

**Nationwide Permit 31 – Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities**

**Effective Date: February 25, 2022 / Expiration Date: March 14, 2026**

**Authorities: Sections 10 and 404**

Discharges of dredged or fill material resulting from activities associated with the maintenance of existing flood control facilities, including debris basins, retention/detention basins, levees, and channels that: (i) were previously authorized by the Corps by individual permit, general permit, or 33 CFR 330.3, or did not require a permit at the time they were constructed, or (ii) were constructed by the Corps and transferred to a non-Federal sponsor for operation and maintenance. Activities authorized by this NWP are limited to those resulting from maintenance activities that are conducted within the “maintenance baseline,” as described in the definition below. Discharges of dredged or fill materials associated with maintenance activities in flood control facilities in any watercourse that have previously been determined to be within the maintenance baseline are authorized under this NWP. To the extent that a Corps permit is required, this NWP authorizes the removal of vegetation from levees associated with the flood control project. This NWP does not authorize the removal of sediment and associated vegetation from natural water courses except when these activities have been included in the maintenance baseline. All dredged and excavated material must be deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization. Proper sediment controls must be used.

**Maintenance Baseline:** The maintenance baseline is a description of the physical characteristics (e.g., depth, width, length, location, configuration, or design flood capacity, etc.) of a flood control project within which maintenance activities are normally authorized by NWP 31, subject to any case-specific conditions required by the district engineer. The district engineer will approve the maintenance baseline based on the approved or constructed capacity of the flood control facility, whichever is smaller, including any areas where there are no constructed channels but which are part of the facility. The prospective permittee will provide documentation of the physical characteristics of the flood control facility (which will normally consist of as-built or approved drawings) and documentation of the approved and constructed design capacities of the flood control facility. If no evidence of the constructed capacity exists, the approved capacity will be used. The documentation will also include best management practices to ensure that the adverse environmental impacts caused by the maintenance activities are no more than minimal, especially in maintenance areas where there are no constructed channels. (The Corps may request maintenance records in areas where there has not been recent maintenance.) Revocation or modification of the final determination of the maintenance baseline can only be done in accordance with 33 CFR 330.5. Except in emergencies as described below, this NWP cannot be used until the district engineer approves the maintenance baseline and determines the need for mitigation and any regional or activity-specific conditions. Once determined, the maintenance baseline will remain valid for any subsequent reissuance of this NWP. This NWP does not authorize maintenance of a flood control facility that has been abandoned. A flood control facility will be considered abandoned if it has operated at a significantly reduced capacity without needed maintenance being accomplished in a timely manner. A flood control facility will not be considered abandoned if the prospective permittee is in the process of obtaining other authorizations or approvals required for maintenance activities and is experiencing delays in obtaining those authorizations or approvals.

**Mitigation:** The district engineer will determine any required mitigation one-time only for impacts associated with maintenance work at the same time that the maintenance baseline is approved. Such one-time mitigation will be required when necessary to ensure that adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Such mitigation will only be required once for any specific reach of a flood control project. However, if one-time mitigation is required for impacts associated with maintenance activities, the district engineer will not delay needed maintenance,

provided the district engineer and the permittee establish a schedule for identification, approval, development, construction and completion of any such required mitigation. Once the one-time mitigation described above has been completed, or a determination made that mitigation is not required, no further mitigation will be required for maintenance activities within the maintenance baseline (see Note, below). In determining appropriate mitigation, the district engineer will give special consideration to natural water courses that have been included in the maintenance baseline and require mitigation and/or best management practices as appropriate.

**Emergency Situations:** In emergency situations, this NWP may be used to authorize maintenance activities in flood control facilities for which no maintenance baseline has been approved. Emergency situations are those which would result in an unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss of property, or an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if action is not taken before a maintenance baseline can be approved. In such situations, the determination of mitigation requirements, if any, may be deferred until the emergency has been resolved. Once the emergency has ended, a maintenance baseline must be established expeditiously, and mitigation, including mitigation for maintenance conducted during the emergency, must be required as appropriate.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer before any maintenance work is conducted (see general condition 32). The pre-construction notification may be for activity-specific maintenance or for maintenance of the entire flood control facility by submitting a five-year (or less) maintenance plan. The pre-construction notification must include a description of the maintenance baseline and the disposal site for dredged or excavated material.

**Note:** If the maintenance baseline was approved by the district engineer under a prior version of NWP 31, and the district engineer imposed the one-time compensatory mitigation requirement on maintenance for a specific reach of a flood control project authorized by that prior version of NWP 31, during the period this version of NWP 31 is in effect, the district engineer will not require additional compensatory mitigation for maintenance activities authorized by this NWP in that specific reach of the flood control project.

**REGIONAL CONDITIONS:**

For applicable Regional Conditions, Water Quality Certification (WQC) determination or requirements, and Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determinations or requirements see the Norfolk District Final Regional Conditions for the 2021 Nationwide Permits (NWPs) Applicable in Virginia (Including Northern Virginia Military Installations within Baltimore District’s Area of Responsibility) for the 41 Nationwide Permits affixed to the end of this document.

**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.*

## Nationwide Permit 31 - Activities, Regional Conditions, General Conditions, and Definitions

- (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 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 NWP 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 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 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 the critical habitat of such species. No activity is 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 designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat, 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 designated critical habitat, the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat 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 critical habitat 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 critical habitat, or until ESA section 7 consultation 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 with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species specific permit conditions to the NWP.
  - (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 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 worldwide 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 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 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 5258 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 1/103/100-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 1/103/100-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 CFF 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.
- (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 statement that the authorized activity was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;
  - 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
  - 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 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.**
- Timing.** Where required by the terms of the NWP, the 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:
    - 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
    - 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 pr 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:
- Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee;
  - Location of the proposed activity;
  - Identify the specific NWP or NWP(s) the prospective permittee wants to use to authorize the proposed activity;
  - 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.
    - 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.
    - 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).
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - (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 email, 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 email 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.

#### **DISTRICT ENGINEER'S DECISION:**

1. In reviewing the PCN for the proposed activity, the district engineer will determine whether the activity authorized by the NWP will result in more than minimal individual or cumulative adverse environmental effects or may be contrary to the public interest. If a project proponent requests authorization by a specific NWP, the district engineer should issue the NWP verification for that activity if it meets the terms and conditions of that NWP, unless he or she determines, after considering mitigation, that the proposed activity will result in more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment and other aspects of the public interest and exercises discretionary authority to require an individual permit for the proposed activity. For a linear project, this determination will include an evaluation of the single and complete crossings of waters of the United States that require PCNs to determine whether they individually satisfy the terms and conditions of the NWP(s), as well as the cumulative effects caused by all of the crossings of waters of the United States authorized by an NWP. If an applicant requests a waiver of an applicable limit, as provided for in NWPs 13, 36, or 54, the district engineer will only grant the waiver upon a written determination that the NWP activity will result in only minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.
2. When making minimal adverse environmental effects determinations the district engineer will consider the direct and indirect effects caused by the NWP activity. He or she will also consider the cumulative adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by an NWP and whether those cumulative adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal. The district engineer will also consider site specific factors, such as the environmental setting in the vicinity of the NWP activity, the type of resource that will be affected by the NWP activity, the functions provided by the aquatic resources that will be affected by the NWP activity, the degree or magnitude to which the aquatic resources perform those functions, the extent that aquatic resource functions will be lost as a result of the NWP activity (e.g., partial or complete loss), the duration of the adverse effects (temporary or permanent), the importance of the aquatic resource functions to the region (e.g., watershed or ecoregion), and mitigation required by the district engineer. If an appropriate functional or condition assessment method is available and practicable to use, that assessment method may be used by the district engineer to assist in the minimal adverse environmental effects determination. The district engineer may add case-specific special conditions to the NWP authorization to address site-specific environmental concerns.
3. If the proposed activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands or 3/100-acre of stream bed, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for NWP activities with smaller impacts, or for impacts to other types of waters. The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation or other mitigation measures the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are no more than minimal. The compensatory mitigation proposal may be either conceptual or detailed. If the district engineer determines that the

activity complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP and that the adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any activity-specific conditions in the NWP verification the district engineer deems necessary. Conditions for compensatory mitigation requirements must comply with the appropriate provisions at 33 CFR 332.3(k). The district engineer must approve the final mitigation plan before the permittee commences 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. If the prospective permittee elects to submit a compensatory mitigation plan with the PCN, the district engineer will expeditiously review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan. The district engineer must review the proposed compensatory mitigation plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure that the NWP activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. If the net adverse environmental effects of the NWP activity (after consideration of the mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be no more than minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the NWP activity can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP, including any activity-specific conditions added to the NWP authorization by the district engineer.

4. If the district engineer determines that the adverse environmental effects of the proposed activity are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either:
  - (a) That the activity does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit;
  - (b) that the activity is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal; or
  - (c) that the activity is authorized under the NWP with specific modifications or conditions. Where the district engineer determines that mitigation is required to ensure no more than minimal adverse environmental effects, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period (unless additional time is required to comply with general conditions 18, 20, and/or 31), with activity-specific conditions that state the mitigation requirements. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or detailed mitigation plan or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse environmental effects so that they are no more than minimal. When compensatory mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan or has determined that prior approval of a final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation.

#### **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).

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

*Best management practices (BMPs):* Policies, practices, procedures, or structures implemented to mitigate the adverse environmental effects on surface water quality resulting from development. BMPs are categorized as structural or non-structural.

*Compensatory mitigation:* The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or in certain circumstances preservation of aquatic resources for

the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

*Currently serviceable:* Useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

*Direct effects:* Effects that are caused by the activity and occur at the same time and place.

*Discharge:* The term "discharge" means any discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

*Ecological reference:* A model used to plan and design an aquatic habitat and riparian area restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity under NWP 27. An ecological reference may be based on the structure, functions, and dynamics of an aquatic habitat type or a riparian area type that currently exists in the region where the proposed NWP 27 activity is located.

