

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Louis District

Issue Date: March 16, 2018

Expiration Date: None

AVAILABILITY OF ST. LOUIS DISTRICT REGIONAL GENERAL PERMIT 44 – MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC STORMWATER, SANITARY, AND COMBINED SEWER SYSTEMS

This notice is an informational notice only, no comments are requested.

BACKGROUND: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District (the Corps) issued a public notice in December of 2017 soliciting comments on a proposed general permit for routine maintenance of existing stormwater, sanitary, and combined sewer systems. We have reviewed all comments and made minor changes, resulting in the approved St. Louis District Regional General Permit 44 (MVS-RGP-44).

With this notice, the Corps is announcing the immediate availability of MVS-RGP-44 for use by applicable public utility entities, subject to guidelines and conditions contained therein. The Corps has limited the area in which MVS-RGP-44 may be used to St. Louis City and County, St. Charles County, and Jefferson County in Missouri.

PURPOSE: The Corps developed MVS-RGP-44 in collaboration with owners and operators of local stormwater, sanitary, and combined sewer systems. The object of MVS-RGP-44 is to increase the efficiency of Clean Water Act, Section 404 authorization for routine maintenance projects, while maintaining compliance with Section 404 permit requirements (33 CFR parts 320-332), as well as other relevant federal and state regulations. The Corps also recognizes that implementation of MVS-RGP-44 benefits the public interest by allowing owners and operators of such systems to more effectively maintain public infrastructure.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION: To excavate or to discharge fill material into waters of the U.S. in order to perform work associated with the maintenance, repair, or inspection of public stormwater, sanitary, or combined sewer systems. **This general permit does not authorize new infrastructure built in natural streams or wetland areas.**

Types of activities authorized by this general permit are:

1. **Sediment and Debris Removal:** This permit authorizes the removal of accumulated sediment, log jams, and collected debris; including during periods of active discharge within the stormwater system; to restore the conveyance capacity of the system and reduce the potential for flooding.

2. **Maintaining Existing Stormwater Conveyances or Basins in Waters of the U.S.:** Maintaining existing stormwater conveyance structures including the removal and replacement of damaged sections of culverts, pipes, and transfer tubes; removal and replacement of inlet and outlet structures, weirs, flumes, trash racks, riprap, grade stabilizers, pumps, valves, and channels lined with concrete, riprap, stone, block, gabion baskets, and other like materials. This also includes maintenance and clean out of existing culverts, weep holes, and outfall structures. This permit does not authorize the replacement of entire stormwater or sanitary systems.
3. **Improvements to Existing Stormwater Management Facilities:** Improvements or maintenance to existing stormwater management features to improve water quality or add bio-retention, setbacks, rain gardens, natural re-vegetation. This activity does not include stream channelization, impoundments, or piping.
4. **Maintenance or Repair of Existing Stormwater, Sanitary or Combined Sewer Systems in Waters of the U.S.,** including separation of systems. Maintenance and clean out of existing culverts, weep holes, and outfall structures associated with improved stormwater channels. Also includes placement of material, including riprap, at outfalls and along the channel banks for the purpose of protecting the sewer system and excavation needed to access, maintain, or repair sewer infrastructure.
5. **Maintenance and Repair of Existing Access Roads and Ramps,** including re-grading; as necessary to perform items 1-4 above. The maintenance and repair activities shall result in only the minimum waterbody impacts necessary to return the access roads or structures to their as-built condition. The general permit also authorizes minor modifications to repair access roads and ramps, provided that the modifications do not increase their footprint within waters of the U.S. The general permit does not authorize the construction of new permanent access roads, ramps, or other access structures in waters of the U.S.; or conversion of stream channels to temporary roadway; or operation of equipment within stream channels as de facto roadways; with the exception of temporary perpendicular crossings.
6. **Vegetation Removal** necessary to perform items 1-5 above. Vegetation removal would occur through native and non-native vegetation removal within and along the banks of existing recharge basin facilities, and within and around existing water conveyance structures. Vegetation removal shall be the minimum necessary. Permittee may use a combination of mechanical vegetation cutters, hand tools, and heavy equipment to remove vegetation. This activity also includes debris removal to reduce flooding and protect integrity of system.

EFFECTIVE DATE: MVS-RGP-44 is effective with the issuance of this notice.

RGP-44 DOCUMENT: The full text of MVS-RGP-44, including general and specific conditions not included with this Public Notice, is located on the District's webpage at <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/>.

PERIODIC REVIEW: The permit availability expires on March 16, 2023. Prior to its expiration, the Corps will consider reauthorization, modification, or cessation of the permit, based upon experiences during its use. The Corps encourages users of MVS-RGP-44 or the public to report concerns with the permit to Corps as they are encountered, to assist the Corps in evaluating its effectiveness in practice.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information about MVS-RGP-44 may be obtained by contacting Mr. Rob Gramke, Missouri Section Chief by telephone (314) 331-8187 or via email at robert.s.gramke@usace.army.mil. Letters of inquiry or comment can be mailed to:

USACE, St. Louis District
Regulatory Branch
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, MO 63103