U.S. Coast Guard must comply with the requirements in 33 CFR 322.5(l)(2). Structures may not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas designated in 33 CFR part 334, Federal navigation channels, shipping safety fairways or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard (see 33 CFR 322.5(l)(1)), or EPA or Corps designated open water dredged material disposal areas.

Upon completion of the pilot project, the generation units, transmission lines, and other structures or fills associated with the pilot project must be removed to the maximum extent practicable unless they are authorized by a separate Department of the Army authorization, such as another NWP, an individual permit, or a regional general permit. Completion of the pilot project will be identified as the date of expiration of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license, or the expiration date of the NWP authorization if no FERC license is required.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** Electric utility lines constructed to transfer the energy from the land-based collection facility to a distribution system, regional grid, or other facility are generally considered to be linear projects and each separate and distant crossing of a waterbody is eligible for treatment as a separate single and complete linear project. Those electric utility lines may be authorized by NWP 57 or another Department of the Army authorization.

**Note 2:** An activity that is located on an existing locally or federally maintained U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project requires separate review and/or approval from the Corps under 33 U.S.C. 408.

**Note 3:** If the pilot project generation units, including any transmission lines, are placed in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, copies of the NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, for charting the generation units and associated transmission line(s) to protect navigation.

**Note 4:** Hydrokinetic renewable energy generation projects that require authorization by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under the Federal Power Act of 1920 do not require separate authorization from the Corps under section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

## Section B

**Note 5:** For any activity that involves the construction of a wind energy generating structure, solar tower, or overhead transmission line, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

*The Detroit District has revoked NWP 52.*

**55. Seaweed Mariculture Activities.** Structures in marine and estuarine waters, including structures anchored to the seabed in waters overlying the outer continental shelf, for seaweed mariculture activities. This NWP also authorizes structures for bivalve shellfish mariculture if shellfish production is a component of an integrated multi-trophic mariculture system (e.g., the production of seaweed and bivalve shellfish on the same structure or a nearby mariculture structure that is part of the single and complete project).

This NWP authorizes the installation of buoys, long-lines, floats, anchors, rafts, racks, and other similar structures into navigable waters of the United States. Rafts, racks and other floating structures must be securely anchored and clearly marked. To the maximum extent practicable, the permittee must remove these structures from navigable waters of the United States if they will no longer be used for seaweed mariculture activities or multi-trophic mariculture activities.

Structures in an anchorage area established by the U.S. Coast Guard must comply with the requirements in 33 CFR 322.5(l)(2). Structures may not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas designated in 33 CFR part 334, Federal navigation channels, shipping safety fairways or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard (see 33 CFR 322.5(l)(1)), or EPA or Corps designated open water dredged material disposal areas.

This NWP does not authorize:

- (a) The cultivation of an aquatic nuisance species as defined in the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 or the cultivation of a nonindigenous species unless that species has been previously cultivated in the waterbody; or
- (b) Attendant features such as docks, piers, boat ramps, stockpiles, or staging areas.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer. (See general condition 32.)

In addition to the information required by paragraph (b) of general condition 32, the preconstruction notification must also include the following information: (1) a map showing the locations and dimensions of the structure(s); (2) the name(s) of the species that will be cultivated during the period this NWP is in effect; and (3) general water depths in the project area(s) (a detailed survey is not required). No more than one pre-construction notification per structure or group of structures should be submitted for the seaweed mariculture operation during the effective period of this NWP. The pre-construction notification should describe all species and culture activities the operator expects to undertake during the effective period of this NWP. (Authority: Section 10)

**Note 1:** The permittee should notify the applicable U.S. Coast Guard office regarding the project.

**Note 2:** To prevent introduction of aquatic nuisance species, no material that has been taken from a different waterbody may be reused in the current project area, unless it has been treated in accordance with the applicable regional aquatic nuisance species management plan.

**Note 3:** The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 defines “aquatic nuisance species” as “a nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.”

*NWP 55 does not apply in Michigan.*

**56. Finfish Mariculture Activities.** Structures in marine and estuarine waters, including structures anchored to the seabed in waters overlying the outer continental shelf, for finfish mariculture activities. This NWP also authorizes structures for bivalve shellfish mariculture and/or seaweed mariculture if the structures for bivalve shellfish and/or seaweed production are a component of an integrated multi-trophic mariculture structure (e.g., the production of

## Section B

bivalve shellfish or seaweed on the structure used for finfish mariculture, or a nearby mariculture structure that is part of the single and complete project).

This NWP authorizes the installation of cages, net pens, anchors, floats, buoys, and other similar structures into navigable waters of the United States. Net pens, cages, and other floating structures must be securely anchored and clearly marked. To the maximum extent practicable, the permittee must remove these structures from navigable waters of the United States if they will no longer be used for finfish mariculture activities or multi-trophic mariculture activities.

This NWP does not authorize the construction of land-based fish hatcheries or other attendant features.

Structures in an anchorage area established by the U.S. Coast Guard must comply with the requirements in 33 CFR 322.5(l)(2). Structures may not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas designated in 33 CFR part 334, Federal navigation channels, shipping safety fairways or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard (see 33 CFR 322.5(l)(1)), or EPA or Corps designated open water dredged material disposal areas.

This NWP does not authorize:

- (a) The cultivation of an aquatic nuisance species as defined in the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 or the cultivation of a nonindigenous species unless that species has been previously cultivated in the waterbody; or
- (b) Attendant features such as docks, piers, boat ramps, stockpiles, or staging areas.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer. (See general condition 32.)