Alternatively, an ecological reference may be based on a conceptual model for the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type to be restored, enhanced, or established as a result of the proposed NWP 27 activity. An ecological reference takes into account the range of variation of the aquatic habitat type or riparian area type in the region.

*Enhancement:* The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of an aquatic resource to heighten, intensify, or improve a specific aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement results in the gain of selected aquatic resource function(s), but may also lead to a decline in other aquatic resource function(s). Enhancement does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

*Establishment (creation):* The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics present to develop an aquatic resource that did not previously exist at an upland site. Establishment results in a gain in aquatic resource area.

*High Tide Line:* The line of intersection of the land with the water's surface at the maximum height reached by a rising tide. The high tide line may be determined, in the absence of actual data, by a line of oil or scum along shore objects, a more or less continuous deposit of fine shell or debris on the foreshore or berm, other physical markings or characteristics, vegetation lines, tidal gages, or other suitable means that delineate the general height reached by a rising tide. The line encompasses spring high tides and other high tides that occur with periodic frequency but does not include storm surges in which there is a departure from the normal or predicted reach of the tide due to the piling up of water against a coast by strong winds such as those accompanying a hurricane or other intense storm.

*Historic Property:* Any prehistoric or historic district, site (including archaeological site), building, structure, or other object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization and that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR part 60).

*Independent utility:* A test to determine what constitutes a single and complete non-linear project in the Corps Regulatory Program. A project is considered to have independent utility if it would be constructed absent the construction of other projects in the project area. Portions of a multi-phase project that depend upon other phases of the project do not have independent utility. Phases of a project that would be constructed even if the other phases were not built can be considered as separate single and complete projects with independent utility.

*Indirect effects:* Effects that are caused by the activity and are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable.

*Loss of waters of the United States:* Waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. The loss of stream bed includes the acres of stream bed that are permanently adversely affected by filling or excavation because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the United States is a threshold measurement of the impact to jurisdictional waters or wetlands for determining whether a project may qualify for an NWP; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. Waters of the United States temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the United States.

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Impacts resulting from activities that do not require Department of the Army authorization, such as activities eligible for exemptions under section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act, are not considered when calculating the loss of waters of the United States.

**Navigable waters:** Waters subject to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. These waters are defined at 33 CFR part 329.

**Non-tidal wetland:** A non-tidal wetland is a wetland that is not subject to the ebb and flow of tidal waters. Non-tidal wetlands contiguous to tidal waters are located landward of the high tide line (i.e., spring high tide line).

**Open water:** For purposes of the NWP, an open water is any area that in a year with normal patterns of precipitation has water flowing or standing above ground to the extent that an ordinary high water mark can be determined. Aquatic vegetation within the area of flowing or standing water is either non-emergent, sparse, or absent. Vegetated shallows are considered to be open waters. Examples of "open waters" include rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.

**Ordinary High Water Mark:** The term ordinary high water mark means that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

**Perennial stream:** A perennial stream has surface water flowing continuously year-round during a typical year.

**Practicable:** Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology, and logistics in light of overall project purposes.

**Pre-construction notification:** A request submitted by the project proponent to the Corps for confirmation that a particular activity is authorized by nationwide permit. The request may be a permit application, letter, or similar document that includes information about the proposed work and its anticipated environmental effects. Pre-construction notification may be required by the terms and conditions of a nationwide permit, or by regional conditions. A pre-construction notification may be voluntarily submitted in cases where pre-construction notification is not required and the project proponent wants confirmation that the activity is authorized by nationwide permit.

**Preservation:** The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, aquatic resources by an action in or near those aquatic resources. This term includes activities commonly associated with the protection and maintenance of aquatic resources through the implementation of appropriate legal and physical mechanisms. Preservation does not result in a gain of aquatic resource area or functions.

**Re-establishment:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former aquatic resource. Re-establishment results in rebuilding a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in aquatic resource area and functions.

**Rehabilitation:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of repairing natural/historic functions to a degraded aquatic resource. Rehabilitation results in a gain in aquatic resource function but does not result in a gain in aquatic resource area.

**Restoration:** The manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning natural/historic functions to a former or degraded aquatic resource. For the purpose of tracking net gains in aquatic resource area, restoration is divided into two categories: Re-establishment and rehabilitation.

**Riffle and pool complex:** Riffle and pool complexes are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Riffle and pool complexes sometimes characterize steep gradient sections of streams. Such stream sections are recognizable by their hydraulic characteristics. The rapid movement of water over a coarse substrate in riffles results in a rough flow, a turbulent surface, and high dissolved oxygen levels in the water. Pools are deeper areas associated with riffles. A slower stream velocity, a streaming flow, a smooth surface, and a finer substrate characterize pools.

**Riparian areas:** Riparian areas are lands next to streams, lakes, and estuarine-marine shorelines. Riparian areas are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, through which surface and subsurface hydrology connects riverine, lacustrine, estuarine, and marine waters with their adjacent wetlands, non-wetland waters, or uplands. Riparian areas provide a

variety of ecological functions and services and help improve or maintain local water quality. (See general condition 23.)

**Shellfish seeding:** The placement of shellfish seed and/or suitable substrate to increase shellfish production. Shellfish seed consists of immature individual shellfish or individual shellfish attached to shells or shell fragments (i.e., spat on shell). Suitable substrate may consist of shellfish shells, shell fragments, or other appropriate materials placed into waters for shellfish habitat.

**Single and complete linear project:** A linear project is a project constructed for the purpose of getting people, goods, or services from a point of origin to a terminal point, which often involves multiple crossings of one or more waterbodies at separate and distant locations. The term "single and complete project" is defined as that portion of the total linear project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers that includes all crossings of a single water of the United States (i.e., a single waterbody) at a specific location. For linear projects crossing a single or multiple waterbodies several times at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. However, individual channels in a braided stream or river, or individual arms of a large, irregularly shaped wetland or lake, etc., are not separate waterbodies, and crossings of such features cannot be considered separately.

**Single and complete non-linear project:** For non-linear projects, the term "single and complete project" is defined at 33 CFR 330.2(i) as the total project proposed or accomplished by one owner/developer or partnership or other association of owners/developers. A single and complete non-linear project must have independent utility (see definition of "independent utility"). Single and complete non-linear projects may not be "piecemealed" to avoid the limits in an NWP authorization.

**Stormwater management:** Stormwater management is the mechanism for controlling stormwater runoff for the purposes of reducing downstream erosion, water quality degradation, and flooding and mitigating the adverse effects of changes in land use on the aquatic environment.

**Stormwater management facilities:** Stormwater management facilities are those facilities, including but not limited to, stormwater retention and detention ponds and best management practices, which retain water for a period of time to control runoff and/or improve the quality (i.e., by reducing the concentration of nutrients, sediments, hazardous substances and other pollutants) of stormwater runoff.

**Stream bed:** The substrate of the stream channel between the ordinary high water marks. The substrate may be bedrock or inorganic particles that range in size from clay to boulders. Wetlands contiguous to the stream bed, but outside of the ordinary high water marks, are not considered part of the stream bed.

**Stream channelization:** The manipulation of a stream's course, condition, capacity, or location that causes more than minimal interruption of normal stream processes. A channelized jurisdictional stream remains a water of the United States.

**Structure:** An object that is arranged in a definite pattern of organization. Examples of structures include, without limitation, any pier, boat dock, boat ramp, wharf, dolphin, weir, boom, breakwater, bulkhead, revetment, riprap, jetty, artificial island, artificial reef, permanent mooring structure, power transmission line, permanently moored floating vessel, piling, aid to navigation, or any other manmade obstacle or obstruction.

**Tidal wetland:** A tidal wetland is a jurisdictional wetland that is inundated by tidal waters. Tidal waters rise and fall in a predictable and measurable rhythm or cycle due to the gravitational pulls of the moon and sun. Tidal waters end where the rise and fall of the water surface can no longer be practically measured in a predictable rhythm due to masking by other waters, wind, or other effects. Tidal wetlands are located channelward of the high tide line.

**Tribal lands:** Any lands title to which is either: (1) Held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or (2) held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to restrictions by the United States against alienation.

**Tribal rights:** Those rights legally accruing to a tribe or tribes by virtue of inherent sovereign authority, unextinguished aboriginal title, treaty, statute, judicial decisions, executive order or agreement, and that give rise to legally enforceable remedies.

**Vegetated shallows:** Vegetated shallows are special aquatic sites under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. They are areas that are permanently inundated and under normal circumstances

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have rooted aquatic vegetation, such as seagrasses in marine and estuarine systems and a variety of vascular rooted plants in freshwater systems.

*Waterbody:* For purposes of the NWP, a waterbody is a “water of the United States.” If a wetland is adjacent to a waterbody determined to be a water of the United States, that waterbody and any adjacent wetlands are considered together as a single aquatic unit (see 33 CFR 328.4(c)(2)).

# **Norfolk District Final Regional Conditions for the 2021 Nationwide Permits (NWP) Applicable in Virginia (Including Northern Virginia Military Installations within Baltimore District's Area of Responsibility)**

These Regional Conditions apply only to the 41 NWPs published in the December 27, 2021 (86 FR 73522). The following 41 NWPs are effective February 25, 2022 and will expire on March 14, 2026:

NWP 1, NWP 2, NWP 3, NWP 4, NWP 5, NWP 6, NWP 7, NWP 8, NWP 9, NWP 10, NWP 11, NWP 13, NWP 14, NWP 15, NWP 16, NWP 17, NWP 18, NWP 19, NWP 20, NWP 22, NWP 23, NWP 24, NWP 25, NWP 27, NWP 28, NWP 30, NWP 31, NWP 32, NWP 33, NWP 34, NWP 35, NWP 36, NWP 37, NWP 38, NWP 41, NWP 45, NWP 46, NWP 49, NWP 53, NWP 54, and NWP 59.

