



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

PUBLIC NOTICE

Published: March 8, 2026

Rock Island District, on behalf of all Illinois Districts, to include Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville, and Memphis Districts

**Announcing Reissuance of the Nationwide Permits (NWP),
Illinois Regional Conditions, 401 Water Quality Certifications,
& CZMA**

REISSUANCE OF NWPs: On January 8, 2026, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published a final action in the *Federal Register* (91 FR 768) announcing the reissuance of 56 existing nationwide permits (NWPs) and one new NWP, as well as the reissuance of NWP general conditions and definitions with some modifications. These 57 NWPs will go into effect on March 15, 2026, and will expire on March 15, 2031. One NWP was not reissued.

The Corps has also issued final decision documents for the new and reissued NWPs. These final decision documents are available at www.regulations.gov at docket number COE-2025-0002. Furthermore, the national NWP decision documents will be supplemented by Division Engineers to address decisions concerning the addition of regional conditions to the NWPs.

EXPIRATION OF 2021 NWPs: The 56 existing NWPs published in the January 8, 2026, final action replace the 2021 versions of these NWPs. The 2021 versions of these NWPs expire on March 14, 2026.

REGIONAL CONDITIONS: The Rock Island District, on behalf of all Illinois Districts, to include Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville, and Memphis Districts, finalized regional conditions for these 57 NWPs in the State of Illinois. Regional conditions will provide additional protection for the aquatic environment, and will help ensure that the NWPs authorized only those activities with no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. Regional conditions will help ensure protection of high value waters within the State of Illinois. Enclosure 1 provides the Regional Conditions for the State of Illinois.

The Rock Island District, on behalf of all Illinois Districts, to include Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville, and Memphis Districts, determined which conditions for water quality certifications issued by the state and tribes for the issuance of these NWPs become conditions of these NWPs. The Illinois districts also determined which conditions for Coastal Zone Management Act consistency concurrences issued by the State of Illinois for the issuance of these NWPs become conditions of these NWPs. Enclosure 2



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

PUBLIC NOTICE

explains the Water Quality Certifications from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IL EPA) and US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 (US EPA). Enclosure 3 explains the Illinois CZMA concurrence by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The January 8th, 2026, *Federal Register* notice is available for viewing at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/01/08/2026-00121/reissuance-and-modification-of-nationwide-permits>

As an alternative, interested parties can access the January 8, 2026, final action and related documents at: <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/>

If you have questions about the final action to reissue or issue the 2026 NWP's, you may contact Corps Headquarters at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CECW-CO-R, 441 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000 or see further contact information in the January 8, 2026, *Federal Register* notice (91 FR 768).

If you have questions concerning regional conditions, please contact Allie Froeschle at Allison.M.Froeschle@usace.army.mil. If additional information is needed about permit requirements, please contact the appropriate district based on proposed impact location. District boundaries can be found at the following link: https://geospatial-usace.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/70805e1a8fd74e42b0a9585088d6d151_0/explore?location=41.526293%2C-88.856052%2C8.

Enclosures:

State of Illinois Regional Conditions
Illinois EPA Water Quality Certification
USEPA Water Quality Certification
IL DNR CZMA Concurrence



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Rock Island District

STATE OF ILLINOIS

2026 NATIONWIDE PERMIT REGIONAL CONDITIONS

- 1) For Nationwide Permit (NWP) 12, 57 and 58: Pre-Construction Notification is required in accordance with General Condition 32 for the following activities: (a) activities that involve mechanized land clearing in a forested wetland for the utility line right-of-way; (b) utility lines placed within, and along (i.e. parallel to) a jurisdictional stream bed.
- 2) For NWP 14: All proposed projects that result in the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of streambed located within Waters of the U.S., requires a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) in accordance with General Condition No. 32.
- 3) Bank stabilization activities involving a method that protrudes from the bank contours, such as jetties, stream barbs and/or weirs, will require a Pre-Construction Notification in accordance with General Condition 32.
- 4) For projects in Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Iroquois, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will Counties in Chicago District and Winnebago County in Rock Island District: Permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the Chicago District Regulatory Division or Rock Island District if the NWP activity is located within the groundwater recharge zones for Hine's emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*, "HED") critical habitat units or within 3.25 miles of a critical habitat unit for HED. Please visit the following website for the locations of the HED critical habitat units in Illinois. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7877#crithab>
- 5) A PCN is required for all activities located in, on, or under a Section 10 water.
- 6) NWP 27 activities resulting in the conversion of, or loss of waters of the United States, require a PCN.



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

2520 West Iles Avenue • P.O. Box 19276 • Springfield, Illinois • 62794-9276 • 217-782-3397

JB Pritzker, Governor

James Jennings, Acting Director

DEC 17 2025

217/782-0610

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

Re: Federal Register [Docket Number: COE-2025-0002] Proposal to Reissue and
Modify Nationwide Permits, June 18, 2025
CWA §401 Certification/Denial and applicable conditions
Illinois EPA Log No. C-0206-25

Dear Ms. Froeschle:

On June 18, 2025, the U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE) issued the notice of proposed rulemaking concerning their determination to reissue and modify the current Nationwide Permits (NWP) that are set to expire on March 15, 2026. With this final determination, the Illinois EPA grants §401 water quality certification for thirty-seven (37) of the proposed NWPs subject to the general conditions specified in this document. Twenty-two (22) of these NWPs shall be subject to one or more additional Special Conditions specified in the attachment titled: Special Conditions for Illinois EPA 401 Water Quality Certifications of Certain Nationwide Permits Concerning Federal Register [Docket Number: COE-2025-0002] Proposal to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits dated June 18, 2025. This document also provides the Agency's final determination to deny ten (10) of the proposed nationwide permits which are also listed below with basis in accordance with 40 CFR 121.7(e)(2).

