



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Seattle District

NATIONWIDE PERMIT 3

Terms and Conditions

Effective Date: September 10, 2007



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- A. Description of Authorized Activities
 - B. Corps National General Conditions for all NWP's
 - C. Corps Seattle District Regional General Conditions
 - D. Corps Regional Specific Conditions for this NWP
 - E. State 401 Certification General Conditions
 - F. State 401 Certification Specific Conditions for this NWP
 - G. EPA 401 Certification General Conditions
 - H. EPA 401 Certification Specific Conditions for this NWP
 - I. Spokane Tribe of Indians 401 Certification General Conditions
 - J. Tribal 401 Certification Specific Conditions for this NWP
 - K. CZM Consistency Response Specific Conditions for this NWP
 - L. Additional Limitations on the Use of NWP's

In addition to any special condition that may be required by the District Engineer on a case-by-case basis, the following terms and conditions must be met, as applicable, for a Nationwide Permit 3 authorization to be valid in Washington State.

A. DESCRIPTION OF AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES

3. Maintenance: (a) The repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized, currently serviceable, structure, or fill, or of any currently serviceable structure or fill authorized by 33 CFR 330.3, provided that the structure or fill is not to be put to uses differing from those uses specified or contemplated for it in the original permit or the most recently authorized modification. Minor deviations in the structure's configuration or filled area, including those due to changes in materials, construction techniques, or current construction codes or safety standards that are necessary to make the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement are authorized. This NWP authorizes the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of those structures or fills destroyed or damaged by storms, floods, fire or other discrete events, provided the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement is commenced, or is under contract to commence, within two years of the date of their destruction or damage. In cases of catastrophic events, such as hurricanes or tornadoes, this two-year limit may be waived by the district engineer, provided the permittee can demonstrate funding, contract, or other similar delays.

(b) This NWP also authorizes the removal of accumulated sediments and debris in the vicinity of and within existing structures (e.g., bridges, culverted road crossings, water intake structures, etc.) and the placement of new or additional riprap to protect the structure. The removal of sediment is limited to the minimum necessary to restore the waterway in the immediate vicinity of the structure to the approximate dimensions that existed when the structure was built, but cannot extend further than 200 feet in any direction from the structure. This 200 foot limit does not apply to maintenance dredging to remove accumulated sediments blocking or restricting outfall and intake structures or to maintenance dredging to remove accumulated sediments from canals associated with outfall and intake structures. All dredged or excavated materials must be deposited and retained in an upland area unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization. The placement of riprap must be the minimum necessary to protect the structure or to ensure the safety of the structure. Any bank stabilization measures not directly associated with the structure will require a separate authorization from the district engineer.

(c) This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work necessary to conduct the maintenance activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

(d) This NWP does not authorize maintenance dredging for the primary purpose of navigation or beach restoration. This NWP does not authorize new stream channelization or stream relocation projects.

Notification: For activities authorized by paragraph (b) of this NWP, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see general condition 27). Where maintenance dredging is proposed, the pre-construction notification must include information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of the outfalls, intakes, small impoundments, and canals. (Sections 10 and 404)

Note: This NWP authorizes the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any previously authorized structure or fill that does not qualify for the Clean Water Act Section 404(f) exemption for maintenance.

B. CORPS NATIONAL GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR ALL NWPs

1. **Navigation.** (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. Culverts placed in streams must be installed to maintain low flow conditions.

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 NWPs 4 and 48.

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 and storm water management activities, 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.

13. Removal of Temporary Fills. 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.

15. Wild and Scenic Rivers. No 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. Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency in the area (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

16. 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.

17. Endangered Species. (a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to 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 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

Section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed. (b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA. Federal permittees must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. (c) Non-federal permittees shall notify the district engineer if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or if the project 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 may be affected by the proposed work or that utilize the designated critical habitat that may 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 and will notify the non-Federal applicant of the Corps’ determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. In cases where the non-Federal applicant 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 applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification the proposed activities will have “no effect” on listed species or critical habitat, or until Section 7 consultation has been completed. (d) As a result of formal or informal consultation with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific regional endangered species conditions to the NWP. (e) Authorization of an activity by a 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 U.S. FWS or the NMFS, both lethal and non-lethal “takes” of protected species are in violation of the ESA. Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the U.S. FWS and NMFS or their world wide Web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> and <http://www.noaa.gov/fisheries.html> respectively.

18. Historic Properties. (a) In cases where the district engineer determines that the activity may affect properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, the activity is not authorized, 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. Federal permittees must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. (c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the authorized activity may have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed, 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 may be affected by the proposed work 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 resources can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and field survey. Based on the information submitted and these efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed activity has the potential to cause an effect on the historic properties. Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties which the activity may have the potential to cause effects and 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 or that consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed. (d) 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. Section 106 consultation is not required when the Corps determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR §800.3(a)). If NHPA section 106 consultation is required and will occur, the district engineer will notify the non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin work until Section 106 consultation is completed. (e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470h-2(k)) 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, explaining 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.

19. Designated Critical Resource Waters. Critical resource waters include, NOAA-designated marine sanctuaries, National Estuarine Research Reserves, state natural heritage sites, and outstanding national resource waters or other waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance and identified by the district engineer after notice and opportunity for public comment. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for comment. (a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWP 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, and 50 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, and 38, notification is required in accordance with general condition 27, for any activity proposed in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWPs only after it is determined that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

20. Mitigation. The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that adverse effects on the aquatic environment are 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) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are 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 some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate and provides a project-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 minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, wetland restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered. (d) For losses of streams or other open waters that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may require compensatory mitigation, such as stream restoration, to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. (e) 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 project 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 a project already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the minimal impact requirement associated with the NWPs. (f) Compensatory mitigation plans for projects in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the establishment, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. Riparian areas should consist of native species. 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. 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 compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses. (g) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee arrangements or separate activity-specific compensatory mitigation. In all cases, the mitigation provisions will specify the party responsible for accomplishing and/or complying with the mitigation plan. (h) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected, such as the conversion of 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 effects of the project to the minimal level.

21. Water Quality. Where States and authorized Tribes, or EPA where applicable, have not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA Section 401, individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). The district engineer or State or Tribe may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

22. 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)). The district engineer or a State may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

23. 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.

24. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits. The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by the NWPs does not 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.

25. 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)

26. Compliance Certification. Each permittee who received an NWP verification from the Corps must submit a signed certification regarding the completed work and any required mitigation. The certification form must be forwarded by the Corps with the NWP verification letter and will include: (a) A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general or specific conditions; (b) A statement that any required mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions; and (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the work and mitigation.

27. Pre-Construction Notification. (a) Timing. Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective 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, as a general rule, 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: (1) Until 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 (2) If 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 17 that listed species or critical habitat might be affected or in the vicinity of the project, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that the activity may have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that 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)) is completed. Also, work cannot begin under NWP 21, 49, or 50 until the permittee has received written approval from the Corps. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee cannot 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 procedure 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: (1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee; (2) Location of the proposed project; (3) A description of the proposed project; the project's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause; 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. The description should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse effects of the project will be minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation. Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the project and when provided result in a quicker decision.); (4) The PCN must include a delineation of special aquatic sites and other waters of the United States 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 of the United States, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many waters of the United States. Furthermore, the 45 day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, where appropriate; (5) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10 acre of wetlands and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan. (6) If any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or if the project is located in designated critical habitat, for non-Federal applicants the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that might be affected by the proposed work or utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work. Federal applicants must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act; and (7) For an activity that may affect a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, for non-Federal applicants the PCN must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. Federal applicants must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

(c) Form of Pre-Construction Notification: The standard individual permit application form (Form ENG 4345) may be used, but the completed application form must clearly indicate that it is a PCN and must include all of the information required in paragraphs (b)(1) through (7) of this general condition. A letter containing the required information may also be used.

