PUBLIC NOTICE FOR FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE ANNOUNCING THE REISSUANCE OF THE NATIONWIDE PERMITS

On February 21, 2012, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published the notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the reissuance of all existing nationwide permits (NWPs), general conditions, and definitions with some modifications. The Corps also issued two new NWPs, three new general conditions, and three new definitions. The NWPs will be effective on March 19, 2012, and will expire on March 18, 2017.

With the publication of this *Federal Register* notice, Corps districts will begin finalizing their regional conditions for the new and reissued NWPs. Regional conditions will provide additional protection for the aquatic environment, and will help ensure that the NWPs authorize only those activities with minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. Regional conditions will help ensure protection of high value waters within the St. Louis District.

The publication of this *Federal Register* notice also begins the 60-day period for states, Indian Tribes, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to complete their water quality certification (WQC) process for the NWPs. The 60-day period for WQC will end on April 20, 2012. This *Federal Register* notice also begins the 90-day period for coastal states to complete their Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determination processes. The 90-day period for CZMA consistency determinations will end on May 21, 2012.

While the states, Indian Tribes, and EPA complete their WQC processes, the use of any NWP to authorize a discharge into waters of the United States is contingent upon obtaining individual water quality certification or a case-specific WQC waiver. Likewise, while coastal states complete their CZMA consistency determination processes, the use of an NWP to authorize an activity within, or outside, a state's coastal zone that will affect land or water uses or natural resources of that state's coastal zone, is contingent upon obtaining an individual CZMA consistency determination, or a case-specific presumption of CZMA concurrence.

The February 21, 2012, *Federal Register* notice is available for viewing on the Internet at http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/NationwidePermits.aspx . As an alternate,

Internet users can access the *Federal Register* through the U.S. Government Printing Office at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR .

The Corps has also issued final decision documents for the new and reissued NWPs. These documents are also available on the Internet at http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/NationwidePermits.aspx and Corps district offices. Furthermore, the NWP decision documents will be supplemented by Division Engineers to address decisions concerning the addition of regional conditions to the NWPs.

<u>Index of Nationwide Permits, Conditions, District Engineer's Decision, Further Information, and Definitions</u>

Nationwide Permits

- 1. Aids to Navigation
- 2. Structures in Artificial Canals
- 3. Maintenance
- 4. Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities
- 5. Scientific Measurement Devices
- 6. Survey Activities
- 7. Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures
- 8. Oil and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf
- 9. Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas
- 10. Mooring Buoys
- 11. Temporary Recreational Structures
- 12. Utility Line Activities
- 13. Bank Stabilization
- 14. Linear Transportation Projects
- 15. U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges
- 16. Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas
- 17. Hydropower Projects
- 18. Minor Discharges
- 19. Minor Dredging
- 20. Response Operations for Oil and Hazardous Substances
- 21. Surface Coal Mining Activities
- 22. Removal of Vessels
- 23. Approved Categorical Exclusions
- 24. Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs
- 25. Structural Discharges
- 26. [Reserved]
- 27. Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities
- 28. Modifications of Existing Marinas
- 29. Residential Developments
- 30. Moist Soil Management for Wildlife
- 31. Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities
- 32. Completed Enforcement Actions
- 33. Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering
- 34. Cranberry Production Activities
- 35. Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins
- 36. Boat Ramps
- 37. Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation
- 38. Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste
- 39. Commercial and Institutional Developments
- 40. Agricultural Activities
- 41. Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches

- 42. Recreational Facilities
- 43. Stormwater Management Facilities
- 44. Mining Activities
- 45. Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
- 46. Discharges in Ditches
- 47. [Reserved]
- 48. Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Activities
- 49. Coal Remining Activities
- 50. Underground Coal Mining Activities
- 51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
- 52. Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects

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 Bird and Bald and Golden Eagle Permits
- 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. Pre-Construction Notification

District Engineer's Decision

Further Information

Definitions

Best management practices (BMPs)

Compensatory mitigation

Currently serviceable

Direct effects

Discharge

Enhancement

Ephemeral stream

Establishment (creation)

High Tide Line

Historic property

Independent utility

Indirect effects

Intermittent stream

Loss of waters of the United States

Non-tidal wetland

Open water

Ordinary high water mark

Perennial stream

Practicable

Pre-construction notification

Preservation

Re-establishment

Rehabilitation

Restoration

Riffle and pool complex

Riparian areas

Shellfish seeding

Single and complete linear project

Single and complete non-linear project

Stormwater management

Stormwater management facilities

Stream bed

Stream channelization

Structure

Tidal wetland

Vegetated shallows

Waterbody