Based on this Agency's public notice procedures and its review of the proposed NWPs, it is the judgement of this office that those various covered activities may be completed without causing water pollution as defined in the Illinois Environmental Protection Act and will comply with applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act, provided the project is carefully planned, supervised and is performed in compliance with applicable conditions of the NWPs and this water quality certification.

Please note, for specific activities that have been granted CWA §401 coverage in accordance with and subject to this final determination and where the same activities are also subject to authorization by other federal entities, the Illinois EPA hereby expresses its intent to identify, in accordance with 40 CFR 121.7(c)(2), all other federal licenses or permits



of any agency or department of the U.S. government as being applicable to the provisions of a grant of water quality certification under this final determination. In so much that USCOE has determined the extent of §401 coverage for its permitting purposes, the other federal permit or license shall be deemed covered in a likewise manner.

This Agency hereby issues certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, subject to general and special conditions in accordance with the list below identifying conditions applicable to each NWP. This certification becomes effective when the U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, includes the General conditions below and the attached Special Conditions as conditions of the proposed NWPs pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA. These conditions are directed at the effect on water quality of the construction procedures involved in the activities covered by the NWPs and are not an approval of any discharge resulting from the completed facility, nor an approval of the design of the facility.

The following nationwide permits are subject to General Conditions 1 through 15 below:

NWP 3 – Maintenance

NWP 4 – Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Device and Activities

NWP 5 – Scientific Measurement Devices

NWP 18 – Minor Discharges

NWP 19 – Minor Dredging

NWP 20 – Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances

NWP 22 – Removal of Vessels

NWP 25 – Structural Discharges

NWP 30 – Moist Soil Management for Wildlife

NWP 31 – Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities

NWP 33 – Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering

NWP 36 – Boat Ramps

NWP 41 – Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches

NWP 45 – Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events

NWP A – Activities to Improve Passage of Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms

The following nationwide permits are subject to General Conditions 1 through 15 below AND the applicable Special Conditions contained in the attachment: Special Conditions for Illinois EPA 401 Water Quality Certifications of Certain Nationwide Permits Concerning Federal Register [Docket Number: COE-2025-0002] Proposal to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits dated June 18, 2025.

-
- NWP 6 – Survey Activities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 6 in Attachment.
- NWP 7 – Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 7 in Attachment.
- NWP 12 – Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 12 in Attachment.
- NWP 13 – Bank Stabilization. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 13 in Attachment.
- NWP 14 – Linear Transportation Projects. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 14 in Attachment.
- NWP 15 – U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 15 in Attachment.
- NWP 16 – Return Water from Upland Contained Disposal Areas. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 16 in Attachment.
- NWP 17 – Hydropower Projects. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 17 in Attachment.
- NWP 27 – Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 27 in Attachment.
- NWP 29 – Residential Developments. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 29 in Attachment.
- NWP 32 – Completed Enforcement Actions. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 32 in Attachment.
- NWP 37 – Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 37 in Attachment.
- NWP 38 – Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 38 in Attachment.
- NWP 39 – Commercial and Institutional Developments. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 39 in Attachment.
- NWP 40 – Agricultural Activities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 40 in Attachment.
- NWP 42 – Recreational Facilities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 42 in Attachment.
- NWP 43 – Stormwater Management Facilities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 43 in Attachment.
- NWP 51 – Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 51 in Attachment.
- NWP 52 – Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 52 in Attachment.
- NWP 54 – Living Shorelines. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 54 in Attachment.
- NWP 57 – Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 57 in Attachment.

NWP 58 – Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances. Refer to Special Conditions for NWP 58 in Attachment.

The following Nationwide Permits are hereby denied CWA §401 water quality certification with reasons provided in accordance with 401 CFR 121.7:

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

NWP 23 – Approved Categorical Exclusions: The Illinois EPA has determined that the activity allowed by an authorization under this nationwide permit is too undefined and therefore cannot be determined to have minimal adverse impact.

NWP 34 – Cranberry Production Activities: The Illinois EPA has determined that the area of impact that is allowed by an authorization under this nationwide permit exceeds 1/2 acre. 1/2 acre is determined to be representative of the maximum threshold for minimal degradation of existing uses of aquatic resources. Consequently, any activity authorized under this nationwide permit must be subject to a case-specific antidegradation assessment pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 302.105. Therefore, the Illinois EPA denies 401 certification for NWP 34.

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

NWP 46 – Discharges into Ditches: The Illinois EPA has determined that a case-specific review is warranted for all discharge activities into ditches because of the nationwide permit exceeds the 1/2 acreage determined to be the maximum threshold for

minimal degradation of existing uses of aquatic resources. Consequently, any activity authorized under this nationwide permit must be subject to a case-specific antidegradation assessment pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 302.105. Therefore, the Illinois EPA denies 401 certification for NWP 46.

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

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

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

NWP 53 – Removal of Low-head Dams: The specific conditions and requirements that the Illinois EPA deems necessary to ensure compliance with Illinois Water Quality Standards and antidegradation provisions under 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 302.105 are not reasonably enforceable by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under this nationwide permit. Additionally, the State lacks an established process for the transmittal and review of Pre-Construction Notifications (PCNs), which prevents the Illinois EPA from conducting the case-specific evaluations necessary to ensure that individual dam removal projects do not cause more than minimal degradation or violate water quality standards. Therefore, the Illinois EPA denies 401 water quality certification for NWP 53.