(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 project's adverse environmental effects to a minimal level. (2) For all NWP 48 activities requiring pre-construction notification and for other NWP activities requiring pre-construction notification to the district engineer that result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the PCN to the appropriate Federal or state offices (U.S. FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will then have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to telephone or fax the district engineer notice that they intend to provide substantive, site-specific comments. 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, but 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. (3) 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. (4) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps multiple copies of pre-construction notifications to expedite agency coordination. (5) For NWP 48 activities that require reporting, the district engineer will provide a copy of each report within 10 calendar days of receipt to the appropriate regional office of the NMFS.

(e) District Engineer's Decision: 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 the proposed activity requires a PCN and will result in a loss of greater than 1/10 acre of wetlands, the prospective permittee should submit a mitigation proposal with the PCN. Applicants may also propose compensatory mitigation for projects with smaller impacts. The district engineer will consider any proposed compensatory mitigation the applicant has included in the proposal in determining whether the net adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment of the proposed work are 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 effects on the aquatic environment are minimal, after considering mitigation, the district engineer will notify the permittee and include any conditions the district engineer deems necessary. The district engineer must approve any compensatory mitigation proposal before the permittee commences work. 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 plan within 45 calendar days of receiving a complete PCN and determine whether the proposed mitigation would ensure no more than minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. If the net adverse effects of the project on the aquatic environment (after consideration of the compensatory mitigation proposal) are determined by the district engineer to be minimal, the district engineer will provide a timely written response to the applicant. The response will state that the project can proceed under the terms and conditions of the NWP.

If the district engineer determines that the adverse effects of the proposed work are more than minimal, then the district engineer will notify the applicant either: (1) That the project does not qualify for authorization under the NWP and instruct the applicant on the procedures to seek authorization under an individual permit; (2) that the project is authorized under the NWP subject to the applicant's submission of a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level; or (3) that the project 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 effects occur to the aquatic environment, the activity will be authorized within the 45-day PCN period. The authorization will include the necessary conceptual or specific mitigation or a requirement that the applicant submit a mitigation plan that would reduce the adverse effects on the aquatic environment to the minimal level. When mitigation is required, no work in waters of the United States may occur until the district engineer has approved a specific mitigation plan.

28. 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.

C. Corps Seattle District Regional General Conditions

1. Aquatic Resources Requiring Special Protection. The following restrictions apply to activities in Washington State requiring Department of the Army authorization:

a. Activities resulting in a loss of waters of the United States in a mature forested wetland, bog, bog-like wetland, aspen-dominated wetland, or alkali wetland are not authorized by NWP, except the following NWPs:

- NWP 3 – Maintenance
- NWP 20 – Oil Spill Cleanup

- NWP 32 – Completed Enforcement Actions
- NWP 38 – Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste
- NWP 47 – Pipeline Safety Program Designated Time Sensitive Inspections and Repairs

b. For activities in or affecting a mature forested wetland, bog, bog-like wetland, wetland in a dunal system along the Washington coast, vernal pool, aspen-dominated wetland, alkali wetland, camas prairie wetland, or marine water with eelgrass beds (except for NWP 48) *and not prohibited by the preceding general regional condition 1.a.*, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the District Engineer in accordance with Nationwide Permit General Condition 27 (Pre-Construction Notification).

2. Access. You must allow representatives of this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that the work is being, or has been, accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

3. Commencement Bay. Activities requiring Department of the Army authorization and located in the Commencement Bay Study Area are not authorized by the following NWPs:

- NWP 12 – Utility Line Activities (substations)
- NWP 13 – Bank Stabilization
- NWP 14 – Linear Transportation Projects
- NWP 23 – Approved Categorical Exclusions
- NWP 29 – Residential Developments
- NWP 39 – Commercial and Institutional Developments
- NWP 40 – Agricultural Activities
- NWP 41 – Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
- NWP 42 – Recreational Facilities
- NWP 43 – Stormwater Management Facilities