## **I. REGIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL NWPS UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED:**

### **1. Waters Containing Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) Beds:**

This condition applies to: NWPs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 45, 53, and 54.

A pre-construction notification (PCN) is required if work will occur in areas that contain submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). Information about SAV habitat can be found at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's website <http://mobjack.vims.edu/sav/savwabmap/>. Additional avoidance and minimization measures, such as relocating a structure or time-of-year restrictions (TOYR), may be required to avoid or reduce impacts to SAV habitat.

### **2. Anadromous Fish Use Areas:**

Authorizations associated with the NWPs shall not adversely affect spawning habitat or a migratory pathway for anadromous fish. Areas of anadromous fish use are indicated on the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) information system at: <https://services.dwr.virginia.gov/fwis/>. If a project is located within an area documented as an anadromous fish use area (confirmed or potential), all in-stream work is prohibited from occurring between February 15 through June 30 of any given year or other time of year restriction (TOYR) specified by the DWR and/or the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC). Should the Norfolk District determine that the work is minimal and no TOYR is needed, the District will initiate consultation with NOAA Fisheries Service for their concurrence. A TOYR is not required for dredging activities in the Elizabeth River upstream of the Mid-Town Tunnel on the main-stem and the

West Norfolk Bridge (Route 164, Western Freeway) on the Western Branch of the Elizabeth River.

### **3. Designated Critical Resource Waters, which include National Estuarine Research Reserves:**

A PCN is required for work under NWP's 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38 and 54 in the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia. This multi-site system along a salinity gradient of the York River includes Sweet Hall Marsh, Taskinas Creek, Catlett Islands, and Goodwin Islands. More information can be found at: <http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/>.

NWP's 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 31, 35, and 49 cannot be used to authorize the discharge of dredged or fill material in the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Virginia.

### **4. Federally Listed Threatened or Endangered Species and Designated Critical Habitat for Non-Federal Permittees**

For ALL NWP's, a PCN is required for any project that may affect a federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has developed an online system that allows users to find information about sensitive resources that may occur within the vicinity of a proposed project. This system named "Information, Planning and Conservation System" (IPaC), is located at: <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. The applicant may use IPaC to determine if any federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat may be affected by their proposed project. If your Official Species List from IPaC identifies any federally listed threatened or endangered species, you are required to submit a PCN for the proposed activity, unless the project clearly does not impact a listed species or suitable habitat for the listed species. If you are unsure about whether your project will impact federally listed threatened or endangered species, please submit a PCN, so the Norfolk District may review the action. Further information about the Virginia Field Office "Project Review Process" may be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/endangered/projectreviews.html>.

Additional consultation may also be required with NOAA Fisheries Service, Protected Resources Division, for listed species or critical habitat under their jurisdiction, including sea turtles, marine mammals, shortnose sturgeon, and Atlantic sturgeon. For additional information about species under their jurisdiction in Virginia, please see <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/consultations/section-7-consultations-greater-atlantic-region>.

Additional resources to assist in determining compliance with this condition can be found on our webpage:

<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/USFWS.aspx>

## 5. Conditions for Designated Trout Waters

A PCN is required for work in Designated Trout Waters, as defined by the Virginia State Water Control Board and the DWR. The waters, occurring specifically within the mountains of Virginia, are within the following river basins:

- 1) Potomac-Shenandoah River Basins
- 2) James River Basin
- 3) Roanoke River Basin
- 4) New River Basin
- 5) Tennessee and Big Sandy River Basins
- 6) Rappahannock River Basin

Information on designated trout streams can be obtained via DWR's Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service's (VAFWIS's) Cold Water Stream Survey database. Basic access to the VAFWIS is available via <https://services.dwr.virginia.gov/fwis/>.

DWR specifies the following time-of-year restrictions (TOYRs) for any in-stream work within streams identified as wild trout waters in its Cold Water Stream Survey database. The recommended TOYRs for trout species are:

- Brook Trout: October 1 through March 31
- Brown Trout: October 1 through March 31
- Rainbow Trout: March 15 through May 15

This condition applies to the following counties and cities: Albemarle, Allegheny, Amherst, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Bristol, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Carroll, Clarke, Covington, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Frederick, Giles, Grayson, Greene, Henry, Highland, Lee, Loudoun, Madison, Montgomery, Nelson, Page, Patrick, Pulaski, Rappahannock, Roanoke City, Roanoke Co., Rockbridge, Rockingham, Russell, Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Staunton, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, Waynesboro, Wise, and Wythe.

Any discharge of dredged and/or fill material authorized by the NWP's, which would occur in the designated waterways or adjacent wetlands of the specified counties, requires a PCN to the appropriate Corps of Engineers field office, and written approval from that office prior to performing the work. The Norfolk District recommends that permittees first contact the applicable Norfolk District Field Office, found at this web link: <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Contacts.aspx>, to determine if the PCN procedures would apply.

## 6. Invasive Species

Plant species listed in the most current Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) *Invasive Alien Plant List* shall not be used for re-vegetation for activities authorized by any NWP. The list of invasive plants in Virginia is found at: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspdflist>. DCR recommends the use of regional native species for re-vegetation as identified in the DCR *Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping* brochures for the coastal, piedmont and mountain regions <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/nativeplants#brochure> also see the DCR native plant finder: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants-finder>.

## 7. Countersinking Pipes and Culverts

This condition applies to: NWPs 3, 7, 12, 14, 17, 18, 23, 25, 27, 32, 33, 37, 38, 41, 45, 46, and 49.

NOTE FOR WORK IN TIDAL WATERS: New and replacement pipes/culverts in tidal waters must be installed with the inverts no higher than the prevailing stream/channel bottom elevation. If the permittee determines that matching existing elevations is not practicable, then a PCN is required. This condition does not apply to pipe extensions in tidal waters.

Based on consultation with DWR, the Norfolk District has determined that fish and other aquatic organisms are most likely present in any nontidal stream being crossed, in the absence of site-specific evidence to the contrary. The following conditions will apply in nontidal waters:

- a. All pipes and culverts placed in streams will be countersunk at both the inlet and outlet ends, unless indicated otherwise by the Norfolk District on a case-by-case basis (see below). Pipes that are 24" or less in diameter shall be countersunk 3" below the natural stream bottom. Pipes that are greater than 24" in diameter shall be countersunk 6" below the natural stream bottom. The countersinking requirement does not apply to bottomless pipes/culverts or pipe arches. All single pipes or culverts (with bottoms) shall be depressed (countersunk) below the natural streambed at both the inlet and outlet of the structure. In sets of multiple pipes or culverts (with bottoms) at least one pipe or culvert shall be depressed (countersunk) at both the inlet and outlet to convey low flows.
- b. When countersinking culverts, permittees must ensure reestablishment of a surface water channel (within 15 days post construction) that allows for the movement of aquatic organisms and maintains the same hydrologic regime that was present pre-construction (i.e. the depth of surface water through the permit area should match the upstream and downstream depths). This may require the addition of finer materials to choke the larger stone and/or placement of riprap to allow for a low flow channel.

- c. The requirement to countersink does not apply to extensions of existing pipes or culverts that are not countersunk, or to maintenance to pipes/culverts that does not involve replacing the pipe/culvert (such as repairing cracks, adding material to prevent/correct scour, etc.).
- d. Floodplain pipes: The requirement to countersink does not apply to pipes or culverts that are being placed above ordinary high water, such as those placed to allow for floodplain flows. The placement of pipes above ordinary high water is not jurisdictional (provided no fill is discharged into wetlands).
- e. Hydraulic opening: Pipes should be adequately sized to allow for the passage of ordinary high water with the countersinking and invert restrictions taken into account.
- f. Pipes on bedrock or above existing utility lines: Different procedures will be followed for pipes or culverts to be placed on bedrock or above existing buried utility lines where it is not practicable to relocate the lines, depending on whether the work is for replacement of an existing pipe/culvert or a new pipe/culvert:
  - i. Replacement of an existing pipe/culvert: Countersinking is not required provided the elevations of the inlet and outlet ends of the replacement pipe/culvert are no higher above the stream bottom than those of the existing pipe/culvert. Documentation (photographic or other evidence) must be maintained in the permittee's records showing the bedrock condition and the existing inlet and outlet elevations.
  - ii. A pipe/culvert is being placed in a new location: If the permittee determines that bedrock or an existing buried utility line that is not practicable to relocate prevents countersinking, they should evaluate the use of a bottomless pipe/culvert, bottomless utility vault, span (bridge) or other bottomless structure to cross the waterway, and also evaluate alternative locations for the new pipe/culvert that will allow for countersinking. If the permittee determines that neither a bottomless structure nor an alternative location is practicable, then a PCN is required. The permittee must provide documentation of measures evaluated to minimize disruption of the movement of aquatic life as well as documentation of the cost, engineering factors, and site conditions that prohibit countersinking the pipe/culvert. Options that must be considered include partial countersinking (such as less than 3" of countersinking, or countersinking of one end of the pipe), and constructing stone step pools, low rock weirs downstream, or other measures to provide for the movement of aquatic organisms. PCN must also include photographs documenting site conditions. NOTE: Blasting of stream bottoms through the use of explosives is not acceptable as a means of providing for countersinking of pipes on bedrock.