NWP 59 – Water Reclamation and Reuse Facilities: As proposed in the Federal Register, this proposed nationwide permit would appear to allow utilization of existing natural waterbodies as treatment devices. According to 35 Ill. Admin. Code 301.440 such utilization is not permissible. Therefore, the Illinois EPA denies 401 certification for NWP 59.

In addition to the above denials of water quality certification for certain categorical permits, the Illinois EPA notes that an applicant for any NWP for which this Agency has granted general water quality certification, has the duty to make project specific determinations regarding the ability of the project to comply with applicable General or Special Conditions of this water quality certification. Additionally, Special Conditions contained on the attachment: Special Conditions for Illinois EPA 401 Water Quality Certifications of Certain Nationwide Permits Regarding Federal Register [Docket Number: COE-2025-0002] Proposal to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits dated June 18, 2025, may result in the denial of certification based on project specific characteristics. These Special Conditions are intended to implement water quality-based limitations or criteria that will, in some cases, cause explicit denial of water quality certification and therefore necessitates that an applicant for a NWP seek individual (case-specific) 401 certification from the Illinois EPA.

General Conditions applicable to all NWP's granted §401 water quality certification

General Condition 1: Waterbodies that Require Individual Certification

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

General Condition 2: Water Quality Impairments

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code Sections 302.105(a), 302.105(c)(2)(B), and 395.401(a), an individual 401 water quality certification will be required for activities permitted under these Nationwide Permits that may cause a discharge that, whether temporarily or permanently, may cause or contribute to additional loading of any pollutant, or deterioration of any water quality parameter, such as pH or dissolved oxygen, where such pollutant or parameter is also designated by the State of Illinois as a cause of water quality impairment of the particular segment of the receiving water body according to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Section 303(d) list. The most recent Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List can be found at <https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/tmdls/Pages/303d-list.aspx>.

General Condition 3: Threatened and Endangered Species

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

General Condition 4: Total Maximum Daily Loads

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

General Condition 5: Prohibitions

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

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

General Condition 6: Erosion and Sedimentation Control Measures

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

General Condition 7: NPDES Stormwater Construction Permit

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

General Condition 8: Spill Response Plan

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401, 302.203, and 302.208, and 415 ILCS 5/12(a) and (d) and 41 Ill. Adm. Code 176.340, the permittee shall ensure that a spill avoidance and response plan has been developed and implemented for management of accidental releases of petroleum, oil, and lubricant products or any hazardous materials to the aquatic environment during construction and for emergency notification of applicable downstream water supply operators. Absorbent pads, containment booms and skimmers shall be available to facilitate the cleanup of petroleum spills. If floating hydrocarbon (oil and gas) products are observed, the applicant or his designated individual will be responsible for directing that work be halted so that appropriate corrective measures including notification are taken in accordance with the plan prior to resuming work. Immediate telephone notification to Illinois Emergency Management Agency (1-800-782-7860) shall be given by the permittee when a release equal to or exceeding the reportable quantity of an extremely hazardous substance or a CERCLA hazardous substance occurs.

General Condition 9: Hydraulic Machinery

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

General Condition 10: Temporary Structures and Work

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

General Condition 11: Construction Site Dewatering

Pursuant to Illinois Environmental Protection Act Section 39(a)[415 ILCS 5/39(a)] and 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 395.402(b)(2), dewatering of a construction site is authorized provided the dewatering activity is limited to the immediate work area within a cofferdam or otherwise isolated from waters of the State, and the work site is free from sources of contamination including those of natural origin. Dewatering activities shall incorporate Best Management Practices in accordance with the current edition of the "Illinois Urban Manual" <https://illinoisurbanmanual.org/>. Practice Standard for

Dewatering (no. 813) or as otherwise appropriate to ensure that return flows from the dewatering activity are free of unnatural turbidity and floating debris and meet applicable water quality standards. Dewatering or discharge of flush water from construction of drilled piers or boreholes is not authorized and must be conducted in accordance with an NPDES permit issued by the Illinois EPA.

General Condition 12: Discharged Material Quality

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.203, 302.208, and 395.401(b), except as provided in item (b) below, any spoil material excavated, dredged or otherwise produced must not be returned to the water body but must be deposited in a self-contained area in compliance with all state statutes. Any backfilling within the waterbody must be done with clean material that is predominantly sand or larger size material, with no more than 20% passing a #230 U. S. sieve and placed in a manner to prevent violation of applicable water quality standards. Fill materials placed in contact with any waters of the State shall be nonerodable and nonpollutional.

- a. The following materials are not permissible for contact with waters of the State because of their potential to cause or tend to cause water pollution:
 - i. Asphaltic materials or concrete with protruding reinforcement materials.
 - ii. Uncured concrete placed without containment or forms adequate to prevent mixing with surface waters.
 - iii. Treated wood or timber products.
 - iv. Any material that may cause water pollution as defined by the Illinois Environmental Protection Act.
- b. Excavated materials may be used as backfill if materials are used in accordance with applicable special conditions of the herein certified Nationwide Permits, they are part of an engineered embankment or shoreline stabilization plan having stabilization practices sufficient to prevent erosion and sedimentation into the waterbody and said material does not cause unnatural turbidity, or the impacts to waters of the State are temporary and the following conditions are met:
 - i. Backfilled materials are wetland soils obtained during excavation with the upper six (6) to twelve (12) inches of fill consisting of the topsoil obtained during excavation.
 - ii. During construction and until permanent stabilization is established, the permittee shall implement all necessary sedimentation and erosion control measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) consistent with the current "Illinois Urban Manual". Measures to prevent erosion during construction shall be taken and may include installation of turbidity barriers, silt fencing and temporary mulching.
 - iii. All construction within the waterway shall be conducted during zero or low flow conditions, and all areas affected by construction shall be seeded and stabilized as soon after construction as possible.

