

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343
<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryPermitProgram.aspx>

General Permit No. 199602878
Name of Permittee: General Public
Effective Date: January 1, 2022
Expiration Date: December 31, 2026

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
REGIONAL GENERAL PERMIT (RGP)**

A RGP to perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the U.S. and waters of the U.S., upon recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 1344) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is hereby issued under the authority of the Secretary of the Army by the

District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington
Corps of Engineers
69 Darlington Avenue
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343

TO AUTHORIZE MAINTENANCE DREDGING WITHIN FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED NAVIGATION CHANNELS AND BORROW AREAS, AND THE DISCHARGE OF EXCAVATED AND/OR FILL MATERIAL WITHIN FEDERALLY APPROVED CONFINED UPLAND DISPOSAL AREAS OR, IN THE CASE OF BEACH QUALITY SAND, FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED BEACH RETENTION AREAS OR FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT AREAS IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Special Conditions

a. Written confirmation that the proposed work complies with this RGP must be received from the Wilmington District Engineer prior to the commencement of any work. You may apply online at https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/Forms/Pre-Construction_Notification_Form . The Permittee must furnish the following information for review and approval to the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps):

- (1) The name, address, email and/or telephone number of the sponsor and/or other individuals responsible for the work.
- (2) A map showing the location(s) of the work.

- (3) Appropriate, written permission of owner(s), leaseholder(s) or others having any rights regarding properties affected by the proposal.
- (4) Plans of the work at an acceptable scale (on 11 inch by 17-inch paper showing the location and dimensions of the Federal channel before and after the work, location, and size of any borrow area and the location and size of the disposal area(s).
- (5) Quantity (cubic yards) and composition (percentage of fines and/or sand grain size) of excavated and/or fill material.
- (6) A description of the methods, procedures, and equipment to be used to perform the proposed work.
- (7) Approximate commencement and completion dates of the proposed work.

(NOTE: Confirmation that the work is authorized will be provided to the Permittee after the Wilmington District's Regulatory and other appropriate District elements have coordinated and agreed with the validity of the proposal. To minimize adverse impacts on fish, wildlife and other natural environmental resources, the Wilmington District Engineer, in close coordination with appropriate State and Federal agencies, will ensure that all work is conducted in strict accordance with the special and general conditions of this RGP and any appropriate recommendations from State/Federal resource agencies. Failure to comply with any condition or specific recommendation will result in an immediate order to cease operations.)

b. No work may occur during times (seasonal restrictions) designated by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service for protection of fish, shellfish, or wildlife resources. The Permittee must not commence work until written confirmation is received from the Wilmington District Engineer as to when the work may begin and must be completed.

c. Excavation and/or filling of jurisdictional wetlands or submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds is not authorized by this RGP. Excavation activities occurring near jurisdictional wetlands must allow for an adequate buffer, not less than 10 feet, between the excavated area and the wetland to prevent erosion of the wetland.

d. Dredged and/or fill material may not be placed within beach nourishment areas unless the Corps has determined, in writing, that the material complies with the State of North Carolina's Technical Standards for Beach fill Projects, North Carolina Statute T15A NCAC 07H.0312.

e. Unless specifically approved for beach nourishment or beach disposal, all excavated material must be placed and retained in a Corps-approved upland disposal area.

f. Prior to commencing work the Permittee must present the Wilmington District

Engineer with a written preliminary determination providing reasonable assurance that the proposed discharge is not a carrier of contaminants. This documentation must be a comprehensive analysis of all existing and readily available information on the proposed discharge. Work may not proceed until the Permittee has received written approval from the Wilmington District Engineer.

g. Maintenance excavation must not exceed the Federally authorized dimensions (including authorized over depth) of the Federal channel.

h. No excavation is authorized in primary nursery or prime shellfish areas as designated by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

i. All fill material used for dike construction or repair will be obtained from an upland source.

j. Should the activity involve the removal of material from a Corps' retention area, the Permittee shall not damage or destroy dikes or spillways. The Permittee will be responsible for any necessary repairs.

k. Should all or part of a proposed development activity be located in an Area of Environmental Concern (AEC) as designated by the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission, a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) permit is required from the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management before the onset of the proposed activity. Should a Federal activity within any of North Carolina's twenty coastal counties or which could affect a coastal use or resource in any of North Carolina's twenty coastal counties be proposed by a Federal agency, a consistency determination pursuant to Subpart "C" of 15 CFR 930 must be prepared and submitted by that Federal agency to the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management before the onset of the proposed activity.

l. Return water from upland, contained disposal areas must comply with the terms and conditions of the applicable Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications for this RGP and NWP 16 issued by the North Carolina Division of Water Resources.