In addition to the information required by paragraph (b) of general condition 32, the pre-construction notification must also include the following information: (1) a map showing the locations and dimensions of the structure(s); (2) the name(s) of the species that will be cultivated during the period this NWP is in effect; and (3) general water depths in the project area(s) (a detailed survey is not required). No more than one pre-construction notification per structure or group of structures should be submitted for the finfish mariculture operation during the effective period of this NWP. The pre-construction notification should describe all species and culture activities the operator expects to undertake during the effective period of this NWP. (Authority: Section 10)

**Note 1:** The permittee should notify the applicable U.S. Coast Guard office regarding the finfish mariculture activity.

**Note 2:** To prevent introduction of aquatic nuisance species, no material that has been taken from a different waterbody may be reused in the current project area, unless it has been treated in accordance with the applicable regional aquatic nuisance species management plan.

**Note 3:** The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 defines “aquatic nuisance species” as “a nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.”

*NWP 56 does not apply in Michigan.*

**57. Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities.** Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of electric utility lines, telecommunication lines, and associated facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project.

**Electric utility lines and telecommunication lines:** This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States and structures or work in navigable waters for crossings of those waters associated with the construction, maintenance, or repair of electric utility lines and telecommunication lines. There must be no change in pre-construction contours of waters of the United States. An “electric utility line and telecommunication line” is defined as any cable, line, fiber optic line, or wire for the transmission for any purpose of electrical energy, telephone, and telegraph messages, and internet, radio, and television communication.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, 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 side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the electric utility line or telecommunication line crossing of each waterbody.

*Electric utility line and telecommunications substations:* This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities associated with an electric utility line or telecommunication line in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

*Foundations for overhead electric utility line or telecommunication line towers, poles, and anchors:* This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for overhead electric utility line or telecommunication line towers, poles, and anchors in all waters of the United States, 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.

*Access roads:* This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of electric utility lines or telecommunication lines, including overhead lines and substations, in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize electric utility lines or telecommunication lines in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (see 33 CFR part 322). Electric utility lines or telecommunication lines constructed over section 10 waters and electric utility lines or telecommunication lines that are routed in or under section 10 waters without a discharge of dredged or fill material require a section 10 permit.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that Department of the Army authorization is required, temporary structures, fills, and work necessary for the remediation of inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States through sub-soil fissures or fractures that might occur during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing electric utility lines or telecommunication lines. These remediation activities must be done as soon as practicable, to restore the affected waterbody. District engineers may add special conditions to this NWP to require a remediation plan for addressing inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing electric utility lines or telecommunication lines.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to conduct the electric utility line activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. After construction, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

## Section B

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) a section 10 permit is required; or (2) the discharge will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** Where the electric utility line is constructed, installed, or maintained in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, a copy of the NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), for charting the electric utility line to protect navigation.

**Note 2:** For electric utility line or telecommunications activities crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Electric utility line and telecommunications activities must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

**Note 3:** Electric utility lines or telecommunication lines consisting of aerial electric power transmission lines crossing navigable waters of the United States (which are defined at 33 CFR part 329) must comply with the applicable minimum clearances specified in 33 CFR 322.5(i).

**Note 4:** 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 electric utility line or telecommunication line must be removed upon completion of the work, in accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.

**Note 5:** This NWP authorizes electric utility line and telecommunication line maintenance and repair activities that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f) exemption for maintenance of currently serviceable fills or fill structures.

**Note 6:** For overhead electric utility lines and telecommunication lines authorized by this NWP, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

**Note 7:** For activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include 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, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

### *Detroit District Regional Conditions for NWP 57:*

- a. *For substations and permanent access roads, no discharge is authorized in areas below the OHWM, areas subject to inundation by the adjacent water body, or areas which otherwise provide fish habitat functions.*
- b. *Impacts for substations and permanent access roads are limited to 1/4 acre in wetlands adjacent to navigable waters of the U.S.*
- c. *Impacted wetlands outside of permanently maintained rights of way shall be restored to the same or more valuable wetland type (e.g., forested wetlands shall be restored to forested wetlands). Within permanently maintained rights of way, impacted wetlands shall be restored, unless otherwise authorized by the Corps.*
- d. *For utility lines placed across the channel of an authorized Federal navigation project, the following conditions apply:*
  - 1) *the line must be embedded at least 6 feet below the authorized Federal channel depth;*
  - 2) *existing and proposed elevation information on precise plan and section scale drawings are required;*
  - 3) *within 60 days after construction, an as-built survey must be provided indicating the points of entry and exit of the installation.*
- e. *The application must provide the latitude and longitude (or UTM coordinates) of each end of the utility line at the limits of Corps jurisdiction (OHWM or upland limit of wetlands), and for each point between where the utility changes direction.*
- f. *All excavated and dredged material, other than that used to backfill the trench as authorized pursuant to NWP 57, shall be disposed of on uplands.*

*EGLE Water Quality Certification/CZMA consistency on non-tribal lands for NWP 57: EGLE granted certification based on the following conditions:*

## Section B

1. NWP 57 shall not be used in waters regulated under Part 325, Great Lakes Submerged Lands, of NREPA.
2. For substations and access roads, no discharge is authorized in areas below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), areas subject to inundation by the adjacent water body, or areas which otherwise provide fish habitat functions.
3. Impacts for substations and access roads are limited to 0.10 acre. Applicants must demonstrate that upland alternatives are not practicable. Permanent access roads shall not be authorized.
4. Impacted wetlands outside of permanently maintained rights-of-way shall be restored to the same or more valuable wetland type (e.g., forested wetlands shall be restored to forested wetlands). Within permanently maintained rights of way, impacted wetlands shall be restored, unless otherwise authorized by the EGLE and the USACE.
5. All excavated and dredged material, other than that used to backfill the trench as authorized pursuant to NWP 57, shall be properly disposed of in uplands (i.e., outside of wetlands, floodplains, or inland lakes and streams).
6. All revegetation of wetland sites must be with plant species that are native to Michigan according to the Floristic Quality Assessment for the State of Michigan.

*Water Quality Certification on All Tribal Lands Except for KBIC tribal lands for NWP 57: EPA denied certification for NWP 57.*

*Water Quality Certification on KBIC tribal lands for NWP 57: KBIC denied certification for NWP 57.*

**58. Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances.** Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of utility lines for water and other substances, excluding oil, natural gas, products derived from oil or natural gas, and electricity. Oil or natural gas pipeline activities or electric utility line and telecommunications activities may be authorized by NWPs 12 or 57, respectively. This NWP also authorizes associated utility line facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project.

*Utility lines:* This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States and structures or work in navigable waters for crossings of those waters associated with the construction, maintenance, or repair of utility lines for water and other substances, including outfall and intake structures. There must be no change in pre-construction contours of waters of the United States. A “utility line” is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substance, for any purpose that is not oil, natural gas, or petrochemicals. Examples of activities authorized by this NWP include utility lines that convey water, sewage, stormwater, wastewater, brine, irrigation water, and industrial products that are not petrochemicals. The term “utility line” does not include activities that drain a water of the United States, such as drainage tile or french drains, but it does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, 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 side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line crossing of each waterbody.

*Utility line substations:* This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities associated with a utility line in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

*Foundations for above-ground utility lines:* This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for above-ground utility lines in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary.

## Section B

**Access roads:** This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of utility lines, including utility line substations, in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize utility lines in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (see 33 CFR part 322). 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.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that Department of the Army authorization is required, temporary structures, fills, and work necessary for the remediation of inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States through sub-soil fissures or fractures that might occur during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing utility lines. These remediation activities must be done as soon as practicable, to restore the affected waterbody. District engineers may add special conditions to this NWP to require a remediation plan for addressing inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing utility lines.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to conduct the utility line activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges of dredged or fill material, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. After construction, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) a section 10 permit is required; or (2) the discharge will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** Where the utility line is constructed, installed, or maintained in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, a copy of the 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.

**Note 2:** For utility line activities crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Utility line activities must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

**Note 3:** 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, in accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.

**Note 4:** Pipes or pipelines used to transport gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substances over navigable waters of the United States are considered to be bridges, not utility lines, and may require a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to the General Bridge Act of 1946. However, any discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with such pipelines will require a section 404 permit (see NWP 15).

**Note 5:** This NWP authorizes utility line maintenance and repair activities that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f) exemption for maintenance of currently serviceable fills or fill structures.

**Note 6:** For activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include 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, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer



## Section B

will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

### *Detroit District Regional Conditions for NWP 58:*

- a. *For substations and permanent access roads, no discharge is authorized in areas below the OHWM, areas subject to inundation by the adjacent water body, or areas which otherwise provide fish habitat functions.*
- b. *Impacts for substations and permanent access roads are limited to 1/4 acre in wetlands adjacent to navigable waters of the U.S.*
- c. *Impacted wetlands outside of permanently maintained rights of way shall be restored to the same or more valuable wetland type (e.g., forested wetlands shall be restored to forested wetlands). Within permanently maintained rights of way, impacted wetlands shall be restored, unless otherwise authorized by the Corps.*
- d. *For utility lines placed across the channel of an authorized Federal navigation project, the following conditions apply:*
  - 1) *the line must be embedded at least 6 feet below the authorized Federal channel depth;*
  - 2) *existing and proposed elevation information on precise plan and section scale drawings are required;*
  - 3) *within 60 days after construction, an as-built survey must be provided indicating the points of entry and exit of the installation.*
- e. *The application must provide the latitude and longitude (or UTM coordinates) of each end of the utility line at the limits of Corps jurisdiction (OHWM or upland limit of wetlands), and for each point between where the utility changes direction.*
- f. *All excavated and dredged material, other than that used to backfill the trench as authorized pursuant to NWP 58, shall be disposed of on uplands.*

### *EGLE Water Quality Certification/CZMA consistency on non-tribal lands for NWP 58: EGLE granted certification based on the following conditions:*

1. *NWP 58 shall not be used in waters regulated under Part 325, Great Lakes Submerged. Lands, of NREPA.*
2. *For substations and access roads, no discharge is authorized in areas below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), areas subject to inundation by the adjacent water body, or areas which otherwise provide fish habitat functions.*
3. *Impacts for substations and access roads are limited to 0.10 acre. Applicants must demonstrate that upland alternatives are not practicable. Permanent access roads shall not be authorized.*
4. *Impacted wetlands outside of permanently maintained rights-of-way shall be restored to the same or more valuable wetland type (e.g., forested wetlands shall be restored to forested wetlands). Within permanently maintained rights of way, impacted wetlands shall be restored, unless otherwise authorized by the EGLE and the USACE.*
5. *All excavated and dredged material, other than that used to backfill the trench as authorized pursuant to NWP 58, shall be properly disposed of in uplands (i.e., outside of wetlands, floodplains, or inland lakes and streams).*
6. *All revegetation of wetland sites must be with plant species that are native to Michigan according to the Floristic Quality Assessment for the State of Michigan.*

### *Water Quality Certification on All Tribal Lands Except for KBIC tribal lands for NWP 58: EPA denied certification for NWP 58.*

### *Water Quality Certification on KBIC tribal lands for NWP 58: KBIC denied certification for NWP 58.*

**C. Detroit Regional Conditions applicable to all NWP in Michigan**

1. Based on a joint processing agreement between the Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Michigan Department of Environmental, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) submittal of a joint Corps/EGLE permit application is required for activities in Michigan. The submittal of an application is not an authorization to perform the work. The application encompasses the same information as a pre-construction notification (PCN), thereby creating the circumstance that any proposed work in Michigan requires a PCN, irrespective of the National level requirements.
2. If EGLE has issued its authorization, we may presume that Coastal Zone Management certification has been satisfied.
3. Dredging will be performed during MDNR preferred dredge periods except when the Corps has specifically determined that the limits are unwarranted (for example, EGLE has issued a permit and has not restricted the dredging activities to these periods).
4. Critical Resource Waters: NWP General Condition 22 (GC 22) designates Critical Resource Waters, and allows for Regional additions to the list. The following Critical Resource Waters are located in the Detroit District and subject to the restrictions and limitations identified in NWP GC 22:

- a. NOAA-Designated Marine Sanctuaries: The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve is located in Lake Huron off Alpena, Michigan.
- b. National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR): There are no NERRs within the Detroit District.
- c. State Natural Heritage Sites: There are no areas designated as state natural heritage sites through a state legislative or regulatory process.
- d. Outstanding National Resource Waters or Other Waters Officially Designated: The list of Critical Resource Waters (General Condition 22) in Michigan is amended to include the following:

All areas designated under Part 351, Wilderness and Natural Areas, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Public Act 451, 1994.

All rivers designated under Part 305, Natural Rivers, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.

All Environmental Areas designated under Part 323, Shorelands Protection and Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.

5. National Wild and Scenic Rivers (NWSR): NWP General Condition 16 (GC 16) designates Wild and Scenic Rivers, and the restrictions applicable to them. The following are Wild and Scenic Rivers located within the Detroit District and subject to the restrictions and limitations identified in NWP GC 16:

Au Sable River – main stem from the Mio Pond project boundary downstream to the Alcona Pond project boundary.

Bear Creek (Manistee County) – Coates Highway to the confluence with the Manistee River.

Black River (Gogebic County) - from the Ottawa National Forest boundary to Lake Superior.

Carp River – from the west section line of section 30, T43N, R5W to Lake Huron.

Indian River – from Hovey Lake to Indian Lake.

Manistee River – from the MDNR boat ramp below Tippy Dam to the Michigan State Highway 55 bridge.

Ontonagon River – East Branch from its origin to the Ottawa NF boundary; the Middle Branch from its origin to the northern boundary of the Ottawa NF, the Cisco Branch from its origin at Cisco Lake Dam to its confluence with Ten-Mile Creek south of Ewen, the West Branch from its confluence with Cascade Falls to Victoria Reservoir.

## Section C

Paint River – main stem from the confluence of the North and South Branches to the Ottawa NF boundary, the North Branch from its origin to its confluence with the South Branch, the South Branch from its origin to its confluence with the North Branch.

Pere Marquette River – the segment downstream from the junction of the Middle and Little south Branches to its junction with Pere Marquette Highway (old US Highway 31).

Pine River – the segment from Lincoln Bridge to the east 1/16th line of Section 16, T21N, R13W.

Presque Isle River – the main stem from the confluence of the East and West Branches to the Minnewawa Falls, the East Branch within the Ottawa NF, the South Branch within the Ottawa NF, the West Branch within the Ottawa NF.

Sturgeon River (Baraga and Houghton Counties) – from its entry into the Ottawa NF to the northern boundary of the Ottawa NF.

Sturgeon River (Alger and Delta Counties) – from the north line of Section 26, T43N, R19W to Lake Michigan.

Tahquamenon River East Branch – from its origin to the Hiawatha National Forest boundary.

Whitefish River – The main stem from its confluence with the East and West Branches to Lake Michigan. The East Branch from the crossing of County Road 003 to its confluence with the West Branch. The West Branch from County Road 444 to its confluence with the East Branch.

Yellow Dog River – From its origin at the outlet of Bulldog Lake Dam to the boundary of the Ottawa NF.

Portions of the following have also been designated as a “study river” for possible inclusion in the system: Brule River, Carp River, Little Manistee River, Paint River, Presque Isle River, Ontonagon River, Sturgeon River (Baraga and Houghton Counties), Sturgeon River (Alger and Delta Counties), Tahquamenon River, White River, and Whitefish River.

6. NWP General Condition 18 (GC 18) addresses Critical Habitats for Endangered Species. The following Critical Habitats located within the Detroit District are subject to the restrictions applicable to Critical Habitat for Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species identified in NWP GC 18:

Critical habitat for the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) in Michigan was designated in the May 7, 2001 Federal Register (Vol. 66, No. 88, pages 22938-22969).

Revised Critical habitat for the Hine’s Emerald Dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*) in Michigan was finalized April 23, 2010 Federal Register (Vol. 75, No. 78, pages 21394-21453).

Critical habitat for the Poweshiek skipperling (*Oarisma poweshiek*) was designated in the October 1, 2015 Federal Register (Vol. 80, No. 190, pages 59248-59384).

**D. EGLE Conditions applicable to all NWP in Michigan for Water Quality Certification (excluding tribal lands) and Coastal Zone Management consistency determinations**

***EGLE Section 401 WQC General Conditions for all NWPs:***

The EGLE WQC for all NWPs is subject to the following general conditions for all activities in Michigan:

1. Any discharge that may result from the activities authorized under the NWP shall not disturb sediments in an area known or suspected to contain contamination (unless testing in accordance with EGLE procedures provided by the applicant shows that the material does not contain contamination).
2. All riprap discharged in the project shall consist only of clean natural field stone, rock or gravel, free of fines and other materials, and shall be placed or contained in such a manner as not to erode into any waters of the United States within Michigan. Woven wire gabion baskets are prohibited. Broken concrete and grouted or manufactured interlocking materials are not allowed.
3. The discharge of garbage, litter, sewage, oil, or other liquid or solid pollutants into the waters of the United States within Michigan is prohibited by a person or from any vessel or floating craft in the vicinity of the project that is owned, controlled, or operated by the federal permittee or a contractor of the federal permittee.
4. The discharge of dredge materials that are contaminated with toxic substances as defined in administrative rule R 323.1205 of the Michigan administrative code for disposal into the waters of the United States within Michigan is prohibited.
5. The discharge of dredge materials for disposal into the waters of the United States is prohibited within a Great Lakes Bottomland Preserve established under Part 761, Aboriginal Records and Antiquities, of the NREPA, a permitted submerged log removal area under Part 326, Great Lakes Submerged Logs Recovery, of the NREPA, a lake trout refuge, or a *Diporeia* refuge.
6. The discharge shall not impair navigation.

***EGLE CZMA Consistency General Conditions for all NWPs:***

The EGLE CZMA consistency is subject to the following general conditions for all NWPs in Michigan:

1. Activities that result in a discharge to surface waters must comply with the water quality standards promulgated pursuant to Part 31, comprising administrative rules R 323.1041 to R 323.1117.
2. The following activities require authorization under a state permit:
  - a. Activities to be conducted within a 100-year floodplain that are subject to regulation under Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the NREPA must be authorized by a permit required under MCL 324.3104.
  - b. Activities that cause earth changes that are subject to regulation under Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, of the NREPA must be authorized by a permit required under MCL 324.9112.
  - c. Activities to be conducted below the ordinary high watermark of an inland lake, river, or stream that are subject to regulation under Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the NREPA must be

authorized by a permit required under MCL 324.30102.

d. Activities to be conducted in a wetland that are subject to regulation under Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the NREPA must be authorized by a permit required under MCL 324.30304.

e. Activities to be conducted in a designated Natural River District that are subject to regulation under Part 305, Natural Rivers, of the NREPA must be authorized by a permit required under administrative rule R 281.56. The boundaries of designated Natural River Districts are established in administrative rules R 281.70, R 281.80, R 281.90, R 281.100, R 281.110, R 281.120, R 281.130, R 281.140, R 281.150, R 281.160, R 281.170, R 281.180, R 281.190, R 281.200, R 281.210, and R 281.220.

f. Activities to be conducted in a designated Environmental Area or High Risk Erosion Area that are subject to regulation under Part 323, Shorelands Protection and Management, of the NREPA must be authorized by a permit required under MCL 324.32312.

g. Activities to be conducted below the ordinary high watermark of a Great Lake or Lake St. Clair that are subject to regulation under Part 325, Great Lakes Submerged Lands, of the NREPA must be authorized by a permit required under MCL 324.32512.

h. Activities to be conducted in a designated Critical Dune Area that are subject to regulation under Part 353, Sand Dunes Protection and Management, of the NREPA must be authorized by a permit required under MCL 324.35304.

i. The following activities are prohibited under Part 761, Aboriginal Records and Antiquities, of the NREPA unless authorized under MCL 324.76105, 324.76107, 324.76108, and 324.76109: The recovery, alteration, or destruction of an abandoned vessel or other abandoned property, as defined in MCL 324.76101(a), which is in, on, under, or over the bottomlands of the Great Lakes, including those within a Great Lakes Bottomlands Preserve.

3. The following activities are prohibited:

a. The open water disposal of dredge materials that are contaminated with toxic substances as defined in administrative rule R 323.1205 is prohibited pursuant to MCL 324.3109c.

b. Pursuant to MCL 324.32515a(c), the discharge of dredge materials for disposal is prohibited within a Great Lakes Bottomland Preserve established under Part 761, Aboriginal Records and Antiquities, of the NREPA, a permitted submerged log removal area under Part 326, Great Lakes Submerged Logs Recovery, of the NREPA, a lake trout refuge, or a Diporeia refuge. Great Lakes Bottomland Preserves are established in administrative rules R 299.6001, R 299.6002, R 299.6003, R 299.6004, R 299.6005, R 299.6006, R 299.6007, R 299.6008, R 299.6009, R 299.6010, R 299.6011, R 299.6012, and R 299.6013. Lake trout refuges are established in Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Order FO-200.20A.

c. The following activities are prohibited pursuant to MCL 324.36505: Harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, or collecting of an animal subject to regulation under Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, of the NREPA, or the attempt to engage in such activity; and the collecting, picking, cutting, digging up, or destroying in any manner of a plant subject to regulation under Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, of the NREPA. Lists of animal and plant species subject to regulation are contained in administrative rules R 299.1021, R 299.1022, R 299.1023, R 299.1024, R 299.1025, R 299.1026, R 299.1027, and R 299.1028.

**E. Nationwide Permit General Conditions**

1. Navigation
2. Aquatic Life Movements
3. Spawning Areas
4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas
5. Shellfish Beds
6. Suitable Material
7. Water Supply Intakes
8. Adverse Effects from Impoundments
9. Management of Water Flows
10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains
11. Equipment
12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls
13. Removal of Temporary Fills
14. Proper Maintenance
15. Single and Complete Project
16. Wild and Scenic Rivers
17. Tribal Rights
18. Endangered Species
19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles
20. Historic Properties
21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts
22. Designated Critical Resource Waters
23. Mitigation
24. Safety of Impoundment Structures
25. Water Quality
26. Coastal Zone Management
27. Regional and Case-by-Case Conditions
28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits
29. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications
30. Compliance Certification
31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States
32. Pre-Construction Notification

**E. Nationwide Permit General Conditions**

Note: To qualify for NWP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following general conditions, as applicable, in addition to any regional or case-specific conditions imposed by the division engineer or district engineer. Prospective permittees should contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine if regional conditions have been imposed on an NWP. Prospective permittees should also contact the appropriate Corps district office to determine the status of Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Act consistency for an NWP. Every person who may wish to obtain permit authorization under one or more NWPs, or who is currently relying on an existing or prior permit authorization under one or more NWPs, has been and is on notice that all of the provisions of 33 CFR 330.1 through 330.6 apply to every NWP authorization. Note especially 33 CFR 330.5 relating to the modification, suspension, or revocation of any NWP authorization.

1. Navigation. (a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.

(b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.

(c) 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 or her 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.

2. 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. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species. If a bottomless culvert cannot be used, then the crossing should be designed and constructed to minimize adverse effects to aquatic life movements.

3. Spawning Areas. Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas. Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

5. Shellfish Beds. No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWPs 4 and 48, or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by NWP 27.

6. Suitable Material. No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

7. Water Supply Intakes. No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

8. Adverse Effects From Impoundments. If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

9. Management of Water Flows. To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization, storm water

## Section E

management activities, and temporary and permanent road crossings, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains. The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

11. Equipment. Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.

12. 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, or during low tides.

13. Removal of Temporary Structures and Fills. Temporary structures must be removed, to the maximum extent practicable, after their use has been discontinued. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

14. Proper Maintenance. Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable NWP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an NWP authorization.

15. Single and Complete Project. The activity must be a single and complete project. The same NWP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.

16. Wild and Scenic Rivers. (a) No NWP 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.

(b) If a proposed NWP activity will 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, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification (see general condition 32). The district engineer will coordinate the PCN with the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river. Permittees shall not begin the NWP activity until notified by the district engineer that the Federal agency with direct management responsibility for that river has determined in writing that the proposed NWP activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status.

(c) Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency responsible for the designated Wild and Scenic River or study river (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Information on these rivers is also available at: <http://www.rivers.gov/>.

17. 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.

18. Endangered Species. (a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to directly or indirectly 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 directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation. No activity is



## Section E

authorized under any NWP which “may affect” a listed species or critical habitat, unless ESA section 7 consultation addressing the consequences of the proposed activity on listed species or critical habitat has been completed. See 50 CFR 402.02 for the definition of “effects of the action” for the purposes of ESA section 7 consultation, as well as 50 CFR 402.17, which provides further explanation under ESA section 7 regarding “activities that are reasonably certain to occur” and “consequences caused by the proposed action.”

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation has not been submitted, additional ESA section 7 consultation may be necessary for the activity and the respective federal agency would be responsible for fulfilling its obligation under section 7 of the ESA.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat or critical habitat proposed for such designation, 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 might affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity “may affect” or will have “no effect” to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-Federal applicant of the Corps’ determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. For activities where the non-Federal applicant has identified listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification that the proposed activity will have “no effect” on listed species (or species proposed for listing or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), or until ESA section 7 consultation or conference has been completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation or conference with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific permit conditions to the NWPs.

(e) Authorization of an activity by an 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 FWS or the NMFS, the Endangered Species Act prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word “harm” in the definition of “take” means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) If the non-federal permittee has a valid ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit with an approved Habitat Conservation Plan for a project or a group of projects that includes the proposed NWP activity, the non-federal applicant should provide a copy of that ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit with the PCN required by paragraph (c) of this general condition. The district engineer will coordinate with the agency that issued the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit to determine whether the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation conducted for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. If that coordination results in concurrence from the agency that the proposed NWP activity and the associated incidental take were considered in the internal ESA section 7 consultation for the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit, the district engineer does not need to conduct a separate ESA section 7 consultation for the proposed NWP activity. The district engineer will notify the

## Section E

non-federal applicant within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether the ESA section 10(a)(1)(B) permit covers the proposed NWP activity or whether additional ESA section 7 consultation is required.

(g) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS and NMFS or their world wide web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> or <http://www.fws.gov/ipac> and <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/> respectively.

19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles. The permittee is responsible for ensuring that an action authorized by an NWP complies with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee is responsible for contacting the appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what measures, if any, are necessary or appropriate to reduce adverse effects to migratory birds or eagles, including whether "incidental take" permits are necessary and available under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for a particular activity.

20. Historic Properties. (a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which may have the potential to cause effects to properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)(1)). If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed NWP activity, the Federal permittee must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted, then additional consultation under section 106 may be necessary. The respective federal agency is responsible for fulfilling its obligation to comply with section 106.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the pre-construction notification must state which historic properties might have the potential to be affected by the proposed NWP activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of, or potential for, the presence of historic properties can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or designated tribal representative, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). When reviewing pre-construction notifications, district engineers will comply with the current procedures for addressing the requirements of section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts commensurate with potential impacts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and/or field survey. Based on the information submitted in the PCN and these identification efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed NWP activity has the potential to cause effects on the historic properties. Section 106 consultation is not required when the district engineer determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR 800.3(a)). Section 106 consultation is required when the district engineer determines that the activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The district engineer will conduct consultation with consulting parties identified under 36 CFR 800.2(c) when he or she makes any of the following effect determinations for the purposes of section 106 of the NHPA: no historic properties affected, no adverse effect, or adverse effect.

(d) Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties on which the proposed NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects and has so notified the Corps, the non-Federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects to historic properties or that NHPA section 106 consultation has been completed. For non-federal permittees, the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA section 106 consultation is required. If NHPA section 106 consultation is required, the district engineer will notify the non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin the activity until section 106 consultation is

completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306113) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts. Permittees that discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by an NWP, they must immediately notify the district engineer of what they have found, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The district engineer will initiate the Federal, Tribal, and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

22. Designated Critical Resource Waters. Critical resource waters include, NOAA-managed marine sanctuaries and marine monuments, and National Estuarine Research Reserves. The district engineer may designate, after notice and opportunity for public comment, additional waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance, such as outstanding national resource waters or state natural heritage sites. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for public comment.

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWPs 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 57 and 58 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For NWPs 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, and 54, notification is required in accordance with general condition 32, for any activity proposed by permittees in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after she or he determines that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

23. Mitigation. The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal:

(a) The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States 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 for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case

basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects.

(d) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all losses of stream bed that exceed 3/100-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal, and provides an activity-specific waiver of this requirement. This compensatory mitigation requirement may be satisfied through the restoration or enhancement of riparian areas next to streams in accordance with paragraph (e) of this general condition. For losses of stream bed of 3/100-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in only minimal adverse environmental effects. Compensatory mitigation for losses of streams should be provided, if practicable, through stream rehabilitation, enhancement, or preservation, since streams are difficult-to-replace resources (see 33 CFR 332.3(e)(3)).

(e) Compensatory mitigation plans for NWP activities in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the restoration or enhancement, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, the restoration or maintenance/protection of riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. If restoring riparian areas involves planting vegetation, only native species should be planted. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. If it is not possible to restore or maintain/protect a riparian area on both sides of a stream, or if the waterbody is a lake or coastal waters, then restoring or maintaining/protecting a riparian area along a single bank or shoreline may be sufficient. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of minimization or compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(f) Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR part 332.

(1) The prospective permittee is responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation option if compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. For the NWPs, the preferred mechanism for providing compensatory mitigation is mitigation bank credits or in-lieu fee program credits (see 33 CFR 332.3(b)(2) and (3)). However, if an appropriate number and type of mitigation bank or in-lieu credits are not available at the time the PCN is submitted to the district engineer, the district engineer may approve the use of permittee-responsible mitigation.

(2) The amount of compensatory mitigation required by the district engineer must be sufficient to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see 33 CFR 330.1(e)(3)). (See also 33 CFR 332.3(f).)

(3) Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, aquatic resource restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered for permittee-responsible mitigation.

(4) If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, the prospective permittee is responsible for submitting a mitigation plan. A conceptual or detailed mitigation plan may be used by the district engineer to make the decision on the NWP verification request, but a final mitigation plan that addresses the applicable requirements of 33 CFR 332.4(c)(2) through (14) must be approved by the district engineer before the permittee begins work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation (see 33 CFR 332.3(k)(3)). If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, and the proposed compensatory mitigation site is located on land in which another federal agency holds an easement, the district engineer will coordinate with

that federal agency to determine if proposed compensatory mitigation project is compatible with the terms of the easement.

(5) If mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program credits are the proposed option, the mitigation plan needs to address only the baseline conditions at the impact site and the number of credits to be provided (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(6) Compensatory mitigation requirements (e.g., resource type and amount to be provided as compensatory mitigation, site protection, ecological performance standards, monitoring requirements) may be addressed through conditions added to the NWP authorization, instead of components of a compensatory mitigation plan (see 33 CFR 332.4(c)(1)(ii)).

(g) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWPs. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2-acre, it cannot be used to authorize any NWP activity resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that an NWP activity already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the no more than minimal impact requirement for the NWPs.

(h) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee programs, or permittee-responsible mitigation. When developing a compensatory mitigation proposal, the permittee must consider appropriate and practicable options consistent with the framework at 33 CFR 332.3(b). For activities resulting in the loss of marine or estuarine resources, permittee-responsible mitigation may be environmentally preferable if there are no mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs in the area that have marine or estuarine credits available for sale or transfer to the permittee. For permittee-responsible mitigation, the special conditions of the NWP verification must clearly indicate the party or parties responsible for the implementation and performance of the compensatory mitigation project, and, if required, its long-term management.

(i) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected by a regulated activity, such as discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States that will convert a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse environmental effects of the activity to the no more than minimal level.

24. Safety of Impoundment Structures. To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-Federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state or federal, dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The district engineer may also require documentation that the design has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

25. Water Quality. (a) Where the certifying authority (state, authorized tribe, or EPA, as appropriate) has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, a CWA section 401 water quality certification for the proposed discharge must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a water quality certification previously issued by certifying authority for the issuance of the NWP, then the permittee must obtain a water quality certification or waiver for the proposed discharge in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP.

(b) If the NWP activity requires pre-construction notification and the certifying authority has not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA section 401, the proposed discharge is not authorized by an NWP until water quality certification is obtained or waived. If the certifying authority issues a water quality certification for the proposed discharge, the permittee must submit a copy of the certification to the district engineer. The discharge is not authorized by an NWP until the district engineer has notified the permittee that the water quality certification requirement has been satisfied by the issuance of a water quality certification or a waiver.

## Section E

(c) The district engineer or certifying authority may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

26. Coastal Zone Management. In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). If the permittee cannot comply with all of the conditions of a coastal zone management consistency concurrence previously issued by the state, then the permittee must obtain an individual coastal zone management consistency concurrence or presumption of concurrence in order for the activity to be authorized by an NWP. The district engineer or a state may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

27. 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, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its CWA section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits. The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is authorized, subject to the following restrictions:

(a) If only one of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has a specified acreage limit, the acreage loss of waters of the United States cannot exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit. For example, 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 United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

(b) If one or more of the NWPs used to authorize the single and complete project has specified acreage limits, the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by those NWPs cannot exceed their respective specified acreage limits. For example, if a commercial development is constructed under NWP 39, and the single and complete project includes the filling of an upland ditch authorized by NWP 46, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the commercial development under NWP 39 cannot exceed 1/2-acre, and the total acreage loss of waters of United States due to the NWP 39 and 46 activities cannot exceed 1 acre.

29. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications. If the permittee sells the property associated with a nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:

"When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below."

---

(Transferee)

---

(Date)

30. Compliance Certification. Each permittee who receives an NWP verification letter from the Corps must provide a signed certification documenting completion of the authorized activity and implementation of any required compensatory mitigation. The success of any required permittee-responsible mitigation, including the achievement of ecological performance standards, will be addressed separately by the district engineer. The Corps will provide the permittee the certification document with the NWP verification letter. The certification document will include:

- (a) A statement that the authorized activity was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;
- (b) A statement that the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions. If credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program are used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements, the certification must include the documentation required by 33 CFR 332.3(l)(3) to confirm that the permittee secured the appropriate number and resource type of credits; and
- (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the activity and mitigation.

The completed certification document must be submitted to the district engineer within 30 days of completion of the authorized activity or the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation, whichever occurs later.

**31. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States.** If an NWP activity also requires review by, or permission from, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project (a "USACE project"), the prospective permittee must submit a pre-construction notification. See paragraph (b)(10) of general condition 32. An activity that requires section 408 permission and/or review is not authorized by an NWP until the appropriate Corps office issues the section 408 permission or completes its review to alter, occupy, or use the USACE project, and the district engineer issues a written NWP verification.

**32. Pre-Construction Notification.** (a) *Timing.* Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, if the PCN is determined to be incomplete, notify the prospective permittee within that 30 day period to request the additional information necessary to make the PCN complete. The request must specify the information needed to make the PCN complete. As a general rule, district engineers will 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 PCN 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 until either:

(1) He or she is 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) 45 calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that listed species or critical habitat might be affected or are in the vicinity of the activity, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 20 that the activity might have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that there is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) has been completed. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee may not begin the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. 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 Pre-Construction Notification:* The PCN must be in writing and include the following information:

- (1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;

(2) Location of the proposed activity;

(3) Identify the specific NWP or NWP(s) the prospective permittee wants to use to authorize the proposed activity;

(4) (i) A description of the proposed activity; the activity's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the activity would cause, including the anticipated amount of loss of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters expected to result from the NWP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; a description of any proposed mitigation measures intended to reduce the adverse environmental effects caused by the proposed activity; and 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, including other separate and distant crossings for linear projects that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification. The description of the proposed activity and any proposed mitigation measures should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse environmental effects of the activity will be no more than minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures.

(ii) For linear projects where one or more single and complete crossings require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include the quantity of anticipated losses of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters for each single and complete crossing of those wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters (including those single and complete crossings authorized by an NWP but do not require PCNs). This information will be used by the district engineer to evaluate the cumulative adverse environmental effects of the proposed linear project, and does not change those non-PCN NWP activities into NWP PCNs.

(iii) Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the activity and when provided results in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans);

(5) The PCN must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters, such as lakes and ponds, and perennial and intermittent streams, on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters. Furthermore, the 45-day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, as appropriate;

(6) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan.

(7) For non-federal permittees, if any listed species (or species proposed for listing) or designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation), the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species (or species proposed for listing) that might be affected by the proposed activity or utilize the designated critical habitat (or critical habitat proposed for such designation) that might be affected by the proposed activity. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act;

(8) For non-federal permittees, if the NWP activity might have the potential to cause effects to a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, the PCN must state which historic property might have the potential to be affected by the proposed activity or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. For NWP activities that require pre-construction notification, Federal permittees must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act;



## Section E

(9) For an activity that will 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, the PCN must identify the Wild and Scenic River or the “study river” (see general condition 16); and

(10) For an NWP activity that requires permission from, or review by, the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers federally authorized civil works project, the pre-construction notification must include a statement confirming that the project proponent has submitted a written request for section 408 permission from, or review by, the Corps office having jurisdiction over that USACE project.

(c) *Form of Pre-Construction Notification:* The nationwide permit pre-construction notification form (Form ENG 6082) should be used for NWP PCNs. A letter containing the required information may also be used. Applicants may provide electronic files of PCNs and supporting materials if the district engineer has established tools and procedures for electronic submittals.

(d) *Agency Coordination:*

(1) 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 activity's adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal.

(2) Agency coordination is required for: (i) all NWP activities that require pre-construction notification and result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States; (ii) NWP 13 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, fills greater than one cubic yard per running foot, or involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites; and (iii) NWP 54 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, or that extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes.

(3) When agency coordination is required, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via e-mail, facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the complete PCN to the appropriate Federal or state offices (FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to notify the district engineer via telephone, facsimile transmission, or e-mail that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. The comments must explain why the agency believes the adverse environmental effects will be more than minimal. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the pre-construction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs, including the need for mitigation to ensure that the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The district engineer will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 37, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.

(4) In cases of where the prospective permittee is not a Federal agency, the district engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(5) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps with either electronic files or multiple copies of pre-construction notifications to expedite agency coordination.

F. 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 (see general condition 31).