General Condition 13: Stream Relocation

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.203 and 395.401(b), any relocated stream channel authorized under these nationwide permits shall be constructed with adequate provisions for stream channel diversion consistent with the "Illinois Urban Manual" <https://illinoisurbanmanual.org/> Practice Standard no. 976 and Construction Specification no. 760 for Temporary Stream Diversions or as otherwise appropriate to ensure that the relocation of streams shall not alter the water quality or cause erosion or sedimentation in the stream. All segments of the new stream channel including upstream and downstream transition points shall be capable of withstanding erosive forces of expected stream flows to prevent unnatural turbidity and sedimentation within and downstream of the project activity. Diversion of flow to the new channel shall be timed to coordinate with seasonal low flows to the maximum extent possible. Nonstructural streambank stabilization shall be implemented in accordance with the "Illinois Urban Manual" <https://illinoisurbanmanual.org/> Practice Standard for Vegetative Streambank Stabilization (no. 995).

General Condition 14: Stormwater Planning

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.105(a), development activities not subject to requirements of an existing Multiple Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit or qualifying local program as defined at 40 CFR 122.34(c), a stormwater management plan shall be developed and implemented to address stormwater runoff from all impervious areas of development. The plan shall provide water quality treatment and erosion prevention to the maximum extent practicable to avoid pollutant loading associated with urban runoff and to reduce or delay peak flow and volume of runoff by holding stormwater on-site, encouraging infiltration, enhancing evapotranspiration, or similar practices consistent with drainage and detention principles in Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Processes and Planning Principles of the "Illinois Urban Manual" (<https://illinoisurbanmanual.org/>). This condition ensures compliance with Illinois' antidegradation requirements that existing uses of waters of the State are protected and maintained [35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105(a)].

General Condition 15: Riparian Mitigation

Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.105(a), the permittee shall be responsible for restoration of impacted riparian areas to ensure minimization of adverse impacts to waters of the State. Further, the permittee shall be responsible for minimizing disturbances to riparian areas and for developing and implementing post-stabilization monitoring plan to ensure effective riparian area restoration has occurred. This condition ensures compliance with Illinois' antidegradation requirements that all technically and economically reasonable measures to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity.

This Section 401 water quality certification does not supplant any other permit requirements, federal, state, local or otherwise, nor does it grant immunity from any enforcement action found necessary by this Agency to meet its responsibilities in prevention, abatement, and control of water pollution.

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

Sincerely,



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

C-0206-25_2026 Final 401 WQC for NWP.docx

Attachment: Special Conditions for Illinois EPA 401 Water Quality Certifications of Certain Nationwide Permits Regarding Federal Register [Docket Number: COE-2025-0002] Proposal to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits dated June 18, 2025

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

Special Conditions applicable to specific Nationwide Permits

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 6
Survey Activities**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.105(c)(2)(B)(iii), 302.203, and 395.401(a), the applicant for the applicable nationwide permit shall provide adequate planning and supervision during the project construction period for implementing construction methods, processes and cleanup procedures necessary to prevent water pollution and control erosion.
2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 395.401(a), material resulting from trench excavation within surface waters of the State may be temporarily sidecast adjacent to the trench excavation provided that:
 - a. Sidecast material is not placed within a creek, stream, river or other flowing water body such that material dispersion could occur;
 - b. Sidecast material is not placed within ponds or other water bodies other than wetlands; and
 - c. Sidecast material is not placed within a wetland for a period longer than twenty (20) calendar days. Such sidecast material shall either be removed from the site or used as backfill (refer to Condition 4).
3. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.203, 395.205, and 395.401(a), backfill used within trenches passing through surface water of the State, except wetland areas, shall be clean coarse aggregate, gravel or other material which will not cause siltation. Excavated material may be used only if:
 - a. Particle size analysis is conducted and demonstrates the material to be at least 80% sand or larger size material, using a #230 U.S. sieve; or
 - b. Excavation and backfilling are done under dry conditions.
4. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.105(c)(2)(B)(ii) and 395.401(a), backfill used within trenches passing through wetland areas shall consist of clean material which will not cause siltation. Excavated material shall be used to the extent practicable, with the upper six (6) to twelve (12) inches backfilled with the topsoil obtained during trench excavation.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITION FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 7
Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures**

1. Coverage under this NWP does not obviate the applicant's responsibility to comply with Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act to ensure that any cooling water intake structure is located, designed, constructed, and operated using the best available technology (BAT) to minimize adverse environmental impacts, including the impingement and entrainment of aquatic organisms.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMITS 12, 57, and 58.
Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline, Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities,
and Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances.**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code Sections 302.105(c)(2)(B), 302.208, and 395.401, a case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for the following:
 - a. Any activity regulated by these NWPs including new installation, maintenance or replacement of existing infrastructure that, when considered in the project's entirety, may cause:
 - i. total land disturbance to greater than 5 acres of land area regardless of whether land is upland or aquatic; or
 - ii. total length of land disturbances, as measured along the project corridor, is 1.5 miles or greater, where disturbed land is either upland or aquatic; or
 - ii. disturbances to land areas which are either undefined or less than either of the two above criteria but are part of a larger project extending for 4.5 miles or greater, as measured along the project corridor.