- g. Pipes on steep terrain: Pipes being placed on steep terrain (slope of 5% or greater) must be countersunk in accordance with the conditions above and will in most cases be non-reporting. It is recommended that on slopes greater than 5%, a larger pipe than required be installed to allow for the passage of ordinary high water in order to increase the likelihood that natural velocities can be maintained. There may be situations where countersinking both the inlet and outlet may result in a slope in the pipe that results in flow velocities that cause excessive scour at the outlet and/or prohibit some fish movement. This type of situation could occur on the side of a mountain where falls and drop pools occur along a stream. Should this be the case, or should the permittee not want to countersink the pipe/culvert for other reasons, they must submit a PCN. The permittee must provide documentation of measures evaluated to minimize disruption of the movement of aquatic life as well as documentation of the cost, engineering factors, and site conditions that prohibit countersinking the pipe/culvert. The permittee should design the pipe to be placed at a slope as steep as stream characteristics allow, countersink the inlet 3-6", and implement measures to minimize any disruption of fish movement. These measures can include constructing a stone step/pool structure, preferably using river rock/native stone rather than riprap, constructing low rock weirs to create a pool or pools, or other structures to allow for fish movements in both directions. Stone structures should be designed with sufficient-sized stone to prevent erosion or washout and should include keying-in as appropriate. These structures should be designed both to allow for fish passage and to minimize scour at the outlet. The quantities of fill discharged below ordinary high water necessary to comply with these requirements (i.e., the cubic yards of stone, riprap or other fill placed below the plane of ordinary high water) must be included in project totals.
- h. Problems encountered during construction: When a pipe/culvert is being replaced, and the design calls for countersinking at both ends of the pipe/culvert, and during construction it is found that the streambed/banks are on bedrock, a utility line, or other documentable obstacle, then the permittee must stop work and contact the Norfolk District (contact by telephone and/or email is acceptable). The permittee must provide the Norfolk District with specific information concerning site conditions and limitations on countersinking. The Norfolk District will work with the permittee to determine an acceptable plan, taking into consideration the information provided by the permittee, but the permittee should recognize that the Norfolk District could determine that the work will not qualify for a NWP.
- i. Emergency pipe replacements: In the case of an emergency situation, such as when a pipe/culvert washes out during a flood, a permittee is encouraged to countersink the replacement pipe at the time of replacement, in accordance with the conditions above. However, if conditions or timeframes do not allow for countersinking, then the pipe can be replaced as it was before the washout, but the permittee will have to come back and replace the pipe/culvert and countersink it in accordance with the guidance above. In other words, the replacement of the washed out pipe is viewed as a temporary repair, and a countersunk replacement should be made at the earliest possible date. The Norfolk District must be notified

of all pipes/culverts that are replaced without countersinking at the time that it occurs, even if it is an otherwise non-reporting activity, and must provide the permittee's planned schedule for installing a countersunk replacement (it is acceptable to submit such notification by email). The permittee should anticipate whether bedrock or steep terrain will limit countersinking, and if so, should follow the procedures outlined in (f) and/or (g) above.

## 8. Repair of Pipes

This condition applies to: NWP's 3, 7, 12, 14, 17, 18, 23, 25, 27, 32, 33, 37, 38, 41, 45, 46, and 49.

**NOTE FOR WORK IN TIDAL WATERS:** New and replacement pipes/culverts in tidal waters must be installed with the inverts no higher than the prevailing stream/channel bottom elevation. If the permittee determines that matching existing elevations is not practicable, then a PCN is required. This condition does not apply to pipe extensions in tidal waters.

**For Nontidal Waters:** If any discharge of fill material will occur in conjunction with pipe maintenance, such as concrete being pumped over rebar into an existing deteriorated pipe for stabilization, then the following conditions apply:

- a. If the existing pipe or multi-barrel array of pipes are NOT currently countersunk:
  - i. As long as the inlet and outlet invert elevations of at least one pipe located in the low flow channel are not being altered, and provided that no concrete apron is being constructed, then the work may proceed under the NWP for the other pipes, provided it complies with all other NWP General Conditions. In such cases, a PCN is not required, unless specified in the Regional Conditions for other reasons, and the permittee may proceed with the work.
  - ii. Otherwise, the permittee must submit a PCN prior to commencing the activity. For all such projects, the following information should be provided:
    - 1) Photographs of the existing inlet and outlet;
    - 2) A measurement of the degree to which the work will raise the invert elevations of both the inlet and outlet of the existing pipe;
    - 3) The reasons why other methods of pipe maintenance are not practicable (such as metal sleeves or a countersunk pipe replacement);
    - 4) A vicinity map showing the pipe locations.

The Norfolk District will assess all such pipe repair proposals in accordance with guidelines that can be found under "Pipe Repair Guidelines" at:

<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/GuidanceDocuments.aspx>

- iii. If the Norfolk District determines that the work qualifies for the NWP, additional conditions will be placed on the verification. Those conditions can be found at the web link above (in item ii).
  - iv. If the Norfolk District determines that the work does NOT qualify for the NWP, the applicant will be directed to apply for either Regional Permit 01, applicable only for Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) projects or an Individual Permit. However, it is anticipated that the applicant will still be required to perform the work such that the waterway is not blocked or restricted to a greater degree than its current conditions.
- b. If the existing pipe or at least one pipe in the multi-barrel array of pipes IS countersunk and at least one pipe located in the low flow channel will continue to be countersunk, and no concrete aprons are proposed:

No PCN to the Norfolk District is required, unless specified in the Regional Conditions for other reasons, and the permittee may proceed with the work.

- c. If the existing pipe or at least one pipe in the multi-barrel array of pipes IS countersunk and no pipe will continue to be countersunk in the low flow channel:

This work cannot be performed under the NWPs. The permittee must apply for either a Regional Permit 01 (applicable only for VDOT projects) or an Individual Permit. However, it is anticipated that the permittee will still be required to perform the work such that the waterway is not blocked or restricted more so than its current conditions.

- d. In emergency situations, if conditions or timeframes do not allow for compliance with the procedure outlined herein, then the pipe can be temporarily repaired to the condition before the washout. If the temporary repair would require a PCN by the above procedures, the permittee must submit the PCN at the earliest practicable date, but no longer than 15 days after the temporary repair.

## **9. Impacts Requiring a Compensatory Mitigation Plan**

When a PCN is required, a compensatory mitigation plan must be submitted if the permanent loss exceeds 0.1 acre of wetlands and/or 0.03 acre of stream bed or 300 linear feet of stream bed unless otherwise stated in the regional conditions (see Regional Condition 11 for Transportation Projects). The stream channel loss must be reported in acreage and linear feet.

## **10. Removal of Temporary Fills and Impacts**

The soils of any temporarily impacted areas located in wetlands that are cleared, grubbed, excavated, dredged and/or filled, must be restored once these areas are

no longer needed for their authorized purpose, no later than completion of project construction, and not to exceed twelve (12) months after commencing the temporary impacts. To restore, temporary fill must be removed in its entirety and the affected areas returned to preconstruction elevations, the soil surface loosened by ripping or chisel plowing to a depth of 8-12", and then seeded using native wetland species. See Regional Condition 6: Invasive Species for more information on vegetation recommendations.

Fill or dredged material in waters of the U.S. that is not removed within the 12-month period will be considered a permanent impact, unless otherwise determined by the Corps. This additional impact to waters of the U.S. may result in the Corps initiating a permit non-compliance action, which may include a restoration order, after-the-fact permitting, and/or compensatory mitigation.

## **11. Transportation Projects Funded in Part or in Total by Local, State or Federal Funds**

For all impacts associated with transportation projects funded in part or in total by local, state or federal funds and requiring a PCN, compensatory mitigation will generally be required for all permanent wetland impacts (including impacts less than 1/10 acre). Therefore, the PCN must include a compensatory mitigation plan.

## **12. Activities Affecting Structures or Works Built by the United States**

If the NWP activity also requires permission from the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 because it will alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a Corps Federally authorized Civil Works project, the activity that requires section 408 permission is not authorized by the NWP until the appropriate Corps District office issues the section 408 permission to alter, occupy, or use the Corps Civil Works project, and the District Engineer issues a written NWP verification.

Contact a Norfolk District Regulatory Project Manager to assist in determining if your proposed activity might alter or temporarily or permanently occupy or use a Corps of Engineers Civil Works project.

Locations of Norfolk District Civil Works projects can be found at:  
[http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Portals/31/docs/regulatory/RPSPdocs/RP-17\\_Corps\\_Project\\_Maps.pdf](http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Portals/31/docs/regulatory/RPSPdocs/RP-17_Corps_Project_Maps.pdf)

For projects located within the Civil Works boundary of the Baltimore, Huntington, Nashville or Wilmington District, please contact a Norfolk District Project Manager for assistance.

### **13. Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification**

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) provided general Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) for NWP 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 45, 46, 49, 53, 54 and 59. As a condition of the General Certifications, applicants are required to satisfy one of the following:

- a. Comply with VADEQ's WQC Conditions 1-12 (see attached Appendix A)

OR

- b. Obtain one of the following from the VADEQ: a Virginia Water Protection (VWP) permit, an Individual Section 401 Water Quality Certification, or a waiver from the VWP program.

In addition, the VADEQ also included additional general Section 401 WQC conditions for NWP 3, 13, 14, 16, 18, 22, 27, 33, 36, and 59. See these specific NWP requirements in Section II. REGIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC 2021 NWPS to determine if your project qualifies for general water quality certification or if you must obtain an individual Section 401 WQC from VADEQ.

The VADEQ provided a written Section 401 WQC waiver for NWP 1, 2, 9, 10, 24, and 32; therefore, no further Section 401 WQC action is needed for the use of these NWPS.

The VADEQ denied general WQC for NWP 17; therefore, applicants must obtain an individual Section 401 WQC from the VADEQ in order to qualify for use of NWP 17.

### **14. Federal Consistency under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)**

For proposed activities located within Virginia's designated coastal zone, applicants are required to access the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources' (DWR) Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service (VAFWIS) at <https://services.dwr.virginia.gov/fwis/> to determine if a state-listed species or designated resource is known within 2 miles of the proposed activity being permitted. Should a state-listed species and/or designated resource be identified within 2 miles of the proposed activity, the applicant must coordinate with the DWR's Environmental Services Section (ESS) by submitting information on permit applications via email to: [ESSProjects@dwr.virginia.gov](mailto:ESSProjects@dwr.virginia.gov). Applicant shall allow at least 30 days for review and comment by the DWR ESS.

