



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: March 5, 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE FINAL REGIONAL CONDITIONS FOR NATIONWIDE PERMITS

Purpose: This Public Notice announces the Final Regional Conditions for the reissuance of 12 existing nationwide permits (NWP) and 4 new NWP, in the Wilmington District. The proposed Regional Conditions for these NWP in the Wilmington District are final, as per approval by and signature of the South Atlantic Division Engineer, 16 February 2021. These 16 NWP will go into effect on March 15, 2021, and will expire on March 15, 2026:

- NWP 12 – Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities
- NWP 21 – Surface Coal Mining Activities
- NWP 29 – Residential Developments
- NWP 39 – Commercial and Institutional Developments
- NWP 40 – Agricultural Activities
- NWP 42 – Recreational Facilities
- NWP 43 – Stormwater Management Facilities
- NWP 44 – Mining Activities
- NWP 48 – Commercial Shellfish Mariculture Activities
- NWP 50 – Underground Coal Mining Activities
- NWP 51 – Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
- NWP 52 – Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects
- NWP 55 – Seaweed Mariculture Activities
- NWP 56 – Finfish Mariculture Activities
- NWP 57 – Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities
- NWP 58 – Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances

Background: In the January 13, 2021 issue of the Federal Register (86 FR 2744), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) announced the reissuance of 12 existing Nationwide Permits (NWP) and the issuance of 4 new NWP. In this Federal Register notice, the Corps also announced the reissuance of the 32 existing NWP general conditions. These 16 NWP and their general conditions and definitions go into effect on March 15, 2021. The Corps has issued final decision documents for the 4 new and 12 reissued NWP. These final decision documents are available at www.regulations.gov at docket number COE-2020-0002.

With the publication of the January 13, 2021 Federal Register notice, Corps divisions began their finalization of proposed Regional Conditions for the 16 NWP's. Regional Conditions provide additional protection for the aquatic environment and help ensure that the NWP's authorize only those activities with no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. Regional Conditions will help ensure protection of high value waters within the Wilmington District in North Carolina.

In the analyses, the South Atlantic Division Engineer considered the public comments, the potential cumulative adverse effects on the aquatic environment that could result from the use of each NWP and the Regional Conditions, the exclusion of the NWP's from certain geographic areas or specific water bodies, and other required conditions to further ensure that each and all NWP's in the Division shall not authorize activities that may exceed the minimal adverse effects threshold.

Concurrences and Certifications for the 16 NWP's: The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians unconditionally approved final Water Quality Certifications for all 16 NWP's on December 16, 2020.

The North Carolina Division of Water Resources conditionally approved final Water Quality Certifications for NWP's 12, 29, 39, 40, 42, 44, 48, 51, 52, 57 and 58 on December 18, 2020. All conditions of these Water Quality Certifications have been accepted. The North Carolina Division of Water Resources Water Quality Certifications for NWP's 21, 43 and 50 have been waived.

The North Carolina Division of Coastal Management issued a final Coastal Zone Management Consistency Concurrence on December 14, 2020. This concurrence did not include any conditions.

The national NWP decision documents have been supplemented by District Engineers to address decisions concerning the addition of Regional Conditions to the NWP's. All final Regional Conditions for the 2021 16 NWP's are attached in Appendix A. The 16 NWP's, general conditions and the final Regional Conditions for the 16 NWP's and supporting documentation (Water Quality Certifications and Coastal Consistency Determination) will be posted on the District's website on March 15, 2021 at the following web address:

<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Permits/2017-Nationwide-Permits>.

There are 40 existing NWP's that were not reissued or modified by the January 13, 2021 final rule.

Those 40 NWP's were published in the January 6, 2017, issue of the Federal Register (82 FR 1860) and those NWP's remain in effect until the Corps issues a final rule reissuing those NWP's or March 18, 2022, whichever comes first. The 40 2017 NWP's that remain in effect are:

- NWP 1 – Aids to Navigation
- NWP 2 – Structures in Artificial Canals
- NWP 3 – Maintenance
- NWP 4 – Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities
- NWP 5 – Scientific Measurement Devices
- NWP 6 – Survey Activities
- NWP 7 – Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures
- NWP 8 – Oil and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf
- NWP 9 – Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas
- NWP 10 – Mooring Buoys
- NWP 11 – Temporary Recreational Structures
- NWP 13 – Bank Stabilization
- NWP 14 – Linear Transportation Projects
- NWP 15 – U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges
- NWP 16 – Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas
- NWP 17 – Hydropower Projects
- NWP 18 – Minor Discharges
- NWP 19 – Minor Dredging
- NWP 20 – Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances
- NWP 22 – Removal of Vessels
- NWP 23 – Approved Categorical Exclusions
- NWP 24 – Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs
- NWP 25 – Structural Discharges
- NWP 27 – Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities
- NWP 28 – Modifications of Existing Marinas
- NWP 30 – Moist Soil Management for Wildlife
- NWP 31 – Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities
- NWP 32 – Completed Enforcement Actions
- NWP 33 – Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering
- NWP 34 – Cranberry Production Activities
- NWP 35 – Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins
- NWP 36 – Boat Ramps
- NWP 37 – Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation
- NWP 38 – Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste
- NWP 41 – Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
- NWP 45 – Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
- NWP 46 – Discharges in Ditches
- NWP 49 – Coal Remining Activities
- NWP 53 – Removal of Low-Head Dams
- NWP 54 – Living Shorelines

The Regional Conditions for these 40 NWP's that were approved by Division Engineer in 2017 remain in effect until these NWP's expire. These 40 NWP's can be viewed at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Permits/2017-Nationwide-Permits>.

DISTRICT POINT OF CONTACT

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Appendix A

FINAL REGIONAL CONDITIONS FOR 16 NATIONWIDE PERMITS IN WILMINGTON DISTRICT (SAW)

Effective Date: March 15, 2021
Expiration Date: March 15, 2026

A. BACKGROUND/APPLICABILITY

1. The following Regional Conditions have been approved by the Wilmington District for the Nationwide Permits (NWP) published in the January 13, 2021, *Federal Register* (86 FR 2744) announcing the reissuance of 12 existing (NWP) and four new NWP, as well as the reissuance of NWP general conditions and definitions with some modifications. These 16 NWP will go into effect on March 15, 2021, and will expire on March 14, 2026:

- NWP 12 – Oil or Natural Gas Pipeline Activities
- NWP 21 – Surface Coal Mining Activities
- NWP 29 – Residential Developments
- NWP 39 – Commercial and Institutional Developments
- NWP 40 – Agricultural Activities
- NWP 42 – Recreational Facilities
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2. These regional conditions will provide additional protection for the aquatic environment and will help ensure that the NWP authorize only those activities with no more than minimal adverse environmental effects.

3. These regional conditions are not applicable to the remaining 40 existing NWP (NWP 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 45, 46, 49, 53, 54) that were not reissued or modified by the January 13, 2021 final rule. These 40 NWP were published in the January 6, 2017, issue of the *Federal Register* (82 FR 1860) and these NWP remain in effect until the Corps

issues a final rule reissuing those NWP's or March 18, 2022, whichever comes first. The regional conditions for these 40 NWP's that were approved by division engineer in 2017 remain in effect while these 2017 NWP's remain in effect.

4. As specified, under NWP General Condition #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 Section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

5. Note: The acronym "PCN" used throughout this document refers to *Pre-Construction Notification* as further defined in NWP General Condition #32.

B. EXCLUDED WATERS AND/OR AREAS

The Corps has identified waters that will be excluded from the use of all NWP's during certain timeframes. These waters are:

1. **Anadromous Fish Spawning Areas.** Work in waters of the U.S. designated by either the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) as anadromous fish spawning areas are prohibited from February 15th through June 30th, without prior written approval from the Corps and the appropriate wildlife agencies (NCDMF, NCWRC and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)). Work in waters of the U.S. designated by NCWRC as primary nursery areas in inland waters are prohibited from February 15th through September 30th, without prior written approval from the Corps and the appropriate wildlife agencies. Work in waters of the U.S. designated by NCDMF as primary nursery areas shall be coordinated with NCDMF prior to being authorized by this NWP. Coordination with NCDMF may result in a required construction moratorium during periods of significant biological productivity or critical life stages.

2. **Trout Waters Moratorium.** Work in waters of the U.S. in the designated trout watersheds of North Carolina are prohibited from October 15th through April 15th without prior written approval from the NCWRC, or from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Fisheries and Wildlife Management (FWM) office if the project is located on EBCI trust land. (See Section C.3. above for information on the designated trout watersheds).

3. **Sturgeon Spawning Areas.** No in-water work shall be conducted in waters of the U.S. designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service as Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat from February 1st through June 30th. No in-water work shall be conducted in waters of the U.S. in the Roanoke River

designated as Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat from February 1st through June 30th, and August 1st through October 31st, without prior written approval from NMFS.

4. **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation.** Impacts to Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) are not authorized by any NWP, except NWP 48, NWP 55 and NWP 56, unless Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation has been completed pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). Permittees shall submit a PCN (See NWP General Condition 32) to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity if the project would affect SAV. The permittee may not begin work until notified by the Corps that the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act have been satisfied and that the activity is verified.

C. REGIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL NWP's

1. **Critical Habitat in Western NC.** For proposed activities within waters of the U.S. that require a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) and are located in the thirteen counties listed below, permittees must provide a copy of the PCN to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), 160 Zillicoa Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801 and the Corps Asheville Regulatory Field Office. Please see General Condition 18 for specific PCN requirements related to the Endangered Species Act and the below website for information on the location of designated critical habitat.

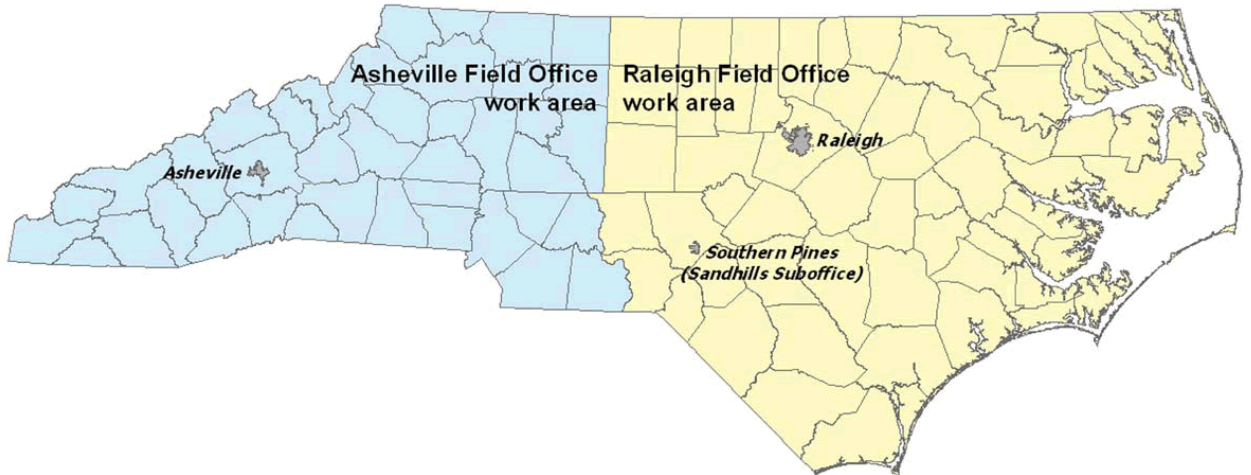
Counties with tributaries that drain to designated critical habitat that require notification to the Asheville U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Avery, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Union and Yancey.

Website and office addresses for Endangered Species Act Information:

The Wilmington District has developed the following website for permittees which provides guidelines on how to review linked websites and maps in order to fulfill NWP General Condition 18 (Endangered Species) requirements: <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryPermitProgram/AgencyCoordination/ESA.aspx>.

Permittees who do not have internet access may contact the appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offices listed below or Corps at (910) 251-4850.

Below is a map of the USFWS Field Office Boundaries:



Asheville U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office counties: All counties west of and including Anson, Stanly, Davidson, Forsythe and Stokes Counties.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Asheville Field Office
160 Zillicoa Street
Asheville, NC 28801
Telephone: (828) 258-3939

Raleigh U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office counties: All counties east of and including Richmond, Montgomery, Randolph, Guilford, and Rockingham Counties.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Raleigh Field Office
Post Office Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726
Telephone: (919) 856-4520

2. **Special Designation Waters.** Prior to the use of any NWP that involves a discharge of dredged or fill material in any of the following identified waters and/or adjacent wetlands in North Carolina, permittees shall submit a PCN to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity (see General Condition 32). The North Carolina waters and wetlands that require additional PCN requirements are:

“Primary Nursery Areas” (PNA), including inland PNA, as designated by the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission and/or the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. The definition of and designated PNA waters can be found in the North Carolina State Administrative Code at Title 15A, Subchapters 3R and 10C (15A NCAC 03R .0103; 15A NCAC 10C .0502; and 15A NCAC 10C .0503) and at the following web pages:

- <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2015a%20-%20environmental%20quality/chapter%2003%20-%20marine%20fisheries/subchapter%20r/15a%20ncac%2003r%20.0103.pdf>
- <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2015a%20-%20environmental%20quality/chapter%2010%20-%20wildlife%20resources%20and%20water%20safety/subchapter%20c/15a%20ncac%2010c%20.0502.pdf>
- <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2015a%20-%20environmental%20quality/chapter%2010%20-%20wildlife%20resources%20and%20water%20safety/subchapter%20c/15a%20ncac%2010c%20.0503.pdf>

3. **Trout Waters.** Prior to any discharge of dredge or fill material into streams, waterbodies or wetlands within the 294 designated trout watersheds of North Carolina, the permittee shall submit a PCN (see General Condition 32) to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity. The permittee shall also provide a copy of the PCN to the appropriate NCWRC office, or to the EBCI FWM Office (if the project is located on EBCI trust land), to facilitate the determination of any potential impacts to designated Trout Waters.

NCWRC and NC Trout Watersheds:

NCWRC Contact**	Counties that are entirely within Trout Watersheds*		Counties that are partially within Trout Watersheds*	
Mountain Coordinator 645 Fish Hatchery Rd., Building B Marion, NC 28752 828-803-6054 For NCDOT Projects: NCDOT Coordinator	Alleghany Ashe Avery Graham Haywood	Jackson Macon Swain Transylvania Watauga	Burke Buncombe Caldwell Cherokee Clay Henderson Madison	McDowell Mitchell Polk Rutherford Surry Wilkes Yancey

12275 Swift Rd. Oakboro, NC 28129 704-984-1070		
EBCI Contact**	Counties that are within Trout Watersheds*	
Office of Natural Resources P.O. Box 1747, Cherokee, NC 28719 (828) 359-6113	Qualla Boundary and non-contiguous tracts of trust land located in portions of Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Graham and Cherokee Counties.	

*NOTE: To determine PCN requirements, contact the Corps Asheville Regulatory Field Office at (828) 271-7980 or view maps showing trout watersheds in each County at the following webpage:
[http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Agency-Coordination/Trout/.](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Agency-Coordination/Trout/)

**If a project is located on EBCI trust land, submit the PCN in accordance with Regional Condition C.16. Contact the Corps Asheville Regulatory Field Office at (828) 271-7980 with questions.

4. **Western NC Waters and Corridors.** The permittee shall submit a PCN (see General Condition 32) to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity in waters of the U.S. if the activity will occur within any of the following identified waters in western North Carolina, within 0.5 mile on either side of these waters, or within 0.75 mile of the Little Tennessee River, as measured from the top of the bank of the respective water (i.e., river, stream, or creek):

- Brasstown Creek
- Burningtown Creek
- Cane River
- Caney Fork
- Cartoogechaye Creek
- Chattooga River
- Cheoah River
- Cowee Creek
- Cullasaja River
- Deep Creek

Ellijay Creek
French Broad River
Garden Creek
Hiwassee River
Hominy Creek
Iotla Creek
Little Tennessee River (within the river or within 0.75 mile on either side of this river)
Nantahala River
Nolichucky River
North Fork French Broad River
North Toe River
Nottley River
Oconaluftee River (portion not located on trust/EBCI land)
Peachtree Creek
Shooting Creek
Snowbird Creek
South Toe River
Stecoah Creek
Swannanoa River
Sweetwater Creek
Tuckasegee River (also spelled Tuckaseegee or Tuckaseigee)
Valley River
Watauga Creek
Watauga River
Wayah Creek
West Fork French Broad River

To determine PCN requirements, contact the Corps Asheville Regulatory Field Office at (828) 271-7980 or view maps for all corridors at the following webpage:

<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Agency-Coordination/Designated-Special-Waters.aspx>.

5. **Limitation of Loss of Stream Bed.** NWP's may not be used for activities that may result in the loss of more than 0.05 acres of stream bed, except for NWP 32.

6. **Pre-Construction Notification for Loss of Stream Bed Exceeding 0.02 acres.** The permittee shall submit a PCN to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity (see General Condition 32) prior to the use of any NWP for any activity that results in the loss of more than 0.02 acres of stream bed. This applies to NWP's that do not have PCN requirements as well as those NWP's that require a PCN.

7. **Mitigation for Loss of Stream Bed.** For any NWP that results in a loss of more than 0.02 acres of stream bed, the permittee shall provide a mitigation proposal to compensate for more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse impacts to the aquatic environment, unless the District Engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse effects of the proposed activity are minimal. For stream bed losses of 0.02 acres or less that require a PCN, the District Engineer may determine, on a case-by-case basis, that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effect on the aquatic environment.

8. **Riprap.** For all NWPs that allow for the use of riprap material for bank stabilization, the following conditions shall be applied:

a. Filter cloth must be placed underneath the riprap as an additional requirement of its use in North Carolina waters. The placement of filter fabric is not required if the riprap will be pushed or “keyed” into the bank of the waterbody. A waiver from the specifications in this Regional Condition must be requested in writing.

b. Riprap shall be placed only on the stream banks, or, if it is necessary to be placed in the stream bed, the finished top elevation of the riprap should not exceed that of the original stream bed.

9. **Culvert Placement.** For all NWPs that allow for culvert placement, the following conditions shall be applied:

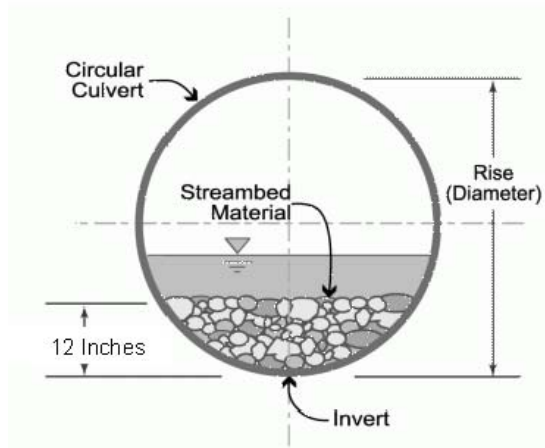
a. For all NWPs that involve the construction/installation of culverts, measures shall be included in the construction/installation that will promote the safe passage of fish and other aquatic organisms

Placement of culverts and other structures in streams shall be below the elevation of the streambed by one foot for all culverts with a diameter greater than 48 inches, and 20% of the culvert diameter for culverts having a diameter less than or equal to 48 inches. If the culvert outlet is submerged within a pool or scour hole and designed to provide for aquatic passage, then culvert burial into the streambed is not required.

Culvert burial is not required for structures less than 72 inch diameter/width, where the slope of the culvert will be greater than 2.5%, provided that all alternative options for flattening the slope have been investigated and aquatic life movement/connectivity has been provided when possible (e.g., rock ladders, cross vanes, sills, baffles etc.). Culvert burial is not required when bedrock is present in culvert locations.

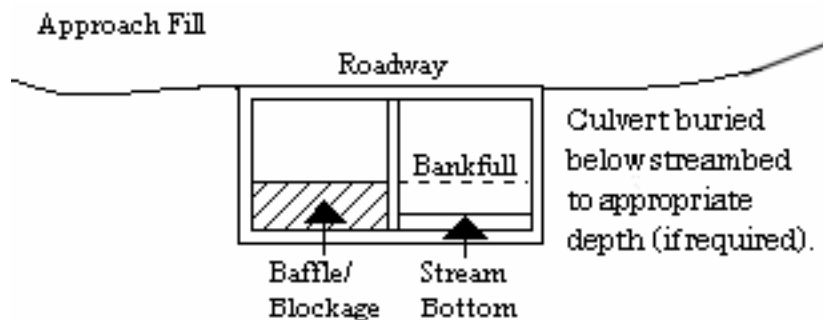
Installation of culverts in wetlands shall ensure continuity of water movement and be designed to adequately accommodate high water or flood conditions.

When roadways, causeways, or other fill projects are constructed across FEMA-designated floodways or wetlands, openings such as culverts or bridges shall be provided to maintain the natural hydrology of the system as well as prevent constriction of the floodway that may result in destabilization of streams or wetlands.



A waiver from the depth specifications in this condition may be requested, in writing, by the permittee and issued by the Corp. This waiver request must be specific as to the reasons(s) for the request. The waiver will be issued if it can be demonstrated that the proposed design would result in less impacts to the aquatic environment. Culverts placed across wetland fills purely for the purposes of equalizing surface water do not have to be buried, but the culverts must be of adequate size and/or number to ensure unrestricted transmission of water.

b. Bank-full flows (or less) shall be accommodated through maintenance of the existing bank-full channel cross sectional area. Additional culverts or culvert barrels at such crossings shall be allowed only to receive bank-full flows.



c. Culverts shall be designed and installed in such a manner that the original stream profiles are not altered and allow for aquatic life movement during low flows. The dimension, pattern, and profile of the stream above and below a pipe or culvert shall not be modified by widening the stream channel

or by reducing the depth of the stream in connection with the construction activity. The width, height, and gradient of a proposed culvert shall be such as to pass the average historical low flow and spring flow without adversely altering flow velocity. If the width of the culvert is wider than the stream channel, the culvert shall include multiple boxes/pipes, baffles, benches and/or sills to maintain the natural width of the stream channel. If multiple culverts/pipes/barrels are used, low flows shall be accommodated in one culvert/pipe and additional culverts/pipes shall be installed such that they receive only flows above bankfull.

10. **Utility Lines.** For all NWP's that allow for the construction and installation of utility lines, the following conditions shall be applied:

a. Utility lines consisting of aerial electric power transmission lines crossing navigable waters of the U.S. (which are defined at 33 CFR part 329) must comply with the applicable minimum clearances specified in 33 CFR 322.5(i).

b. The work area authorized by this permit, including temporary and/or permanent fills, will be minimized to the greatest extent practicable. Justification for work corridors exceeding forty (40) feet in width is required and will be based on pipeline diameter and length, size of equipment required to construct the utility line, and other construction information deemed necessary to support the request. The permittee is required to provide this information to the Corps with the initial PCN package.

c. A plan to restore and re-vegetate wetland areas cleared for construction must be submitted with the required PCN. Cleared wetland areas shall be re-vegetated, as appropriate, with species of canopy, shrub, and herbaceous species. The permittee shall not use fescue grass or any other species identified as invasive or exotic species by the NC Native Plant Society (NCNPS): <https://ncwildflower.org/invasive-exotic-species-list/>.

d. Any permanently maintained corridor along the utility right of way within forested wetlands shall be considered a loss of aquatic function. A compensatory mitigation plan will be required for all such impacts associated with the requested activity if the activity requires a PCN and the cumulative total of permanent conversion of forested wetlands exceeds 0.1 acres, unless the District Engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse effects of the proposed activity are minimal.

Where permanently maintained corridor within forested wetlands is 0.1 acres or less, the District Engineer may determine, on a case-by-case basis, that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment.

e. When directional boring or horizontal directional drilling (HDD) under waters of the U.S., including wetlands, permittees shall closely monitor the project for hydraulic fracturing or “fracking.” Any discharge from hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, shall be reported to the appropriate Corps Regulatory Field Office within 48 hours. Restoration and/or compensatory mitigation may be required as a result of any unintended discharges.

11. **Temporary Access Fills.** The permittee shall submit a PCN to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity if the activity will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material into more than 0.1 acres of wetlands or 0.02 acres of stream channel for the construction of temporary access fills and/or temporary road crossings. The PCN must include a restoration plan that thoroughly describes how all temporary fills will be removed, how pre-project conditions will be restored, and include a timetable for all restoration activities.

12. **Federal Navigation Channel Setbacks.** Authorized structures and fills located in or adjacent to Federally authorized waterways must be constructed in accordance with the latest setback criteria established by the Wilmington District Engineer. You may review the setback policy at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Setbacks.aspx>. This general permit does not authorize the construction of hardened or permanently fixed structures within the Federally Authorized Channel Setback, unless the activity is approved by the Corps. The permittee shall submit a PCN (see General Condition 32) to the District Engineer to obtain a written verification prior to the construction of any structures or fills within the Federally Authorized Channel Setback.

13. **Northern Long-eared Bat – Endangered Species Act Compliance**

The Wilmington District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has consulted with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in regard to the threatened Northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*) and Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES) have been approved by the Corps and the USFWS. This condition concerns effects to the NLEB only and does not address effects to other federally listed species and/or federally designated critical habitat.

A. Procedures when the Corps is the lead federal* agency for a project:

The permittee must comply with (1) and (2) below when:

- the project is located in the western 41 counties of North Carolina, to include non-federal aid North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) projects, OR;
- the project is located in the 59 eastern counties of North Carolina and is a non-NCDOT project.

*Generally, if a project is located on private property or on non-federal land, and the project is not being funded by a federal entity, the Corps will be the lead federal agency due to the requirement to obtain Department of the Army authorization to impact waters of the U.S. If the project is located on federal land, contact the Corps to determine the lead federal agency.