General Conditions

a. Except as authorized by this RGP or any Corps approved modification to this RGP, no excavation, fill or mechanized land-clearing activities shall take place within waters or wetlands, at any time in the construction or maintenance of this project. This RGP does not authorize temporary placement or double handling of excavated or fill material within waters or wetlands outside the permitted area. This prohibition applies to all borrow and fill activities connected with this project.

b. Authorization under this RGP does not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local authorizations.

c. All work authorized by this RGP must comply with the terms and conditions of the applicable Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for this RGP issued by the North Carolina Division of Water Resources.

d. The Permittee shall employ all sedimentation and erosion control measures necessary to prevent an increase in sedimentation or turbidity within waters and wetlands outside the permit area. This shall include, but is not limited to, the immediate installation of silt fencing or similar appropriate devices around all areas subject to soil disturbance or the movement of earthen fill, and the immediate stabilization of all disturbed areas. Additionally, the project must remain in full compliance with all aspects of the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 (North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 113A Article 4).

e. The activities authorized by this RGP must not interfere with the public's right to free navigation on all navigable waters of the U.S. No attempt will be made by the Permittee to prevent the full and free use by the public of all navigable waters at or adjacent to the authorized work for a reason other than safety.

f. The Permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the US 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/her 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, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the US. No claim shall be made against the US on account of any such removal or alteration.

g. The Permittee, upon receipt of a notice of revocation of the permit for the verified individual activity, may apply for an individual permit, or will, without expense to the US and in such time and manner as the Secretary of the Army or his/her authorized representative may direct, restore the affected water of the US to its former conditions.

h. The Permittee will allow the Wilmington District Engineer or his/her representative to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to assure that the activity is being performed or maintained in strict accordance with the Special and General Conditions of this RGP.

i. This RGP does not authorize any activity that would conflict with a federal project's congressionally authorized purposes, established limitations or restrictions, or limit an agency's ability to conduct necessary operation and maintenance functions. Per Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended (33 U.S.C. 408), no project that has the potential to take possession of or make use of for any purpose, or build upon, alter, deface, destroy, move, injure, or obstruct a federally constructed work or project, including, but not limited to, levees, dams, jettys, navigation channels, borrow areas, dredged material disposal sites, flood control projects, etc., shall be permitted unless the project has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate Corps approval authority.

j. The Permittee shall obtain a Consent to Cross Government Easement from the Wilmington District's Land Use Coordinator prior to any crossing of the Corps easement and/or prior to commencing construction of any structures, authorized dredging, or other work within the right-of-way of, or in proximity to, a federally designated disposal area. The Land Use Coordinator may be contacted at: CESA-W-OP-N, 69 Darlington Avenue, Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343, email: SAWWeb-NAV@usace.army.mil.

k. This RGP does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.

l. This RGP does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

m. This RGP does not authorize the interference with any existing or proposed federal project.

n. In issuing this RGP, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:

(1) Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.

(2) Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the US in the public interest.

(3) Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this RGP.

(4) Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.

(5) Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this RGP.

o. Authorization provided by this RGP may be modified, suspended, or revoked in whole or in part if the Wilmington District Engineer, acting for the Secretary of the Army, determines that such action would be in the best public interest. The term of this RGP shall be five (5) years unless subject to modification, suspension, or revocation. Any modification, suspension or revocation of this authorization will not be the basis for any claim for damages against the US Government.

p. No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers 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 designation or study status. 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, etc.). A list and more information on National Wild and Scenic Rivers in North Carolina can be found here- <https://www.rivers.gov/north-carolina.php>

q. This RGP does not authorize any activity within, or directly affecting, a marine sanctuary established by the Secretary of Commerce under authority of Section 302 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, unless the applicant provides the Corps with a certification from the Secretary of Commerce that the proposed activity is consistent with the purposes of Title III of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. Information on marine sanctuaries may be obtained at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/#MN>. Permittees may not begin work until they provide the Corps with a written certification from the Department of Commerce.

r. In cases where the Wilmington District Engineer determines that the activity may affect properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places and its codified regulations, the National Historic Preservation Amendment Acts of 1980 and 1992, the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the activity is not authorized, until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied. Permittees may not begin work until notified by the Corps that the requirements of the NHPA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized.

s. If you discover any previously unknown historic, cultural, or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by this RGP, you must immediately notify the Wilmington District Engineer of what you 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 Wilmington 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.

t. Endangered Species.

(1) No activity is authorized under this RGP which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species directly or indirectly 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 this RGP which “may affect” a listed species or critical habitat, unless Section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed.

(2) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA. Federal prospective Permittees (and when FHWA is the lead federal agency) must provide the District Engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The District Engineer will review the documentation and determine whether it is sufficient to address ESA compliance for the RGP activity, or whether additional ESA consultation is necessary.

(3) Non-federal prospective Permittees - for activities that might affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the PCN must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that might be affected by the proposed work or that utilize the designated critical habitat that might be affected by the proposed work. The District Engineer will determine whether the proposed activity “may affect” or will have “no effect” to listed species and designated critical habitat. In cases where the non-federal prospective Permittee has identified listed species or critical habitat that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, and has so notified the Corps, the prospective Permittee shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification that the proposed activities will have “no effect” on listed species or critical habitat, or until Section 7 consultation has been completed.