For purposes of this condition, infrastructure shall mean structures, cribs, vaults, pipes, conduits and appurtenances related to oil, petroleum, natural gas, carbon sequestration gases, electric transmission line, telecommunications materials, potable and non-potable water, wastewater of industrial or municipal nature, or any other substance.

Disturbance shall mean any construction activities including, but not limited to trenching, excavation, land clearing, stockpiling, equipment staging areas, drilling fluid management areas, and surface drainage controls.

- b. Due to known sediment characteristics or water quality impairments, activities that involve open water trenching in the following waters:
 - i. Lake Calumet
 - ii. Fox River (including the Fox Chain of Lakes)
 - iii. Lake Michigan
 - iv. Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal
 - v. Calumet-Sag Channel
 - vi. Little Calumet River
 - vii. Grand Calumet River
 - viii. Calumet River
 - ix. Pettibone Creek (in Lake County)
 - x. South Branch of the Chicago River (including the South Fork)
 - xi. North Branch of the Chicago River (including the East and West Forks and the Skokie Lagoons)
 - xii. Chicago River (Main Stem)
 - xiii. Des Plaines River
 - xiv. Kankakee River
- c. activities in the following waters if material is sidecast into waters of the State or wetlands:
 - i. Saline River (in Hardin County)
 - ii. Richland Creek (in St. Clair and Monroe Counties)
 - iii. Rock River (in Winnebago County)
 - iv. Illinois River upstream of mile 229.6 (Illinois Route 178 bridge)
 - v. Illinois River between mile 140.0 and 182.0
 - vi. DuPage River (including the East and West Branches)
 - vii. Salt Creek (Des Plaines River Watershed)
 - viii. Waukegan River (including the South Branch)
- d. activities in waters designated as Public and Food Processing Water Supplies with surface intake facilities within 2000 feet of the proposed discharge unless the discharge is reasonably considered downstream of the intake. The Illinois EPA's Division of Public Water Supply at 217/782-1020 may be contacted for information on these water supplies.
- e. activities within inundated or submerged areas or otherwise having contact with surface waters and which involve the use of uncured cementitious materials as the primary means of installation, repair, stabilization, or protection of infrastructure.

2. Section 401 water quality certification is otherwise hereby issued with the following conditions:

- a. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(b) and 302.105(c)(2)(B)(iii), the applicant for the applicable nationwide permit(s) shall provide adequate planning and supervision during the project construction period for implementing construction methods, processes and cleanup procedures necessary to prevent water pollution and control erosion.
- b. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.105(c)(2)(B)(ii), 302.203, 302.208, 395.203, and 395.401, dredged material resulting from trench excavation within surface waters of the State may be temporarily sidecast adjacent to the trench excavation provided that:
 - i. Sidecast material is not placed within a creek, stream, river or other flowing water body such that material dispersion could occur;
 - ii. Side cast material is not placed within ponds or other water bodies other than wetlands; and
 - iii. Sidecast material is not placed within a wetland for a period longer than twenty (20) calendar days. Such sidecast material shall either be removed from the site (refer to Condition 2.e) or used as backfill (refer to Condition 2.d).
- c. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.105(c)(2)(B)(ii), 302.203, 302.208, 395.203, and 395.401, backfill used within trenches passing through surface water of the State, except wetland areas, shall be clean coarse aggregate, gravel or other material which will not cause siltation, pipe damage during placement, or chemical corrosion in place. Excavated material may be used only if:
 - i. Particle size analysis is conducted and demonstrates the material to be at least 80% sand or larger size material, using a #230 U.S. sieve; or
 - ii. Excavation and backfilling are done under dry conditions.
- d. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.105(c)(2)(B)(ii), 302.203, 302.208, 395.203, and 395.401, backfill used within trenches passing through wetland areas shall consist of clean material which will not cause siltation, pipe damage during placement, or chemical corrosion in place. Excavated material shall be used to the extent practicable, with the upper six (6) to twelve (12) inches backfilled with the topsoil obtained during trench excavation.
- e. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.105(c)(2)(B)(ii), 302.203, 302.208, 395.203, and 395.401, all material excavated which is not being used as backfill as stipulated in Condition 2.d and 2.c shall be stored or disposed in self-