(1) A permittee using an NWP must check to see if their project is located in the range of the NLEB by using the following website: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/pdf/WNSZone.pdf>. If the project is within the range of the NLEB, or if the project includes percussive activities (e.g., blasting, pile driving, etc.), the permittee is then required to check the appropriate website in the paragraph below to discover if their project:

- is located in a 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code area (“red HUC” - shown as red areas on the map), AND/OR;
- involves percussive activities within 0.25 mile of a red HUC.

Red HUC maps - for the western 41 counties in NC (covered by the Asheville Ecological Services Field Office), check the project location against the electronic maps found at:

http://www.fws.gov/asheville/htmls/project_review/NLEB_in_WNC.html. For the eastern 59 counties in NC (covered by the Raleigh Ecological Services Field Office), check the project location against the electronic maps found at: https://www.fws.gov/raleigh/NLEB_RFO.html.

(2) A permittee must submit a PCN to the District Engineer, and receive written verification from the District Engineer, prior to commencing the activity, if the activity will involve any of the following:

- tree clearing/removal and/or, construction/installation of wind turbines in a red HUC, AND/OR;
- bridge removal or maintenance, unless the bridge has been inspected and there is no evidence of bat use, (applies anywhere in the range of the NLEB), AND/OR;
- percussive activities in a red HUC, or within 0.25 mile of a red HUC.

The permittee may proceed with the activity without submitting a PCN to either the Corps or the USFWS, provided the activity complies with all applicable NWP terms and general and regional conditions, if the permittee's review under A.(1) and A.(2) above shows that the project is:

- located outside of a red HUC (and there are no percussive activities), and the activity will NOT include bridge removal or maintenance, unless the bridge has been inspected and there is no evidence of bat use, OR;
- located outside of a red HUC and there are percussive activities, but the percussive activities will not occur within 0.25-mile of a red HUC boundary, and the activity will NOT include bridge removal or maintenance, unless the bridge has been inspected and there is no evidence of bat use, OR;
- located in a red HUC, but the activity will NOT include tree clearing/removal; construction/installation of wind turbines; bridge removal or maintenance, unless the bridge has been inspected and there is no evidence of bat use, and/or; any percussive activities.

B. Procedures when the USACE is not the lead federal agency:

For projects where another federal agency is the lead federal agency - if that other federal agency has completed project-specific ESA Section 7(a)(2) consultation for the NLEB, and has (1) determined that the project would not cause prohibited incidental take of the NLEB, and (2) completed coordination/consultation that is required by the USFWS (per the directions on the respective USFWS office's website), that project may proceed without PCN to either the USACE or the USFWS, provided all General and Regional Permit Conditions are met.

The NLEB SLOPES can be viewed on the USACE website at:

<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Agency-Coordination/ESA/>. Permittees who do not have internet access may contact the USACE at (910) 251- 4633.

14. **West Indian Manatee Protection.** In order to protect the endangered West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) the Permittee shall implement the USFWS' Manatee Guidelines, and strictly adhere to all requirements therein. The guidelines can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/raleigh/pdfs/ManateeGuidelines2017.pdf>.

15. **ESA Programmatic Biological Opinions.** The Wilmington District, USFWS, NCDOT, and the FHWA have conducted programmatic Section 7(a)(2) consultation for a number of federally listed species and designated critical habitat (DCH), and programmatic consultation concerning other

federally listed species and/or DCH may occur in the future. The result of completed programmatic consultation is a Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) issued by the USFWS. These PBOs contain mandatory terms and conditions to implement the reasonable and prudent measures that are associated with “incidental take” of whichever species or critical habitat is covered by a specific PBO. Authorization under NWP is conditional upon the permittee’s compliance with all the mandatory terms and conditions associated with incidental take of the applicable PBO (or PBOs), which are incorporated by reference in the NWPs. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions associated with incidental take of an applicable PBO, where a take of the federally listed species occurs, would constitute an unauthorized take by the permittee, and would also constitute permittee non-compliance with the authorization under the NWPs. If the terms and conditions of a specific PBO (or PBOs) apply to a project, the Corps will include this/these requirements in any NWP verification that may be issued for a project. For an activity/project that does not require a PCN, the terms and conditions of the applicable PBO(s) also apply to that non-notifying activity/project. The USFWS is the appropriate authority to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of its PBO and the ESA. All PBOs can be found on our website at: <https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Agency-Coordination/ESA/>.

16. Work on Eastern Band of Cherokee Land.

Notifying NWPs - All PCNs submitted for activities in waters of the U.S. on Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) trust land (i.e., Qualla Boundary and non-contiguous tracts of trust land located in portions of Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Graham and Cherokee Counties), must comply with the requirements of the latest MOU between the Wilmington District and the EBCI.

Non-notifying NWPs - Prior to the use of any non-notifying NWP for activities in waters of the U.S. on EBCI trust land (i.e., Qualla Boundary and non-contiguous tracts of trust land located in portions of Swain, Jackson, Haywood, Graham and Cherokee Counties), all prospective permittees must comply with the requirements of the latest MOU between the Wilmington District and the EBCI; this includes coordinating the proposed project with the EBCI Natural Resources Program and obtaining a Tribal Approval Letter from the Tribe.

The EBCI MOU can be found at the following URL: <http://saw-reg.usace.army.mil/FO/Final-MOU-EBCI-USACE.pdf>

17. Sedimentation and Erosion Control Structures and Measures

All PCNs will identify and describe sedimentation and erosion control

structures and measures proposed for placement in waters of the U.S. The structures and measures should be depicted on maps, surveys or drawings showing location and impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and streams.

D. REGIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC NWPs

1. <<reserved>>

2. <<reserved>>

3. <<reserved>>

4. <<reserved>>

5. <<reserved>>

6. <<reserved>>

7. <<reserved>>

8. **NWPs 29, 39, 42, 43, 51.**

a. Discharges in streams and wetlands for stormwater management facilities are prohibited under this NWP.

b. Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, within the floodway* or mapped FEMA 100-year floodplain resulting in permanent above-grade fills are not authorized by this NWP.

* NOTE: Floodway means the area designated and/or regulated by Federal, State, or local requirements to provide for the discharge of the base flood so the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated height identified by the regulating entity within the 100-year floodplain.

9. <<reserved>>

10. <<reserved>>

11. **NWP 48.**

a. The permittee shall submit a PCN to the District Engineer prior to commencing the activity if lease areas will be sited within areas that contain SAV that exceed and/or do not meet the criteria established in the latest NCDMF protocol for evaluating shellfish lease areas in SAV.

b. This NWP may not be used to authorize the discharges of dredged or fill material into wetlands, including Coastal Wetlands as defined by North Carolina's Coastal Area Management Act. No lease site shall be sited within 20 feet of a wetland area, except for shell on bottom, unless approved by the Corps and the NMFS - Habitat Conservation Division. Shell on bottom activities shall be sited 5 feet or more from wetland areas.

c. This NWP does not authorize the discharge of any earthen fill material into any waters of the U.S.

d. Lease areas cannot be sited or located farther than one-third the width of a waterbody, unless approved by the District Engineer. This condition does not apply to aquaculture methods that use only cultch-on-bottom or clam-on-bottom methods.

e. Lease sites shall not be located within marked or unmarked established navigation channels.

12. <<reserved>>

13. **NWP 55 (Seaweed Mariculture) and NWP 56 (Finfish Mariculture).**

a. No lease site shall be sited within 20 feet of a wetland area, unless approved by the Corps and the NMFS - Habitat Conservation Division.

b. Lease areas cannot be sited or located farther than one-third the width of a waterbody (measured from the OHWMs or MHWMs), unless approved by the District Engineer.

c. Lease sites shall not be located within marked or unmarked established navigation channels.

E. ACTIVITY SPECIFIC REGIONAL CONDITIONS

N/A.

F. SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION (WQC) AND/OR COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION SUMMARY AND APPLICABLE CONDITIONS

SEE APPENDIX C FOR WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.

WQC: North Carolina Division of Water Resources (NCDWR)

- Waived WQCs for NWPs: 21, 43, and 50.
- The Wilmington District did not request WQC for NWPs 55 and 56 and NCDWR did not issue a WQC for these NWPs.

- Issued WQCs with conditions for NWP: 12, 29, 39, 40, 42, 44, 48, 51, 52, 57, and 58. These WQC conditions are incorporated as Regional Conditions and the Permittee is responsible for compliance as such.

WQC: Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) issued WQC without conditions for all NWPs.

CZM: North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (NCDCM) – Issued CZM without conditions for all NWPs.

The CZMA consistency determination and all WQCs can be found at:
<https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Permits/>

G. DISTRICT POINT OF CONTACT

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