4. Bank Stabilization. All bank stabilization projects require pre-construction notification to the District Engineer in accordance with Nationwide Permit General Condition 27 (Pre-Construction Notification). Each notification must include a planting plan using native riparian plant species unless the applicant demonstrates that a planting plan is not appropriate or not practicable. Each notification must also include the following information, except as waived by the District Engineer:

- a. Need for the work, including the cause of the erosion and the threat posed to structures, infrastructure, and/or public safety.
- b. Current and expected post-project sediment movement and deposition patterns in and near the project area.
- c. Current and expected post-project habitat conditions, including the presence of fish, wildlife and plant species in the project area.
- d. Demonstration that the proposed project incorporates the least environmentally damaging practicable bank protection methods. These methods include, but are not limited to, the use of bioengineering, biotechnical design, root wads, large woody debris, native plantings, and beach nourishment in certain circumstances. If rock must be used due to site erosion conditions, explain how the bank stabilization structure incorporates elements beneficial to fish.
- e. Assessment of the likely impact of the proposed work on upstream, downstream and cross-stream properties (at a minimum the area assessed should extend from the nearest upstream bend to the nearest downstream bend of the watercourse). Discuss the methodology used for determining effects.

NOTE: Information on designing bank stabilization projects can be found in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's *Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines* (<http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ahg/ispdoc.htm>); King County's *Reconnaissance Assessment of the State of the Nearshore Ecosystem* (<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/watersheds/puget/nearshore/sorr.htm>); and three technical (white) papers – *Marine and Estuarine Shoreline Modification Issues*, *Ecological Issues in Floodplains and Riparian Corridors*, and *Over-Water Structures: Marine, Freshwater, and Treated Wood Issues* (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/ahg/ahgwhite.htm>).

5. Cultural Resources and Human Burials. Permittees must immediately stop work and notify the District Engineer within 24 hours if, during the course of conducting authorized work, human burials, cultural resources, or historic properties, as identified by the National Historic Preservation Act, are discovered and may be affected by the work.

Failure to stop work in the area of discovery until the Corps can comply with the provisions of 33 CFR 325 Appendix C, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other pertinent laws and regulations could result in a violation of state and federal laws. Violators are subject to civil and criminal penalties.

6. **Essential Fish Habitat.** An activity which may adversely affect essential fish habitat, as identified under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), may not be authorized by NWP until essential fish habitat requirements have been met by the applicant and the Corps. Non-federal permittees shall notify the District Engineer if essential fish habitat may be affected by, or is in the vicinity of, a proposed activity and shall not begin work until notified by the District Engineer that the requirements of the essential fish habitat provisions of the MSA have been satisfied and the activity is authorized. The notification must identify the type(s) of essential fish habitat (i.e., Pacific salmon, groundfish, and/or coastal-pelagic species) managed by a Fishery Management Plan that may be affected. Information about essential fish habitat is available at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/>

7. **Vegetation Protection and Restoration.** Permittees must clearly mark all construction area boundaries before beginning work and minimize the removal of native vegetation in riparian areas and wetlands to the maximum extent practicable. Areas subject to temporary vegetation removal in wetlands or riparian areas during construction shall be replanted with appropriate native species by the end of the first planting season following the disturbance except as waived by the District Engineer.

D. Corps Regional Specific Conditions for this NWP: None

E. State 401 Certification General Conditions

1. **For in-water construction activities.** Individual 401 review is required under this condition for projects or activities authorized under NWPs that will cause, or be likely to cause or contribute to an exceedance of a State water quality standard (WAC 173-201A) or sediment management standard (WAC 173-204).

State water quality standards can be located on Ecology's website: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/>.

Sediment management standards can be located on Ecology's website:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/wac173204.html>.

Information is also available by contacting Ecology's Federal Permit staff.

2. **Projects or Activities Discharging to Impaired Waters.** Individual 401 review is required by this condition for projects or activities authorized under NWPs if the project or activity may result in further exceedances of a specific parameter the waterbody is listed for on the state's list of impaired waterbodies (the 303(d) list).

The current 303(d) listed waterbodies can be identified using search tools available on Ecology's website:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/2002/2002-index.html> or by contacting Ecology's Federal Permit staff.

3. **Notification.** For projects or activities that will require individual 401 review, applicants must provide Ecology with the written documentation provided to the Corps (as described in Corps Nationwide Permit General Condition 27, Pre-Construction Notification), including, when applicable:

a. A description of the project, including site plans, project purpose, direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause, any other Department of the Army permits used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity.

b. Delineation of special aquatic sites and other waters of the United States. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps and shall include Ecology's Wetland Rating form. *Note: Forms are available at Ecology's Wetlands website:*

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/index.html> or by contacting Ecology's Federal Permit staff.

c. Coastal Zone Management Program "Certification of Consistency" Form if the project is located within a coastal county (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom counties).

Note: Forms are available at the Army Corps of Engineers website: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil> or by contacting Ecology's Federal Permit staff.

d. Other applicable requirements of Corps Nationwide Permit General Condition 27, Corps Regional Conditions, or notification conditions of the applicable NWP.

Ecology's review time shall not begin until the applicable documents noted above have been provided to Ecology and Ecology has received a copy of the final Nationwide Permit verification letter from the Corps.

4. Aquatic resources requiring special protection. Certain aquatic resources are unique, difficult-to-replace components of the aquatic environment in Washington State. Activities that would affect these resources must be avoided to the greatest extent possible. Compensating for adverse impacts to high value aquatic resources is typically difficult, prohibitively expensive, and may not be possible in some landscape settings. Individual 401 review is required for activities in or affecting the following aquatic resources (and not prohibited by Regional Condition 1), except for:

- NWP 20 – Oil Spill Cleanup
- NWP 32 – Completed Enforcement Actions
- NWP 38 – Cleanup of Hazardous Waste
- NWP 47 – Pipeline Safety Program Repair

a. Wetlands with special characteristics (as defined in the Washington State Wetland Rating Systems for western and eastern Washington, Ecology Publication #s04-06-025 and #04-06-015):

- estuarine wetlands
- Natural Heritage wetlands
- Bogs
- old-growth and mature forested wetlands
- wetlands in coastal lagoons
- interdunal wetlands
- vernal pools
- alkali wetlands

b. Bog-like wetlands, aspen-dominated wetlands, camas prairie wetlands, and marine water with eelgrass beds (except for NWP 48).

c. Category I wetlands

d. Category II wetlands with a habitat score >29 points.

5. Mitigation. 401 Certification is based on adequate compensatory mitigation being provided for wetland and other water quality-related impacts of projects or activities authorized under the NWP Program.

Mitigation plans submitted for Ecology review and approval shall be based on the guidance provided in Wetland Mitigation in Washington State, Parts 1 and 2 (Ecology Publication #s06-06-011a and #06-06-011b) and shall, at a minimum, include the following:

- (a) A description of the measures taken to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and other waters of the U.S.
- (b) The nature of the proposed impacts (i.e., acreage of wetlands and functions lost or degraded)
- (c) The rationale for the mitigation site that was selected
- (d) The goals and objectives of the compensatory mitigation project
- (e) How the mitigation project will be accomplished, including proposed performance standards for measuring success and the proposed buffer widths
- (f) How it will be maintained and monitored to assess progress towards goals and objectives. Monitoring will generally be required for a minimum of five years. For forested and scrub-shrub wetlands, 10 years of monitoring will often be necessary.
- (g) How the compensatory mitigation site will be legally protected for the long-term.

Refer to Wetland Mitigation in Washington State – Part 2: Developing Mitigation Plans (Ecology Publication #06-06-011b) for guidance on developing mitigation plans.

Ecology encourages the use of alternative mitigation approaches, including advance mitigation and other programmatic approaches, such as mitigation banks and programmatic mitigation areas at the local level. If you are interested in proposing use of an alternative mitigation approach, consult with the appropriate Ecology regional staff person. (see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/contacts.htm>)

For information on the state wetland mitigation banking program go to:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetlands/mitigation/banking/index.html>

6. Temporary Fills. Individual 401 review is required for any project or activity with temporary fill in wetlands or other waters of the State for more than 90 days, unless the applicant has received written approval from Ecology.

7. Mill Creek Special Area Management Plan. This condition applies to all NWP's within the boundaries described in the Mill Creek Special Area Management Plan (SAMP), King County, Washington, dated April 2000 (SAMP). The boundaries of the SAMP encompass all sub-basins and tributaries drained by Algona Creek, Auburn Creek, Bingaman Creek, Midway Creek, Mill Creek, and Mullen Slough. The area is bounded roughly on the south by 8th Avenue N in Algona and 4th Street NE in Auburn, on the east and north by the Ordinary High Water Mark of the Green River, and on the west by the plateau that parallels Interstate 5 above the Green River valley.

Individual 401 review is required for projects or activities authorized under the NWP's unless:

a. The project or activity will result in fill-related impacts to only wetlands designated as developable under Alternative #8, as shown on Figure 4-8 of the SAMP.

b. Compensatory mitigation for such impacts is onsite and/or within the areas designated on Figure 3-3, "Maximum Areas for Restoration by Target Habitat Type," in the SAMP Aquatic Resources Restoration Plan (April 2000).

c. Mitigation plans comply with the requirements of the SAMP and, in general, with the guidance in the interagency Wetland Mitigation in Washington State (March 2006; Ecology publications #06-06-011a and #06-06-011b). Note: You can download the SAMP and Aquatic Resources Restoration Plan at

http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=REG&pagename=Mill_Creek_SAMP.

8. State Certification for PCNs not receiving 45-day response. In the event the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not respond to a complete pre-construction notification within 45 days, the applicant must contact Ecology for Individual 401 review.

F. State 401 Certification Specific Conditions for this NWP

Certified, subject to conditions. Individual 401 review is required for projects or activities authorized under this NWP if:

1. The project or activities are below the OHWM with new work being proposed outside the original footprint.
2. The proposed project or activity increases the original footprint of the structure by more than 10 percent in wetlands.

G. EPA 401 Certification General Conditions

In order for any NWP authorization to be valid in Washington State, permittees must comply with all applicable 401 Certification general conditions. EPA 401 Certification general conditions apply to all NWP authorizations involving Section 404 activities on Native American Indian Tribal lands (excluding the tribal lands of the Chehalis Tribes, Port Gamble S'Klallum Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, Makah Indian Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Spokane Tribe, and Tulalip Tribe) and Federal land with exclusive jurisdiction within Washington State.

A. Special Aquatic Sites. Any activities in the following types of wetlands and waters of the U.S. will need to apply for an individual 401 certification: Mature forested wetlands; bogs; bog-like wetlands; wetlands in dunal systems along the Washington coast; vernal pools; aspen-dominated wetlands; alkali wetlands; camas prairie wetlands; salt marshes; or marine water with eelgrass beds.

B. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls. An individual 401 certification is based on the project or activity meeting established turbidity levels. EPA will be using as guidance the state of Washington's water quality standards [WAC 173-201a] and sediment quality standards [WAC 173-204]. Projects or activities that are expected to exceed these levels or that do exceed these levels will require an individual 401 certification.

C. Compliance with Stormwater Provisions. Individual 401 certification is required for projects or activities not designed in accordance with Ecology's most recent stormwater manual or Ecology approved equivalent manual.

D. Compliance with requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. For projects and activities requiring coverage under an NPDES permit, certification is based on compliance with the requirements of that permit. Projects and activities not in compliance with NPDES requirements will require individual 401 certification.

E. Projects or Activities Discharging to Impaired Waters. Individual 401 certification is required for projects or activities authorized under NWP's if the project will discharge to a waterbody on the list of impaired waterbodies (the 303(d) List) *and* the discharge may result in further exceedence of a specific parameter the waterbody is listed for.

EPA may issue 401 certification for projects or activities that would result in further exceedence or impairment if mitigation is provided that would result in a net decrease in listed contaminants or less impairment in the waterbody. This determination would be made during individual 401 certification review.

F. Notification. For projects requiring individual 401 certification, applicants must provide EPA with the same documentation provided to the Corps (as described in Corps National General Condition 27, Pre-Construction Notification), including, when applicable:

(a) A description of the project, including site plans, project purpose, direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause, any other U.S. Department of the Army permits used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity.

(b) Delineation of special aquatic sites and other waters of the United States. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps.

(c) A statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied. A conceptual or detailed mitigation or restoration plan may be submitted.

(d) Other applicable requirements of Corps National General Condition 27, Corps Regional Conditions, or notification conditions of the applicable NWP.

A request for individual 401 review is not complete until EPA receives the applicable documents noted above and EPA has received a copy of the final authorization letter from the Corps providing coverage for a proposed project or activity under the NWP Program.

G. Mitigation. An individual 401 certification is based on adequate compensatory mitigation being provided for wetland and other water quality-related impacts of projects or activities authorized under the NWP Program. Mitigation plans submitted shall be based on the Joint Agency guidance provided in *Wetland Mitigation in Washington State, Parts 1 and 2* (Ecology Publication #06-06-011a and #06-06-011b) and shall, at a minimum, include the following:

1. A description of the measures taken to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and other waters of the U.S.
2. The nature of the proposed impacts (i.e., acreage of wetlands and functions lost or degraded).
3. The rationale for the mitigation site that was selected.
4. The goals and objectives of the compensatory mitigation project.
5. How the mitigation project will be accomplished, including proposed performance standards for measuring success and the proposed buffer widths.
6. How it will be maintained and monitored to assess progress towards goals and objectives. Monitoring will generally be required for a minimum of five years. For forested and scrub-shrub wetlands, 10 years of monitoring will often be necessary.
7. How the compensatory mitigation site will be legally protected for the long-term.

H. Temporary Fills. An individual 401 certification is required for any activity where temporary fill will remain in wetlands or other waterbodies for more than 90 days. The 90 day period begins when filling activity starts in the wetland or other waterbody.

H. EPA 401 Certification Specific Conditions for this NWP

Denied without prejudice. Individual 401 certification required.

I. Spokane Tribe of Indians 401 Certification General Conditions

Specific to the Reservation and the Tribal Water Quality Standards, the applicant must comply with the following when there could be a discharge to waters of the Spokane Indian Reservation:

1. The applicant shall be responsible for achieving compliance with the Spokane Tribal Water Quality Standards.
2. The applicant shall submit copies of applications materials to the Spokane Tribal Water Control Board for review and approval at the same time they are submitted to Army Corps of Engineers and prior to any disturbance activities.
3. The applicant shall comply with all Spokane Tribal Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) guidelines for land use activities and disturbances.
4. The applicant shall allow the Tribal Water Control board and Interdisciplinary Team to inspect the area in question and adopt recommendations made throughout its operation.
5. Monitoring of the discharge shall occur at a level indicated by EPA and the Tribe, are subject to change, and shall be submitted to both entities.

J. Tribal 401 Certification Specific Conditions for this NWP

Denied without prejudice by the Chehalis, Kalispel, Makah, Port Gamble S'Klallum, Puyallup, and Tulalip tribes. Certified subject to general conditions by the Spokane Tribe.

K. CZM Consistency Response Specific Conditions for this NWP

Concur, subject to the following condition:

1. Where individual 401 review is triggered, an individual CZM Consistency Response must be obtained for projects located within the 15 coastal counties. A "Certification of Consistency" form must be submitted in accordance with State General Condition 3 (Notification).

L. ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON THE USE OF NWPs

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.