## **II. REGIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC 2021 NWPS:**

### **NWP 3 - Maintenance**

**Section 401 WQC Conditions-An Individual WQC is required if any of the following conditions are not met.**

1. Activities conducted under NWP 3 shall not modify the original configuration or filled area such that the character, scope, or size of the original or DEQ approved alternative design is changed.
2. Activities conducted under NWP 3 that involve emergency reconstruction shall occur as soon as practicable after damage occurs or is discovered.
3. Discharges conducted under NWP 3 shall not increase the capacity of an impoundment or reduce instream flows.

### **NWP 5 - Scientific Measurement Devices**

#### **Condition for Construction or Installation of Subaqueous Turbines:**

A PCN is required if a permittee proposes the construction or installation of subaqueous turbines because this work may have more than minimal impacts and the work will need to be coordinated with appropriate federal, state, and/or local agencies.

### **NWP 7 - Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures**

#### **Conditions for Intakes in Anadromous Fish Waters:**

When an intake is proposed in designated anadromous fish waters, the following design parameters will be incorporated as permit conditions to protect the sensitive life stages of shellfish, resident and anadromous fish:

1. Screening over the mouth of the intake with mesh size that does not exceed 1mm;
2. Intake velocities that do not exceed 0.25 feet per second;
3. Intake must be positioned such that an unimpeded flow of water parallel to the screen surface occurs along the entire surface of the screen to take advantage of sweeping velocity.

### **NWP 10 - Mooring Buoys**

#### **Conditions for Sufficient Mooring Depths:**

1. Water depths in the mooring areas should be sufficient that vessels moored float at all stages of the tide.

2. Boats should not hit bottom during low water conditions. The swing radius of the vessel plus the mooring chain should not result in the vessel becoming an obstruction to navigation.
3. Use of this NWP is prohibited in and around SAV beds. Information about SAV habitat can be found at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's website <http://mobjack.vims.edu/sav/savwabmap/>.

### **NWP 11 - Temporary Recreational Structures Conditions for Sufficient Mooring Depths:**

1. Water depths in the mooring areas should be sufficient that structures moored float at all stages of the tide or stoppers must be utilized to prevent the structures from resting on the bottom, so as to not damage the underlying benthic communities.
2. Structures should not hit bottom during low water conditions.
3. Use of this NWP is prohibited in and around SAV beds. Information about SAV habitat can be found at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's website <http://mobjack.vims.edu/sav/savwabmap/>.

### **NWP 13 - Bank Stabilization**

#### **Section 401 WQC Conditions-An Individual WQC is required if any of the following conditions are not met.**

1. Stabilization activities conducted under NWP 13 shall not channelize the stream bed or stream channel as defined in 9VAC25-210-10.
2. Stabilization activities shall not permanently impact more than 1,500 linear feet below the ordinary water mark of any type of nontidal stream bed or stream channel as defined in 9VAC25-210-10, regardless of any waiver decision made by the Norfolk District.

### **NWP 14-Linear Transportation Projects**

#### **Restricted use of NWP 14 Linear Transportation Projects in Nontidal Waters**

A portion of NWP 14 overlaps with the current State Program General Permit (SPGP-01); therefore, NWP 14 may not be used for projects impacting Section 404 only, nontidal waters of the United States, including wetlands, unless the Norfolk District determines that the SGPG-01 is not applicable. NWP 14 may still be considered for projects impacting tidal waters of the United States, other nontidal, Section 10 waters of the United States and in the Northern Virginia Military Installations within Baltimore District's Area of Responsibility.

**Section 401 WQC Conditions-An Individual WQC is required if the following condition is not met.**

Activities conducted under NWP 14 shall not cumulatively impact more than 1/10 of an acre of wetlands or open water or more than 300 linear feet of stream bed or stream channel, as defined in 9VAC25-210-10.

**NWP 16 - Return Water from Upland Disposal Areas**

**Section 401 WQC Conditions-An Individual WQC is required if the following condition is not met.**

Return flow discharges from dredge disposal sites conducted under NWP 16 shall not occur where prohibited by state law or without applicable authorization from DEQ.

**NWP 17 – Hydropower Projects**

**Section 401 WQC Denial- An Individual WQC is required for all NWP 17 projects.**

**NWP 18 – Minor Discharges**

**Section 401 WQC Conditions-An Individual WQC is required if the following condition is not met.**

Discharges conducted under NWP 18 shall comply with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality law and regulations for discharge of sewage and other wastes from boats, if applicable.

**NWP 22 – Removal of Vessels**

**Section 401 WQC Conditions-An Individual WQC is required if the following condition is not met.**

Discharges conducted under NWP 22 shall comply with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality law and regulations for discharge of sewage and other wastes from boats, if applicable.

**NWP 23 - Approved Categorical Exclusions**

**Conditions Specific to NWP 23:**

1. The use of this NWP applies to an entire project addressed in the Categorical Exclusion prepared by another Federal agency. This NWP cannot be used separately at individual crossings/impact areas of a single project. However, multiple crossings/impact areas of a single project can be authorized by this NWP provided the combined impacts of all crossings/impact areas do not exceed the

thresholds described below. This NWP cannot be used in combination with other NWPs for a single project.

2. Discharges from an entire project must not cause a combined permanent loss of greater than ½ acre of wetlands or 1,000 linear feet of stream.
3. The permittee must submit a PCN if the project results in a discharge to a special aquatic site, including wetlands, and/or results in combined impacts to more than 300 linear feet of streambed from the entire project.
4. To ensure that permanent losses of waters of the United States do not result in more than minimal adverse effects to the aquatic environment, compensation will be required for all wetland impacts and for any single impact to a stream of greater than 300 linear feet. For projects where the combined impacts to streams due to the entire project exceed 300 linear feet, but no single impact exceeds 300 linear feet, the Corps will determine on a case-by-case basis whether compensation for stream impacts is required.

#### **NWP 27-Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities**

1. For all projects proposing stream restoration, when a PCN is required, proponents must provide a completed Natural Channel Design Review Checklist and Selected Morphological Characteristics form, including the name and location of the reference reach, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. These forms and the associated manual can be located at:

<https://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/PDF/stream-restoration/Natural-Channel-Design-Checklist-Doc-V2-Final-11-4-11.pdf>

2. Proponents must provide a monitoring plan to DEQ in accordance with the 401 certificate conditions for NWP 27.
3. If the permittee intends for the permitted activity to generate compensatory mitigation credits, the permittee must comply with all terms and conditions of the mitigation banking instrument/in-leu fee program instrument and modifications to those instruments. Verification of this NWP prior to execution of the mitigation banking instrument/in-leu fee program instrument or modifications to those instruments does not guarantee the approval of the use of any credits, generated from the permitted activities, for compensatory mitigation.
4. **Section 401 WQC Conditions-An Individual WQC is required if any of the following conditions are not met.**

- a. When NWP 27 authorizes wetland or stream mitigation banks or in-lieu fee mitigation sites, compensation required for any surface water impacts shall be debited from the bank's or in-lieu fee program's credits.
- b. Natural stream channel design methods shall be used for stream restoration projects authorized by NWP 27.
- c. Performance monitoring shall be conducted for projects authorized by NWP 27.
  - i. Reports shall be submitted with the as-built during post-construction monitoring years, at a frequency and duration adequate to observe performance according to project objectives. If there is no monitoring schedule otherwise specified, then an as-built and a minimum of five years of annual postconstruction monitoring will be required.
  - ii. The as-built report may include final grade topographic surveys (plan, profile, and cross sections, as appropriate, and approved by DEQ), final location of all planted riparian buffer vegetation (as appropriate and approved by DEQ), site photographs, and a discussion of project design versus as-built conditions.
  - iii. As approved by DEQ, each postconstruction monitoring report may include comparison of as built to monitoring year surveys (plan, profile, and cross sections, as appropriate), vegetation surveys (as appropriate), site photographs/ and a discussion of project performance.

### **NWP 33 - Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering**

**Section 401 WQC Conditions-An Individual WQC is required if any of the following conditions are not met.**

1. Activities conducted under NWP 33 that involve emergency reconstruction shall occur as soon as practicable after damage occurs or is discovered.
2. Discharges conducted under NWP 33 shall not increase the capacity of an impoundment or reduce instream flows.

### **NWP 36 - Boat Ramps**

**Section 401 WQC Conditions-An Individual WQC is required if any of the following conditions are not met.**

1. Activities conducted under NWP 36 shall not impact more than 1/10 of an acre of wetlands or more than 1,500 linear feet of stream bed or stream channel as defined in 9VAC25-210-10.
2. Excavation conducted under NWP 36 shall be limited to the area necessary for site preparation and all excavated material shall be removed to an area that has no surface waters. Deviations from the original configuration or filled area shall not change the character, scope, or size of the original or DEQ approved alternative design.

## **NWP 53-Removal of Low-Head Dams**

The following information related to physical removal of the dam structure should be included in the PCN:

1. Timing and rate of the drawdown of the impoundment to avoid and minimize downstream flooding and excessive sedimentation to downstream areas.
2. Method of re-establishment and stabilization of the stream channel, and avoidance of other environmental impacts, including the potential for drainage of adjacent wetlands.
3. Construction equipment to be used in the stream channel and appropriate measures that will be taken, such as the use of construction mats or barges, to minimize impacts.
4. Information sufficient to ensure that accumulated sediments are free from contaminants and are disposed of properly. If testing is required, the testing criteria shall be developed in cooperation with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.
5. Information concerning competing uses of the waterbody above the dam if the impoundment is not fully owned by the applicant.

## **NWP 54-Living Shorelines**

1. This activity authorizes the placement of sandy fill material, including the placement landward of sill(s) provided the fill is for shoreline protection and/or wetland establishment or enhancement (and not solely a recreational beach). The maximum fill area within waters of the United States that can be authorized under this NWP is one (1) acre. For the purpose of this NWP, a sill is defined as a low (not to exceed +1 ft. above MHW), detached structure constructed near shore and parallel to the shoreline for the purpose of building up an existing beach by trapping and retaining sand in the littoral zone. Because a sill acts like a natural bar, it is most effective when constructed at or near the mean low water line and low enough to allow wave overtopping.
2. The grain size of the source material used for fill must be beach quality sand that is the same size or slightly larger than that of the native beach material and suitable for the proposed project. Excess silt/clay fraction and grain sizes smaller than the former native sands will perform poorly. In most cases, sand material with no more than 10% passing a #100 sieve is appropriate. All fill material will be obtained from either an upland source, a borrow pit, or dredge material approved by the Corps.

3. Coir logs, coir mats, and native oyster shell should be of sufficient weight, adequately anchored, or placed in a manner to prevent them from being dislodged or carried away by wave action.
4. Sills may be constructed of riprap stone, gabion baskets, or clean broken concrete free of metal and re-bar. Alternative materials may be considered for use during the permit review process. The materials should be of sufficient weight or adequately anchored to prevent them from being dislodged and carried away by wave action. Asphalt and materials containing asphalt or other contaminants shall not be used in the construction of sills.
5. Sills will be designed with at least one 5-foot window/gap per property and per 100 linear feet of sill unless waived by the District Engineer.
6. The sill height should be a maximum of +1 foot above mean high water and should be placed at a distance no greater than 30 feet from mean low water to the channelward toe of the sill unless waived by the District Engineer.
7. The total amount of existing vegetated wetlands, which may be filled, graded, or excavated, in square feet, may not exceed the length of the activity along the shoreline in linear feet unless the District Engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the project will result in minimal adverse effects. Impacts to sub-tidal, inter-tidal, and/or existing wetland vegetation may require a wetland mitigation plan and must result in no net loss of vegetated wetlands.
8. If the proposed project results in impacts to existing wetland vegetation, then a written monitoring report may be required at the end of the first full growing season following planting, and after the second year of establishment. If required, the monitoring should be undertaken between June and September of each year and should include at a minimum: the project location, the Corps project number, representative photos of the site, and a brief statement on the success of the project.
9. As the design of a living shoreline project is site specific, it is suggested that the applicant refer to the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences Living Shoreline Design Guidelines for Shore Protection in Virginia's Estuarine Environments and other reference documents which can be found at:  
[https://www.vims.edu/ccrm/outreach/living\\_shorelines/index.php](https://www.vims.edu/ccrm/outreach/living_shorelines/index.php)
10. Projects which include placement of sandy fill material may result in impacts to or creation of suitable habitat for various federally listed threatened or endangered species. If this occurs or the applicant seeks to either add to or replenish the area previously filled, the Corps will consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act to ensure work is not likely to adversely affect proposed or listed species or proposed or designated critical

habitat. Specific requirements on the type of sand allowed for beach and dune work may be required.

**NWP 59 – Water Reclamation and Reuse Facilities**

**Section 401 WQC Conditions-An Individual WQC is required if any of the following conditions are not met.**

1. Construction or expansion activities conducted under NWP 59 shall not impact more than 1/4 of an acre of wetlands or 300 linear feet of stream bed or stream channel as defined in 9VAC25-210-10. Maintenance activities conducted under NWP 59 shall not impact more than 300 linear feet of stream bed or stream channel when conducted in impact areas not previously authorized by DEQ or when located on or in existing, currently serviceable structures or fills.
2. Activities conducted under NWP 59 that involve emergency reconstruction shall occur as soon as practicable after damage occurs or is discovered.
3. Discharges conducted under NWP 59 shall not increase the capacity of an impoundment or reduce instream flows.

## APPENDIX A

# Norfolk District Final Regional Conditions for the 2021 Nationwide Permits (NWP) Applicable in Virginia (Including Northern Virginia Military Installations within Baltimore District's Area of Responsibility)

### Section 401 Water Quality Certification Conditions (1-12)

1. For activities that are proposed to occur in state surface waters as defined in § 62.1-44.3 of the Code of Virginia: Once an activity is proposed to occur in any surface water that is not subject to federal jurisdiction, and as such not subject to a NATIONWIDE PERMIT, application to DEQ shall be required in accordance with Virginia Administrative Code 9VAC25-210 et seq., 9VAC25-660 et seq. through -690 et seq. as applicable, and State Water Control Law for i) coverage under a Virginia Water Protection (VWP) general permit, ii) a VWP individual permit, or iii) a decision that no permit is required (in situations where VWP permitting exclusions apply). A DEQ VWP permit or decision shall need to have been finalized prior to the project proponent impacting any surface waters. If a DEQ VWP general permit coverage or individual permit is issued, it shall be based on all impacts of the proposed activities in surface waters under both state and federal jurisdiction, pursuant to applicable permit regulations and State Water Control Law. Other permits may be required from DEQ based on the proposed activities or impacts.

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life.

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2 through -44.6, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:01, § 62.1-44.15:4.1, § 62.1-44.15:5.1, § 62.1-44.15:5.2, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:24, § 62.1-44.15:25, § 62.1-44.15:28, § 62.1-44.15:28.1, § 62.1-44.15:31, § 62.1-44.15:34, § 62.1-44.15:40, § 62.1-44.15:50, § 62.1-44.15:52, Article 2.5 of Title 62.1 (§§ 62.1-44.15:67 through § 62.1-44.15:79), § 62.1-44.19:5]; § 10.1-400 et seq.; § 10.1-604 et seq.; § 10.1-1408.5; § 28.2-1300 et seq.; § 62.1-7; § 62.1-8; § 62.1-10; § 62.1-11; § 62.1-194 through -194.3; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-31 et seq.; 9VAC25-40 et seq.; 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-260 et seq.; 9VAC25-380 et seq.; 9VAC25-401 et seq.; 9VAC25-410 and 415 et seq.; 9VAC25-630 et seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq.; 9VAC25-670 et seq.; 9VAC25-680 et seq.; 9VAC25-690 et seq.; 9VAC25-720 et seq.; 9VAC25-820 et seq.; 9VAC25-830 et seq.; 9VAC25-840 et seq.; 9VAC25-870 through 890 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d); 33 U.S.C. § 1315(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1317(a); 33 U.S.C § 1341 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 33 C.F.R. Part 332; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq.; Public Law 95-217

2. For activities in wetlands, open water, streams, or mitigation sites that are under a deed restriction, conservation easement, declaration of restrictive covenant, or other land use protective instrument ("protected areas"), and when such restriction, easement, covenant, or instrument is the result of a federal or state permit action and is specific to activities in wetlands and compensatory mitigation sites, application to DEQ shall be required in accordance with Virginia Administrative Code 9VAC25-210 et seq.,

9VAC25-660 et seq. through -690 et seq., and State Water Control Law for i) coverage under a Virginia Water Protection (VWP) general permit, ii) a VWP individual permit, or iii) a decision that no permit is required (in situations where VWP permitting exclusions apply). A DEQ VWP permit or decision shall need to have been finalized prior to the project proponent impacting any surface waters. If a DEQ VWP general permit coverage or individual permit is issued, it shall be based on all impacts of the proposed activities in surface waters under both state and federal jurisdiction, pursuant to applicable permit regulations and State Water Control Law. Compensatory mitigation may be required for all permanent impacts. Other permits may be required from DEQ based on the proposed activities or impacts.

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life."

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2 through -44.5, § 62.1-44.13, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:01, § 62.1-44.15:5.1, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:23, § 62.1-44.19:5; § 62.1-44.34:18]; § 28.2-1300 et seq.; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-31 et seq.; 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-380 et seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq., 9VAC25-670 et seq., 9VAC25-680 et seq. or 9VAC25-690 et seq. as applicable; 9VAC25-770 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1341 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 33 C.F.R. Part 332; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 230 et seq.

3. Activities conducted in state surface waters shall not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state fish and wildlife resources, including but not limited to: 1) documented spawning habitat or a migratory pathways for anadromous fish; 2) trout waters in specified locations of Virginia, as provided by the Virginia State Water Control Board's Water Quality Standards 9VAC25-260-370 et seq. and 9VAC25-260-390 et seq.; 3) state-listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat; and 4) areas that contain submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). This certification condition does not preclude compliance by the permittee with all applicable state laws and regulations concerning Virginia's fish and wildlife or critical habitat resources.

a. The project proponent shall ensure the activities do not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources, including state listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat, through screening or coordination with state resource agencies prior to doing work in surface waters. This requirement is in addition to identifying any potential or actual impacts to federal listed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat that may be required by the NATIONWIDE PERMIT or regional conditions.

(i) Where a project proponent is not required to obtain a verification from the Corps that the proposed activities qualify for the NATIONWIDE PERMIT, the project proponent shall follow all Time-of-Year Restrictions (TOYRs) applicable to state surface waters that are recommended by the

state resource agencies and other interested and affected agencies in the results or information provided to the project proponent. Results or information may include correspondence or documentation from state resource agencies and other interested and affected agencies addressing potential impacts, or reference materials that address potential impacts such as database search results or confirmed waters and wetlands delineations or jurisdictional determinations, or a combination thereof.

(ii) Where the project proponent receives a verification from the Corps that the proposed activities qualify for the NATIONWIDE PERMIT, the project proponent or authorized agent shall submit upon receipt or the next business day the screening or coordination results or information concerning the potential for activities to impact state threatened and endangered species (listed or proposed) or critical habitat to the Corps office having responsibility over the proposed project. Results or information may include correspondence or documentation from state resource agencies and other interested and affected agencies addressing potential impacts, or reference materials that address potential impacts such as database search results or confirmed waters and wetlands delineations or jurisdictional determinations, or a combination thereof. Time-of-year restrictions (TOYRs) recommended by state resource agencies and other interested and affected agencies shall be applied to any Corps verification of the NATIONWIDE PERMIT.

State resource agencies include the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (MRC) at minimum. Other interested and affected agencies may include the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) or the Maryland Department of the Environment where activities occur in the Potomac River. The Virginia DWR has developed an online system that allows users to find information about sensitive state resources that may occur within the vicinity of a proposed project. This system named the Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information System is located at <https://vafwis.dgif.virginia.gov/fwis/>. This system may be used to determine if any state listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed activities.

b. Notification to the Corps is required prior to conducting any activities in state surface waters if they contain submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV). Information regarding submerged aquatic vegetation can be located on the Virginia Institute of Marine Science's SAV website at <http://mobjack.vims.edu/sav/savwabmap/>. Additional avoidance and minimization measures, such as relocating a structure

or time-of-year restrictions (TOYR), may be required to reduce impacts to SAV habitat in state surface waters.

c. Activities in surface waters shall be performed behind cofferdams, turbidity curtains, or other methods to control turbidity when operationally feasible and state listed threatened or endangered species may be present.

d. No activities may substantially disrupt the movement of aquatic life indigenous to the water body, including those species which normally migrate through the area, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water.

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life."

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2 through -44.6, § 62.1-44.13, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:4.1, § 62.1-44.15:5.1, § 62.1-44.15:5.2, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:23, § 62.1-44.15:24, § 62.1-44.15:25, § 62.1-44.15:27, § 62.1-44.15:28, § 62.1-44.15:31, § 62.1-44.15:34, § 62.1-44.15:37, § 62.1-44.15:37.1, § 62.1-44.15:40, § 62.1-44.15:50, § 62.1-44.15:52, § 62.1-44.15:54, § 62.1-44.15:55, § 62.1-44.15:56, § 62.1-44.15:58, § 62.1-44.15:58.1, Article 2.5 of Title 62.1 (§§ 62.1-44.15:67 through § 62.1-44.15:79), §§ 62.1-44.16 through § 62.1-44.17, § 62.1-44.17:2, § 62.1-44.17:3, § 62.1-44.18, § 62.1-44.19, § 62.1-44.19:3, § 62.1-44.19:5, § 62.1-44.33, §§ 62.1-44.34:14 through § 62.1-44.34:19, § 62.1-44.34:23, § 62.1-44.34:26]; §§ 3.2-1000 through 3.2-1011; § 10.1-400 et seq.; § 10.1-604 et seq.; § 28.2-1200 et seq.; § 28.2-1300 et seq.; § 29.1-500 through -579; § 62.1-7; § 62.1-8; § 62.1-10; § 62.1-11; § 62.1-194 through -194.3; 4VAC15-20 et seq.; 4VAC15-30 et seq.; 4VAC15-290-60; 4VAC15-320-100; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-31 Sections 10 through 60, 120, 150 through 220, 330, and if applicable, 420 through 1030; 9VAC25-40 et seq.; 9VAC25-120 et seq.; 9VAC25-151 et seq.; 9VAC25-190 et seq.; 9VAC25-191 through -196 et seq.; 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-260 et seq.; 9VAC25-370 et seq.; 9VAC25-380 et seq.; 9VAC25-390 et seq.; 9VAC25-401 et seq.; 9VAC25-410 and 415 et seq.; 9VAC25-630 et seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq., 9VAC25-670 et seq., 9VAC25-680 et seq. or 9VAC25-690 et seq. as applicable; 9VAC25-720 et seq.; 9VAC25-740 et seq.; 9VAC25-790 et seq.; 9VAC25-800 et seq.; 9VAC25-820 et seq.; 9VAC25-830 et seq.;

9VAC25-840 et seq.; 9VAC25-860 et seq.; 9VAC25-870 through 890 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d); 33 U.S.C. § 1315(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1317(a); 33 U.S.C. § 1341 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq.; Public Law 95-217

4. Plant species listed in the most current Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Virginia Invasive Plant Species List shall not be used for re-vegetation. The list of invasive plants in Virginia is found at: <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/invspdflist>. DCR recommends the use of regional native species for re-vegetation as identified in the DCR Native Plants for Conservation, Restoration and Landscaping brochures for the coastal, piedmont and mountain regions <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/nativeplants#brochure>. See also DCR's native plant finder at <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/native-plants-finder>.

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life."

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2, § 62.1-44.13, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:23, § 62.1-44.15:50]; §§ 3.2-800 through -805; 2VAC5-317 et seq.; 4VAC15-20-210; 4VAC15-30-20; 4VAC15-30-40; 4VAC15-20-130 B and C; 4VAC15-290-60; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-380 et seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq., 9VAC25-670 et seq., 9VAC25-680 et seq. or 9VAC25-690 et seq. as applicable; 9VAC25-800 et seq.; 9VAC25-830 et seq.; 9VAC25-840 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1341 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 230 et seq.

5. Stormwater management facilities, as defined in 9VAC25-870-10, shall not be constructed in a perennial stream bed or stream channel, as defined in 9VAC25-210-10, or in waters designated as oxygen-impaired or temperature-impaired (does not include wetlands).

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life."

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2 through -44.6, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:24, § 62.1-44.15:25, § 62.1-44.15:27, § 62.1-44.15:28, § 62.1-44.15:31, § 62.1-44.15:34, § 62.1-44.19:5]; § 10.1-604 et seq.; § 28.2-1300 et seq.; § 62.1-7; § 62.1-8; § 62.1-10; § 62.1-11; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-31 Sections 10 through 60, 120, 150 through 220, 330, and if applicable, 420 through 1030; 9VAC25-40 et seq.; 9VAC25-151 et seq.; 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-260 et seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq., 9VAC25-670 et seq., 9VAC25-680 et seq. or 9VAC25-690 et seq. as applicable; 9VAC25-720 et seq.; 9VAC25-820 et seq.; 9VAC25-870 through 890 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. 403 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d); 33 U.S.C. § 1315(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1317(a); 33 U.S.C § 1341 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq.; Public Law 95-217

6. Compensatory mitigation for unavoidable permanent impacts, including the conversion of forested wetlands, that are greater than 1/10 of an acre of wetlands or greater than 300 linear feet of stream bed or stream channel as defined by 9VAC25-210-10 shall be provided in accordance with Section 62.1-44.15:23 A through C of the Code of Virginia, as applicable to the project activities and Virginia Water Protection Permit Program regulations.

a. Stream bed or stream channel impacts shall be determined by utilizing a stream impact assessment methodology acceptable to the Department of Environmental Quality.

b. The mitigation shall be sufficient to achieve no net loss of existing wetland acreage and functions or stream functions and water quality benefits. In the absence of same river watershed alternatives in Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) 02040303 and 02040304, single-family dwellings or locality projects may use compensatory mitigation in HUC 02080102, 02080108, 02080110, or 02080111 in Virginia.

c. Unless the area is outside of permittee control, the permittee shall have all non-impacted surface waters and compensatory mitigation areas within 50 feet of authorized activities and within the project or right-of-way limits clearly flagged or marked for the life of the construction activity at that location to preclude

unauthorized disturbances to these surface waters and compensatory mitigation areas during construction. The permittee shall notify contractors that no activities are to occur in these marked surface waters.

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life."

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2 through -44.5, § 62.1-44.13, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:01, § 62.1-44.15:5.1, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:23]; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-380 et seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq., 9VAC25-670 et seq., 9VAC25-680 et seq. or 9VAC25-690 et seq. as applicable; 9VAC25-770 et seq.; 9VAC25-800 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1341 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 33 C.F.R. Part 332; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 230 et seq.

7. The following information associated with activities in state surface waters, as applicable, shall be submitted by the permittee to the Virginia Water Protection Permit Program at the DEQ office having responsibility over the project location. The Joint Permit Application process may be used to meet this condition, provided all required information is included.

a. When required, any pre-construction notification (PCN) materials or information shall be concurrently submitted to DEQ and the Corps.

b. All jurisdictional determination information provided to the Corps and issued from the Corps, such as jurisdictional determination requests, maps, forms, photos, correspondence, Corps determinations or confirmations, shall be concurrently submitted to or shared with DEQ. Delineation of state surface waters on the entire project site is strongly encouraged prior to submitting an application to expedite state permit processing, if required.

c. Proof of coverage ("verification") under one or more NATIONWIDE PERMITS, upon issuance by the Corps or on the next business day, unless the activities are excluded from permitting under the Virginia Water Protection Permit Program or no NATIONWIDE PERMIT verification is issued by the Corps.

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life."

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2, § 62.1-44.3, § 62.1-44.6, § 62.1-44.13, § 62.1-44.19:5, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:01, § 62.1-44.15:5.1, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:23]; § 10.1-604 et seq.; § 28.2-1300 et seq.; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-380 et seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq., 9VAC25-670 et seq., 9VAC25-680 et seq. or 9VAC25-690 et seq. as applicable; 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d); 33 U.S.C. § 1315(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1317(a); 33 U.S.C § 1341 et

seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 230 et seq.; Public Law 95-217

8. Activities shall include measures to prevent spills of fuels or lubricants into state waters. Any fish kills or spills of fuels or oils shall be reported to DEQ immediately upon discovery. If DEQ cannot be reached, the spill or fish kill shall be reported to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) at 1-800-468-8892 or the National Response Center (NRC) at 1-800-424-8802. Any spill of oil as defined in § 62.1-44.34:14 of the Code of Virginia that is less than 25 gallons, and that reaches or is expected to reach land only, is not reportable if recorded per § 62.1-44.34:19.2 of the Code of Virginia and if properly cleaned up. If unauthorized impacts have occurred, the permittee shall notify DEQ within 24 hours of discovery.

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life."