- contained areas with no discharge to waters of the State. Material shall be disposed of appropriately under the regulations at 35 Il. Adm. Code Subtitle G.
- f. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(b), 302.203, and 302.208, the use of directional drilling to install utility pipelines below surface waters of the State is hereby certified provided that:
- i. All pits and other construction necessary for the directional drilling process are located outside of surface waters of the State;
 - ii. All drilling fluids shall be adequately contained such that they cannot cause a discharge to surface waters of the State. Such fluids shall be treated as stipulated in Condition 2.F; and
 - iii. Erosion and sediment control is provided in accordance with Conditions 2.B, 2.G, and 2.H.
- g. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.105(c)(2)(B)(iii), 302.203, and 395.401(b), permanent access roads shall be constructed of clean coarse aggregate or non-erodible nonearthen fill material that will not cause siltation. Material excavated or dredged from the surface water or wetland shall not be used to construct the access road in waters of the state. The applicant for Nationwide Permit 12 that constructs access roads shall maintain flow in creeks, streams and rivers by installing culverts, bridges or other such techniques.
- h. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(b) and 302.203, open trench cuts or any land disturbance within land areas adjacent to waters of the State and within the drainage basin of the crossed water body shall be stabilized immediately following construction. During construction, these areas shall be afforded all appropriate measures to prevent erosion within the construction corridor and sedimentation within waters of the State. Such measures and practices shall be designed and implemented to treat, divert, or detain stormwater flows associated with a 25-year 24-hour storm event. Construction of sedimentation basins, check dams, slope-breakers, etc. shall be conducted in accordance with practice standards of the Illinois Urban manual. All construction within the waterway shall be conducted during zero or low flow conditions.
- i. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(b) and 302.203, asphalt, bituminous material and concrete with protruding material such as reinforcing bar or mesh shall not be 1) used for backfill, 2) placed on shorelines/stream banks, or 3) placed in waters of the State.
- j. The permittee must obtain all appropriate NPDES permits to discharge hydrostatic test water.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 13
Bank Stabilization**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a) and 302.105(c)(2)(B), a case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for bank stabilization activities that will exceed 1000 linear feet, as measured along the length of the stream corridor.
2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.203 and 395.401(b), asphalt, bituminous material and concrete with protruding material such as reinforcing bars or mesh shall not be a) used for backfill, b) placed on shorelines/streambanks, or c) placed in waters of the State.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 14
Linear Transportation Projects**

1. Under no circumstances shall approval under this water quality certification for discharges associated with construction or maintenance of roadway, highway, railway, or similar facilities be construed as approval for transportation of substances through pipes and systems of pipelines typically reserved for regulation under NWP 12 or 58.
2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a), and 302.105(c)(2)(B), a case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for linear transportation activities covered by this nationwide permit if the proposed activity:
 - a. would result in the enclosure or encapsulation of any portion of a free-flowing stream or cause adverse impact to greater than 500 linear feet of stream channel, as measured along the stream corridor.
 - b. includes the temporary or permanent placement of steel or other painted structures within the waterbody as a result of demolition work of previous structures performed without implementing a lead paint removal remediation / abatement plan.
 - c. is for new or expanded roadways that would result in stormwater runoff into or otherwise affect waterways designated by the State of Illinois as having water quality impairments caused by chloride. The most recent Illinois Integrated Water Quality

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

- d. is for new installation of linear transportation facilities that would have a total linear extent of greater than 4.5 miles.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 15
U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a), and 302.105(c)(2)(B), a case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for linear transportation activities covered by this nationwide permit that include the temporary or permanent placement of steel or other painted structures within the waterbody as result of demolition work of previous structures performed without implementing a lead paint removal remediation / abatement plan.
2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a), and 302.105(c)(2)(B), a case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA shall be required for new bridges (not replacing another) that affect waterways which are designated by the State of Illinois as having water quality impairments caused by chloride. The most recent Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List can be found at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/tmdls/303d-list.html>.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 16
Return Water from Upland Contained Disposal Areas**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code Sections 302.105(c)(2)(B), 302.208, and 395.401, a case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for:
 - a. return water discharge resulting from dredging activities in the following waters:
 - i. Lake Calumet
 - ii. Fox River (including the Fox Chain of Lakes)
 - iii. Lake Michigan
 - iv. Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal
 - v. Calumet-Sag Channel
 - vi. Little Calumet River
 - vii. Grand Calumet River
 - viii. Calumet River

- ix. Pettibone Creek (in Lake County)
 - x. South Branch of the Chicago River (including the South Fork)
 - xi. North Branch of the Chicago River (including the East and West Forks and the Skokie Lagoons)
 - xii. Chicago River (Main Stem)
 - xiii. Des Plaines River
 - xiv. Kankakee River
- b. return water discharge, resulting from dredging activities, in waters designated as Public and Food Processing Water Supplies with surface intake facilities within 2000 feet of the proposed discharge unless the discharge is reasonably considered downstream of the intake. The Illinois EPA's Division of Public Water Supply at 217/782-1020 may be contacted for information on these water supplies.
- c. disposal areas or return water discharges that are located within a designated Environmental Justice (EJ) area of concern. An EJ mapping tool is available at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/aa364c77db684dfa92afa5094b69f6ff>.
- d. dredging activities that would result in upland placement of more than 125,000 cubic yards of material or would produce effluent discharge on a recurring basis for a period lasting more than 5 years, including periods covered under a previous Department of the Army authorization.
- e. hydraulic dredging activities if the total quantity of dredged material per dredge event would exceed 500 cubic yards and the receiving water:
- i. is listed on the Agency's 303(d) List, or
 - ii. has a USEPA approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is in effect, or
 - iii. is designated pursuant to Section 302.206(d) Stream Segments for Enhanced Dissolved Oxygen Protection.

Information on 303(d) List and TMDLs can be found at <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/tmdls/303d-list.html> and Information on Stream Segments for Enhanced Dissolved Oxygen Protection may be found at <https://pcb.illinois.gov/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-33354/>. You may also utilize Resource Management Mapping Service to graphically identify impaired waters at [https:// www.rmms.illinois.edu/](https://www.rmms.illinois.edu/).

2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Subtitle C Part 309 Subpart B, applicants shall also apply for and obtain a water pollution control permit for and prior to construction and

operation of treatment works used for dewatering, containment, or disposal of dredged materials.

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

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

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 27
Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities**

1. Pursuant to the Illinois Environmental Protection Act Section 12(a)[415 ILCS 5/12(a)] and 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a) and 395.401(b)(2), all activities conducted under this nationwide permit shall be in accordance with the provisions of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 405.108. Work in reclaimed surface coal mine areas are required to obtain prior authorization from the Illinois EPA for any activities that result in the use of acid-producing mine refuse.
2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.105(c)(2)(B), 302.203, and 395.401(a), any backfilled materials used within artificial channels shall be clean coarse aggregate, gravel or other material which will not cause siltation and placed in a manner to prevent violation of applicable water quality standards.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 29
Residential Developments**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a), and 302.105(c)(2)(B), case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for development activities covered by this nationwide permit that would result in the enclosure or encapsulation of any portion of a free-flowing stream or that would cause adverse impact to greater than 300 linear feet of stream channel, as measured along the stream corridor. Enclosures of previously channelized streams for transportation crossings associated with the proposed activity are limited to 30 feet of

enclosure per crossing with a minimum 30 feet of daylighted gap between each crossing.

2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 395.402(b)(2), the applicant must obtain permits to construct sanitary sewers, water mains, and related facilities prior to construction. The permittee shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits to construct sanitary sewers, water mains, water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants and related facilities prior to construction.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 32
Completed Enforcement Actions**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a) and 302.105(c)(2)(B), case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for activities covered by this nationwide permit that involve carbon recovery (coal mining or coal remining) or materials that may be considered "acid-producing material".
2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a) and 302.105(c)(2)(B), case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for activities covered by this nationwide permit that include proposed (yet to be undertaken) adverse impact to aquatic resources which exceed the lessor of ½ acres or 300 linear feet of stream channel as measured along the stream corridor.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITION FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 37
Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a), and 302.105(c)(2)(B), case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for activities covered by this nationwide permit that would result in the enclosure or encapsulation of any portion of a free-flowing stream or that will cause the adverse impact to aquatic resources which exceed the lessor of ½ acres or 300 linear feet of stream channel as measured along the stream corridor.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 38
Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 395.401(b), a case-specific (individual) Section 401 water quality certification will be required for activities covered by this nationwide permit that do not require or will not receive authorization or approval from the Illinois EPA, Bureau of Land (BOL).
2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 395.401(b), the applicant shall notify the Illinois EPA, Bureau of Water, Permit Section, of the specific activity. This notification shall include information concerning the orders and approvals that have been or will be obtained from the BOL, for all cleanup activities under BOL jurisdiction or for which authorization or approval is sought from BOL for no further remedial action.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 39
Commercial and Institutional Developments**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a), and 302.105(c)(2)(B), case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for development activities covered by this nationwide permit that would result in the enclosure or encapsulation of any portion of a free-flowing stream or that would cause adverse impact to greater than 300 linear feet of stream channel, as measured along the stream corridor. Enclosures of previously channelized streams for transportation crossings associated with the proposed activity are limited to 30 feet of enclosure per crossing with a minimum 30 feet of daylighted gap between each crossing.
2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 395.402(b)(2), the permittee must obtain permits to construct sanitary sewers, water mains, and related facilities prior to construction. The permittee shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits to construct sanitary sewers, water mains, water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants and related facilities prior to construction.
3. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.105(c)(2)(B)(ii), 302.203, and 395.401(b), for construction of oil and gas wells, the impacted waters of the State shall be restored to pre-construction conditions within six months after construction is started. For purposes of this condition, restoration includes stabilization and seeding or planting of vegetation on the disturbed areas that were vegetated prior to construction.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 40
Agricultural Activities**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a) and 302.105(c)(2)(B), case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for activities covered by this nationwide permit whenever:
 - a. Greater than 300 linear feet of existing stream channel, as measured along the stream corridor, will be adversely affected by construction activities.
 - b. Greater than 50 feet of existing stream channel will be relocated without adequate provisions to ensure demonstrable increases in overall aquatic ecosystem functions and services.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 42
Recreational Facilities**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a) and 302.105(c)(2)(B), case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for development activities covered by this nationwide permit that would result in the enclosure or encapsulation of any portion of a free-flowing stream or that cause adverse impact to greater than 300 linear feet of stream channel, as measured along the stream corridor. Enclosures of previously channelized streams for transportation crossings associated with the proposed activity are limited to 30 feet of enclosure per crossing with a minimum 30 feet of daylighted gap between each crossing.
2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 395.402(b)(2), the applicant must obtain permits to construct sanitary sewers, water mains, and related facilities prior to construction. The permittee shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits to construct sanitary sewers, water mains, water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants and related facilities prior to construction.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 43
Stormwater Management Facilities**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 302.203 and 395.401(b), the Agency hereby issues Section 401 water quality certification of Nationwide Permit 43 exclusively for the construction and maintenance of stormwater management facilities designed to reduce inputs of sediments, nutrients, and other pollutants into waters to meet reduction targets established under Total Daily Maximum Loads set under the Clean Water Act.

2. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a) and 302.105(c)(2)(B), case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for stormwater management facilities designed for flood control purposes covered by this nationwide permit that cause adverse impact to greater than 300 linear feet of stream channel, as measured along the stream corridor.
3. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a) and 302.105(c)(2)(B), this certification does not authorize activities that impound or otherwise impede the natural flow of waters of the United States or waters of the state. Such activities are prohibited under this certification.
4. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 395.402(b)(2), the applicant must obtain permits to construct sanitary sewers, water mains, and related facilities prior to construction. The permittee shall be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits to construct sanitary sewers, water mains, water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants and related facilities prior to construction.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
REGIONAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 51
Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a) and 302.105(c)(2)(B), case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for activities covered by this nationwide permit that would result in the enclosure or encapsulation of any portion of a free-flowing stream or that would cause adverse impact to greater than 300 linear feet of stream channel, as measured along the stream corridor. Enclosures of previously channelized streams for transportation crossings associated with the proposed activity are limited to 30 feet of enclosure per crossing with a minimum 30 feet of daylighted gap between each crossing.

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 52
Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Sections 395.401(a), 302.105(a) and 302.105(c)(2)(B), case-specific (individual) 401 water quality certification from the Illinois EPA will be required for activities covered by this nationwide permit that cause adverse impact, including the conversion of previously free flowing stream segments to impoundments, of greater than 300 linear feet of stream channel, as measured along the stream corridor.

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

**ILLINOIS EPA WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
SPECIAL CONDITION FOR NATIONWIDE PERMIT 54
Living Shorelines**

1. Pursuant to 35 Ill. Admin. Code Section 395.401(a), an individual Section 401 water quality certification shall be required for any project that exceeds 1000 feet as measured along the bank or when the District Engineer waives the limitation of 30 feet as measured from the mean high-water line.
2. An individual 401 shall be required for authorized projects on Lake Michigan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5's Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Decision for the reissuance of the Nationwide Permits in Indian Country within Illinois

Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 requires applicants for Federal licenses or permits to conduct any activity which may result in any discharge into waters of the United States to obtain a certification or waiver from the certifying authority where the discharge originates or will originate. Where no state or Tribe has authority to give such certification, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the certifying authority. 33 U.S.C. 1341(a)(1). In this case, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation does not have the authority to provide CWA Section 401 certification for projects within its Tribal land. Therefore, the EPA is making the CWA Section 401 certification decision for the 2026 Nationwide Permit reissuance in Indian Country within Illinois.

Project Description

On June 18, 2025, the Corps proposed to reissue 56 NWP and 1 new NWP that would expire in March 2026. 90 FR 26100 (June 18, 2025). The purpose of the NWPs is to authorize categories of activities under CWA Section 404 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 that have no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental impacts. For more details see: <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/>

The EPA's Public Notice Process

On June 24, 2025, the EPA received a request for certification from the project proponent. On July 1, 2025, the EPA issued a public notice regarding the proposed project and provided the opportunity for the public to submit comments until July 31, 2025. EPA received no public comments during the public notice period.

General Information

The general information provided in this section does not constitute a certification condition(s).

General Applicability

- The Corps did not request certification for NWPs 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 24, 28, 35, and 55, and as such, the certification process did not begin and EPA neither certified nor waived certification. Consequently, if any activity authorized by these NWPs may result in a discharge into a water of the United States, on lands that EPA acts as the certifying authority, the project proponent must seek CWA 401 certification from EPA.
- If a project proposal does not meet either the general or NWP-specific certification conditions, or if certification is denied for a specific NWP, the project proponent must request an individual certification from EPA Region 5.

Documentation Recommendations

- Project proponents for potential projects authorized under the NWPs should retain this certification in their files with the applicable NWPs as documentation of EPA's certification decisions for the above-referenced proposed NWPs. This certification is specifically

associated with the proposed NWP described above and expires when those NWPs expire, five years from Corps issuance date, or are otherwise superseded by subsequent reissuance if less than five years.

- Copies of this certification should be kept on the job site and made readily available for reference.

Contact Information

- The project proponents for potential projects authorized under an NWP are encouraged to contact EPA Region 5 during the project planning phase if there are any questions about relevant best management practices (e.g., bioengineering techniques, biodegradable erosion control measures, revegetation using native plant species, suitable fill materials, and disposal of debris/construction materials preventing runoff) and resources that can assist with compliance.
- Prior to work commencing, EPA recommends that project proponents notify the appropriate Tribal Environmental Office, if applicable.
- In the case of a spill, EPA recommends that the project proponent notify EPA Region 5 within 8 hours from discovery. For emergency spills, EPA recommends that the project proponent contact the EPA's National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802 as well as the appropriate personnel identified in the project's Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures, or similar plan, if applicable.
- If you have any questions regarding this certification, please contact Melissa Blankenship at R5wetlands@epa.gov.

Certification Decision

Grants of Certification without Conditions

EPA is granting certification without conditions for NWPs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, and A. For NWPs that EPA grants certification without conditions, EPA has determined that the activity will comply with the applicable water quality requirements, including any limitation, standard, or other requirement under sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the CWA; any Federal and State or Tribal laws or regulations implementing those sections; and any other water quality-related requirement of State or Tribal law.



Illinois
Department of
**Natural
Resources**

JB Pritzker, Governor • Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director
One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Office of Water Resources, Michael A. Bilandic Building, 160 N. LaSalle St., S-703, Chicago, IL 60601

July 29, 2025

Allie Froeschle
Environmental Protection Specialist
Regulatory Division
Rock Island District Corps of Engineers

RE: IFC2025015 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the proposal to reissue the Nationwide Permits.

Dear Ms. Froeschle,

Thank you for the federal consistency certificate dated June 18, 2025 for the above referenced project. Department staff have reviewed the determination and concur that the proposed activity complies with the enforceable policies of the ICMP and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the ICMP.

This determination applies only to the ICMP and does not exempt you from obtaining any other required federal, state, or local authorizations.

If you have any questions, please contact me at eric.otto@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Otto, PE, CPESC, CPSWQ
Senior Water Resources Engineer
Lake Michigan Programs