

GUIDELINES FOR USE OF
NATIONWIDE PERMITS 3 & 18 FOR ROAD PROJECTS

There are General Conditions that apply to the use of all of the Nationwide Permits, in addition to the specific conditions and thresholds for each of the Nationwide Permits and Regional Conditions for the Norfolk District of the Corps of Engineers. All of these conditions are in effect. The following information provides additional guidance in the use of two of the Nationwide Permits, Numbers 3 and 18, in the Norfolk District.

NWP 3, part i, non-reporting,

- a. No stream relocations are allowed, even with natural stream design. However, minor stream realignment to tie-in to the pipe/culvert is allowed, as long as the total project, including the pipe, fill, and the tie-ins, does not exceed a total of 20 additional feet over the length of the existing pipe/fill (see #3e below).
- b. The discharge of fills/riprap for scour holes abutting existing structures like bridge piers and culverts is allowed.
- c. No shifts in alignment of culverts to change road curvature are allowed (road alignment shifts are more than just maintenance).
- d. Replacement of single pipes with two or more pipes is allowed, provided total pipe width approximates total stream width (horizontal distance from top of stream bank to top of stream bank), and complies with General NWP Condition #21, concerning management of water flows (i.e., "...the activity must, to maximum extent practicable, reduce adverse effects such as flooding or erosion downstream and upstream of project").
- e. No more than 20 feet total of additional pipe/culvert/fill length, including any fill such as riprap, is allowed. This additional length can be at one or both ends of the existing pipe/fill.
- f. The placement of temporary cofferdams in order to conduct the maintenance work is allowed. However, the placement of causeways is not authorized by NWP #3, and would require authorization under NWP #33, following submittal of a pre-construction notification.

NWP #18:

- a. The use of temporary cofferdams for temporary stream diversion during construction is allowed, as long as the total (permanent and temporary) fill does not exceed 25 cubic yards below ordinary high water, the purpose of the

project is not to divert a stream, and the temporary fill is removed in its entirety (If less than 10 cy total below ordinary high water, then the work is non-reporting).

- b. Temporary pumping water around the work site during construction is allowed.
- c. No stream relocations are allowed, even with natural stream design.