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2 through -44.6, § 62.1-44.13, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:4.1, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:40, § 62.1-44.15:50, Article 2.5 of Title 62.1 (§§ 62.1-44.15:67 through § 62.1-44.15:79), §§ 62.1-44.16 through § 62.1-44.17, § 62.1-44.17:2, § 62.1-44.17:3, § 62.1-44.34:19.2, § 62.1-44.19:5, § 62.1-44.33, §§ 62.1-44.34:14 through § 62.1-44.34:19, § 62.1-44.34:23, § 62.1-44.34:26]; § 62.1-10; § 62.1-11; § 62.1-194 through -194.3; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-31 Sections 10 through 60, 120, 150 through 220, 330, and if applicable, 420 through 1030; 9VAC25-40 et seq.; 9VAC25-71 et seq.; 9VAC25-101 et seq.; 9VAC25-120 et seq.; 9VAC25-151 et seq.; 9VAC25-190 et seq.; 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-260 et seq.; 9VAC25-380 et seq.; 9VAC25-410 and 415 et seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq., 9VAC25-670 et seq., 9VAC25-680 et seq. or 9VAC25-690 et seq. as applicable; 9VAC25-720 et seq.; 9VAC25-820 et seq.; 9VAC25-830 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d); 33 U.S.C. § 1315(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1317(a); 33 U.S.C § 1341 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 140; Public Law 95-217

9. Activities shall be executed in a manner so as to minimize adverse impacts on instream beneficial uses as defined in § 62.1-10 (b) of the Code of Virginia.

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life."

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2 through -44.6, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:4.1, § 62.1-44.15:5.1, § 62.1-44.15:5.2, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:24, § 62.1-44.15:25, § 62.1-44.15:27, § 62.1-44.15:28, § 62.1-44.15:28.1, § 62.1-44.15:31, § 62.1-44.15:34, § 62.1-44.15:37, § 62.1-44.15:37.1, § 62.1-44.15:50, § 62.1-44.15:52, § 62.1-44.15:54, § 62.1-44.15:55, § 62.1-44.15:56, § 62.1-44.15:58, § 62.1-44.15:58.1, Article 2.5 of Title 62.1 (§§ 62.1-44.15:67 through § 62.1-44.15:79), §§ 62.1-44.16 through § 62.1-44.17, § 62.1-44.17:2, § 62.1-44.17:3, § 62.1-44.18, § 62.1-44.19, § 62.1-44.19:3, § 62.1-44.19:5, § 62.1-44.33, §§ 62.1-44.34:14 through § 62.1-44.34:19, § 62.1-44.34:23, § 62.1-44.34:26]; § 10.1-400 et seq.; § 10.1-604 et seq.; § 28.2-1300 et seq.; § 62.1-7; § 62.1-8; § 62.1-10; § 62.1-11; § 62.1-194 through -194.3; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-31 Sections 10 through 60, 120, 150 through 220, 330, and if applicable, 420 through 1030; 9VAC25-40 et seq.; 9VAC25-71 et seq.; 9VAC25-101 et seq.; 9VAC25-120 et seq.; 9VAC25-151 et seq.; 9VAC25-190 et seq.; 9VAC25-191 through -196 et seq.; 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-260 et seq.; 9VAC25-370 et seq.; 9VAC25-401 et seq.; 9VAC25-410 and 415 et seq.; 9VAC25-630 et seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq., 9VAC25-670 et seq., 9VAC25-680 et seq. or 9VAC25-690 et seq. as applicable; 9VAC25-720 et seq.; 9VAC25-740 et seq.; 9VAC25-790 et seq.; 9VAC25-800 et seq.; 9VAC25-820 et seq.; 9VAC25-830 et seq.; 9VAC25-840 et seq.; 9VAC25-860 et seq.; 9VAC25-870 through 890 et seq.;

33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. 403 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d); 33 U.S.C. § 1315(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1317(a); 33 U.S.C § 1341 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 140; 40 C.F.R. § 230 et seq.; Public Law 95-217

**10. All fill material in state surface waters shall be clean and free of contaminants in toxic concentrations or amounts in accordance with all applicable state laws and regulations.**

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life."

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2, § 62.1-44.4 through -44.6, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:5.1, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:52, § 62.1-44.15:54, § 62.1-44.15:55, § 62.1-44.15:56, Article 2.5 of Title 62.1 (§§ 62.1-44.15:67 through § 62.1-44.15:79), §§ 62.1-44.16 through § 62.1-44.17, § 62.1-44.17:2, § 62.1-44.17:3, § 62.1-44.19:5]; § 62.1-194 through -194.3; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-40 et seq.; 9VAC25-190 et seq.; 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-260 et seq.; 9VAC25-380 et seq.; 9VAC25-410 and 415 et seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq., 9VAC25-670 et seq., 9VAC25-680 et seq. or 9VAC25-690 et seq. as applicable; 9VAC25-720 et seq.; 9VAC25-820 et seq.; 9VAC25-830 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. 403 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d); 33 U.S.C. § 1315(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1317(a); 33 U.S.C § 1341 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq.; Public Law 95-217

**11. Temporary disturbances to surface waters during construction shall be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practicable.**

a. All temporarily disturbed wetland areas shall be restored to preexisting conditions within 30 days of completing work at each respective temporary impact area, which shall include reestablishing preconstruction elevations and contours with topsoil from the impact area where practicable and planting or seeding with appropriate wetland vegetation according to cover type (i.e., emergent, scrub-shrub, or forested). The permittee shall take all appropriate measures to promote and maintain revegetation of temporarily disturbed wetland areas with wetland vegetation through the second year post-disturbance. All temporarily impacted stream beds or stream channels and streambanks shall be restored to their preconstruction elevations and contours with topsoil from the impact area where practicable within 30 days following the construction at that stream segment. Streambanks shall be seeded or planted with the same vegetation cover type originally present, including any necessary supplemental erosion control grasses. Invasive species identified on the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Virginia Invasive Plant Species List shall not be used without prior approval from the Department of Environmental Quality.

b. Materials (including fill, construction debris, and excavated and woody materials) temporarily stockpiled in wetlands, and heavy equipment in temporarily impacted wetland areas shall be placed on mats, geotextile fabric, or other suitable material; shall be immediately stabilized to prevent entry into state waters; shall be managed such that leachate does not enter state waters; and shall be completely removed within 30 days following completion of that construction activity. Disturbed areas shall be returned to preconstruction elevations and contours with topsoil from the impact area where

practicable; restored within 30 days following removal of the stockpile; and restored with the same vegetation cover type originally present, including any necessary supplemental erosion control grasses. Invasive species identified on the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Virginia Invasive Plant Species List shall not be used to the maximum extent practicable or without prior approval from the Department of Environmental Quality.

c. All construction, construction access (e.g., cofferdams, sheet piling, and causeways) and demolition activities associated with the project shall be accomplished in a manner that minimizes construction or waste materials from entering surface waters to the maximum extent practicable.

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life."

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2 through -44.6, § 62.1-44.13, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:4.1, § 62.1-44.15:5.1, § 62.1-44.15:5.2, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:24, § 62.1-44.15:25, § 62.1-44.15:27, § 62.1-44.15:28, § 62.1-44.15:31, § 62.1-44.15:34, § 62.1-44.15:37.1, § 62.1-44.15:50, § 62.1-44.15:52, § 62.1-44.15:54, § 62.1-44.15:55, § 62.1-44.15:56, § 62.1-44.15:58, § 62.1-44.15:58.1, Article 2.5 of Title 62.1 (§§ 62.1-44.15:67 through § 62.1-44.15:79), §§ 62.1-44.16 through § 62.1-44.17, § 62.1-44.19:5j; § 10.1-604 et seq.; § 28.2-1300 et seq.; § 62.1-7; § 62.1-8; § 62.1-10; § 62.1-11; § 62.1-194 through -194.3; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-40 et seq.; 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-260 et seq.; 9VAC25-380 et seq.; 9VAC25-401 et seq.; 9VAC25-410 and 415 et seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq., 9VAC25-670 et seq., 9VAC25-680 et seq. or 9VAC25-690 et seq. as applicable; 9VAC25-720 et seq.; 9VAC25-770 et seq.; 9VAC25-800 et seq.; 9VAC25-820 et seq.; 9VAC25-830 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1313(d); 33 U.S.C. § 1315(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1317(a); 33 U.S.C. § 1341 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 33 C.F.R. Part 332; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 230 et seq.; Public Law 95-217

12. If stream channelization or relocation is required, all work in surface waters shall be done in the dry, unless otherwise authorized by the Department of Environmental Quality, and all flows shall be diverted around the channelization or relocation area until the new channel is stabilized. This work shall be accomplished by leaving a plug at the inlet and outlet ends of the new channel during excavation. Once the new channel has been stabilized, flow shall be routed into the new channel by first removing the downstream plug and then the upstream plug. The rerouted stream flow must be fully established before construction activities in the old stream bed or stream channel can begin.

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(i): This condition is necessary in order to assure that i) any discharge authorized under the general license or permit will comply with water quality requirements; ii) activities will not cause or contribute to a significant impairment of state waters or fish and wildlife resources; and iii) state water quality requirements are met, including the General Criteria (9VAC25-260-20 et seq.): "State waters, including wetlands, shall be free from substances attributable to sewage, industrial waste, or other waste in concentrations, amounts, or combinations which contravene established standards or interfere directly or indirectly with designated uses of such water or which are inimical or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life."

40 C.F.R. § 121.7(d)(2)(ii): Article XI, Section 1 Constitution of VA; Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia; Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia (§§ 62.1-44.2 through 62.1-44.34:28) [§ 62.1-44.2, § 62.1-44.5, § 62.1-44.6, § 62.1-44.13, § 62.1-44.15, § 62.1-44.15:5.1, § 62.1-44.15:20, § 62.1-44.15:21, § 62.1-44.15:52, § 62.1-44.15:54, § 62.1-44.15:55, § 62.1-44.15:56, Article 2.5 of Title 62.1 (§§ 62.1-44.15:67 through § 62.1-44.15:79)]; § 62.1-10; § 62.1-11; § 62.1-194 through -194.3; 9VAC25 - Preface (Agency Summary); 9VAC25-210 Sections 10 through 230 and 500; 9VAC25-260 et

seq.; 9VAC25-660 et seq., 9VAC25-670 et seq., 9VAC25-680 et seq. or 9VAC25-690 et seq. as applicable; 9VAC25-800 et seq.; 9VAC25-840 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. 403 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1341 et seq.; 33 U.S.C § 1344 et seq.; 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 40 C.F.R. § 121 et seq.; 40 C.F.R. § 131 et seq