(4) As a result of formal or informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or NMFS, the District Engineer may add species-specific endangered species conditions to the RGP verification letter for a project.

(5) Authorization of an activity by a RGP 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 USFWS or the NMFS, the ESA prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. 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.

(6) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the USFWS in Raleigh, North Carolina at the address provided below, or from the USFWS and NMFS via their world wide web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> or <http://www.fws.gov/ipac> and <http://www.noaa.gov/fisheries.html> respectively.

The Raleigh USFWS Office covers all NC counties east of, and including, Richmond, Montgomery, Randolph, Guilford, and Rockingham Counties.

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

(7) The Wilmington District, USFWS, NCDOT, and the FHWA have conducted programmatic Section 7(a)(2) consultation for a number of federally listed species and habitat, and programmatic consultation concerning other federally listed species and/or habitat 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 this RGP 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 this RGP. 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 this RGP. If the terms and conditions of a specific PBO (or PBOs) apply to a project, the Corps will include this/these requirements in any RGP verification that may be issued for a project. The USFWS is the appropriate authority to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of its PBO, and with the ESA.

(8) Northern long-eared bat (NLEB) (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES) for the NLEB have been approved by the Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. See <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Permit-Program/Agency-Coordination/ESA/>. This SLOPES details how the Corps will make determinations of effect to the NLEB when the Corps is the lead federal agency for an NCDOT project that is located in the western 41 counties of North Carolina. This SLOPES do not address NCDOT projects (either federal or state funded) in the eastern 59 counties in North Carolina. Note that if another federal agency is the lead federal agency for a project in the western 41 counties, procedures for satisfying the requirements of Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA will be dictated by that agency and will not be applicable for consideration under the SLOPES; however, information that demonstrates the lead federal agency's (if other than the Corps) compliance with Section 7(a)(2) / 4(d) Rule for the NLEB, will be required in the PCN. Note that at the time of issuance of this RGP, the federal listing status of the NLEB as "Threatened" is being litigated at the National level. If, as a result of litigation, the NLEB is federally listed as "Endangered", this general condition ("s") will no longer be applicable because the 4(d) Rule, and this NLEB SLOPES, will no longer apply/be valid.

(9) In order to further protect the endangered West Indian Manatee, *Trichechus manatus*, the applicant must implement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Manatee Guidelines, and strictly adhere to all requirements therein. The guidelines can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/raleigh/pdfs/ManateeGuidelines2017.pdf>

(10) If the Permittee discovers or observes any live, damaged, injured, or dead individual of an endangered or threatened species during construction, the Permittee shall immediately notify the Wilmington District Engineer so that required coordination can be initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or National Marine Fisheries Service.

u. Permittees are advised that development activities in or near a floodway may be subject to the National Flood Insurance Program that prohibits any development, including fill, within a floodway that results in any increase in base flood elevations. This RGP does not authorize any activity prohibited by the National Flood Insurance Program.

w. The Permittee must install and maintain, at his/her expense, any signal lights and

signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, on authorized facilities. For further information, the Permittee should contact Coast Guard Sector North Carolina at (910) 772-2191 or email Coast Guard Fifth District at cgd5waterways@uscg.mil.

x The Permittee must maintain any structure or work authorized by this RGP in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this RGP. The Permittee is not relieved of this requirement if the Permittee abandons the structure or work. Transfer in fee simple of the work authorized by this RGP will automatically transfer this RGP to the property's new owner, with all of the rights and responsibilities enumerated herein. The Permittee must inform any subsequent owner of all activities undertaken under the authority of this RGP and provide the subsequent owner with a copy of the terms and conditions of this RGP.

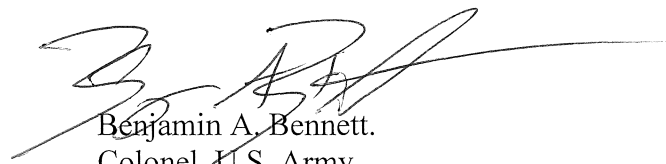
y. At his/her sole discretion, any time during the processing cycle, the Wilmington District Engineer may determine that this RGP will not be applicable to a specific proposal. In such case, the procedures for processing an individual permit in accordance with 33 CFR 325 will be available.

z. Except as authorized by this RGP or any Corps approved modification to this RGP, all fill material placed in waters or wetlands shall be generated from an upland source and will be clean and free of any pollutants except in trace quantities. Metal products, organic materials (including debris from land clearing activities), or unsightly debris will not be used.

aa. Except as authorized by this RGP or any Corps approved modification to this RGP, all excavated material will be disposed of in approved upland disposal areas.

bb. Activities which have commenced (i.e., are under construction) or are under contract to commence in reliance upon this RGP will remain authorized provided the activity is completed within twelve months of the date of the RGP's expiration, modification, or revocation. Activities completed under the authorization of this RGP that were in effect at the time the activity was completed continue to be authorized by the RGP.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:



Benjamin A. Bennett.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander