

# PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army Corps  
of Engineers

New York District  
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building  
New York, N.Y. 10278-0090  
ATTN: Regulatory Branch

Buffalo District  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14207  
ATTN: Regulatory Branch

**New York State Nationwide  
Permit Regional Conditions**  
Issue Date: September 29, 2020  
Expiration Date: November 13, 2020

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## NATIONWIDE PERMIT REISSUANCE REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

On September 15, 2020, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published in the Federal Register its proposal to reissue the 52 existing nationwide permits (NWP) and issue five new NWPs.

Nationwide permits are general permits issued on a nationwide basis to streamline the authorization of activities that result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. Many of the proposed NWPs require notification to the district engineer before commencing those activities, to ensure that the activities authorized by those NWPs cause no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

National Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs: The Federal Register notice is the public's opportunity to comment on the proposed NWPs, general conditions, and definitions. Comments on national issues relating to these NWPs should be submitted to docket number COE-2020-0002 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), or by email to [nationwidepermits2020@usace.army.mil](mailto:nationwidepermits2020@usace.army.mil) or by mail to Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Directorate of Civil Works, ATTN: CECW-CO-R, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20314-1000. Instructions for submitting comments are provided in the September 15, 2020 Federal Register notice. Comments on the proposed NWPs are due by November 16, 2020.

Regional Issues Concerning the Proposed NWPs, Including Regional Conditioning: Division engineers are authorized to add regional conditions specific to the needs and/or requirements of a particular region or state. Regional conditions are an important mechanism to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the NWPs are no more than minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Division engineers may also suspend or revoke specific NWPs in certain geographic areas (e.g., states or watersheds) or high-value aquatic systems where the adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by those NWPs may be more than minimal. An enclosure for this public notice (Enclosure 2) lists the proposed regional conditions currently under consideration by the New York and Buffalo Districts for the state of New York. The New York and Buffalo Districts are seeking comments on the proposed regional conditions and are seeking comments on the need for additional regional conditions to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the proposed NWPs are no more than minimal, individually and cumulatively. Unless otherwise noted, all proposed regional conditions listed on this

enclosure are applicable for activities in the entire state of New York. Comments on regional issues relating to the proposed NWP and proposed regional conditions should be emailed to Amanda Regan at [cenan.publicnotice@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenan.publicnotice@usace.army.mil). Note: If you do not have internet access, information may be submitted through the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to the following address:

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: CELRB-R  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207

Submittals should only be provided through the USPS when electronic transmission is not possible. Precautionary internal mail handling procedures may be instituted to protect our workforce, which may result in longer than normal times to process and receive hard copy submissions.

Comments relating to regional conditions are due by **November 13, 2020**. Similar public notices proposing regional conditions in other regions or states are being published concurrently by other division or district offices. After the final NWP is issued, the final regional conditions will be issued after they are approved by the Division Commander.

States, tribes, and other certifying authorities will make their Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification (WQC) decisions after reviewing the proposed NWP. States will make their Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determination decisions after reviewing the proposed NWP.

Draft decision documents for each of the proposed NWP, which include environmental documentation prepared for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act, have been written by Corps Headquarters. The decision documents will address compliance of the NWP with the requirements for issuance under the Corps' general permit authority. These draft decision documents, as well as the proposed NWP, are available for viewing at **www.regulations.gov**, docket number COE-2020-0002. Final decision documents will be prepared for the NWP that are issued.

Enclosed is an index of the proposed NWP and conditions (Enclosure 1). Anyone wishing to provide comments may obtain a full text copy of the NWP through the Corps Home Page at **https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/**, at **www.regulations.gov** in docket number COE-2020-0002, or at the following Federal Register address: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/09/15/2020-17116/proposal-to-reissue-and-modify-nationwide-permits>.



Stephan A. Ryba  
Chief, Regulatory Branch  
New York District

## **PUBLIC NOTICE ENCLOSURE 1**

### **Index of Proposed Nationwide Permits, Conditions, and Definitions**

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**ENCLOSURE 2: NYC Water Supply – East of Hudson Watershed (for NY District Regional Conditions)**

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#### B. Nationwide Permits

1. **Aids to Navigation.** The placement of aids to navigation and regulatory markers that are approved by and installed in accordance with the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard (see 33 CFR, chapter I, subchapter C, part 66). (Authority: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10))

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) is required.

2. **Structures in Artificial Canals.** Structures constructed in artificial canals within principally residential developments where the connection of the canal to a navigable water of the United States has been previously authorized (see 33 CFR 322.5(g)). (Authority: Section 10)

**Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):** None

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, or of any currently serviceable structure or fill that did not require a permit at the time it was constructed, 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, requirements of other regulatory agencies, or current construction codes or safety standards that are necessary to make the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement are authorized. This NWP also includes the placement of new or additional riprap to protect the structure or fill, provided the placement of riprap is the minimum necessary to protect the structure or fill or to ensure the safety of the structure or fill. This NWP authorizes the removal of previously authorized structures or fills. Any stream channel modification is limited to the minimum necessary for the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of the structure or fill; such modifications, including the removal of material from the stream channel, must be immediately adjacent to the project. This NWP also authorizes the removal of accumulated sediment and debris within, and in the immediate vicinity of, the structure or fill. This NWP also 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 outside the immediate vicinity of existing structures (e.g., bridges, culverted road crossings, water intake structures, etc.). The removal of sediment is limited to the minimum necessary to restore the waterway in the vicinity of the structure to the approximate dimensions that existed when the structure was built, but cannot extend farther 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 area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization.

(c) This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, 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.



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Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. After conducting the maintenance activity, 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. This NWP does not authorize 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 32). The pre-construction notification must include information regarding the original design capacities and configurations of the outfalls, intakes, small impoundments, and canals. (Authorities: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Sections 10 and 404))

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

#### Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):

a. The Nationwide General Permit Condition No. 32 – Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) for activities proposed under NWP 3.b. involving the removal of accumulated sediments and debris in the vicinity of existing structures to restore the waterway to previously existing depths, must include evidence of such depths. Such evidence may include but is not limited to: construction drawings of the original structure; or project drawings of past excavation activities in the vicinity. If this information is not available, the PCN must include evidence of the existing depths immediately outside the proposed work area.

b. Every effort should be made to prevent additional encroachment into the beds of New York waterbodies. All repair or rehabilitation activities should focus on using the area immediately landward of the existing structure. Bulkhead replacement shall be completed in-place or landward of the existing structure where practicable. When that is not practicable, a PCN shall be required for any encroachment proposed within tidal waters of the U.S. or any extensions, excluding the placement of toe stone protection recommended/required by state/federal resource agencies (i.e. NYSDEC, NYSDOS, USFWS & USEPA), which exceed 18 inches waterward of the existing bulkhead within non-tidal waters. The PCN must include justification for a waterward extension of the bulkhead (e.g geologic conditions, engineering requirements, etc).

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:

c. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

d. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

e. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

f. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if tide gate replacement or maintenance is proposed, tide gates shall be replaced with self-regulating tide gates that allow tidal flow and fish passage but can be set to close at a specified water level, unless it can be demonstrated that a self-regulating tide gate would not be practicable due to ecological or public safety reasons. A PCN is required for all tide gate replacements and

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maintenance in which a one-way gate is proposed. The PCN shall describe fully the existing conditions of the tide gate and the habitat upstream of the gate and include documentation of its condition, function and maintenance over the previous decade.

g. Within National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Threatened, Endangered or Candidate (TE&C) habitat, any proposed pilings which would be steel or would exceed 12 inches in diameter shall require a PCN.

**REMINDER TO APPLICANT:** For projects involving culvert maintenance or replacement, please take particular note of the requirements of General Regional Conditions G-B.1 and B.2. below. For projects involving aerial transmission lines, note clearance requirements as outlined in 33 CFR 322.5(i) (See NWP #12C).

**4. Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities.** Fish and wildlife harvesting devices and activities such as pound nets, crab traps, crab dredging, eel pots, lobster traps, duck blinds, and clam and oyster digging, fish aggregating devices, and small fish attraction devices such as open water fish concentrators (sea kites, etc.). This NWP does not authorize artificial reefs or impoundments and semi-impoundments of waters of the United States for the culture or holding of motile species such as lobster, or the use of covered oyster trays or clam racks. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

**5. Scientific Measurement Devices.** Devices, whose purpose is to measure and record scientific data, such as staff gages, tide and current gages, meteorological stations, water recording and biological observation devices, water quality testing and improvement devices, and similar structures. Small weirs and flumes constructed primarily to record water quantity and velocity are also authorized provided the discharge is limited to 25 cubic yards. Upon completion of the use of the device to measure and record scientific data, the measuring device and any other structures or fills associated with that device (e.g., foundations, anchors, buoys, lines, etc.) must be removed to the maximum extent practicable and the site restored to pre-construction elevations. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

a. Weirs and flumes cannot be constructed in a manner that would preclude the passage of anadromous fishes within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below.

b. The construction or installation of subaqueous turbines or similar facilities is not authorized by this NWP within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below.

c. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

**6. Survey Activities.** Survey activities, such as core sampling, seismic exploratory operations, plugging of seismic shot holes and other exploratory-type bore holes, exploratory trenching, soil surveys, sampling, sample plots or transects for wetland delineations, and historic resources surveys. For the purposes of this NWP, the term “exploratory trenching” means mechanical land clearing of the upper soil profile to expose bedrock or substrate, for

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the purpose of mapping or sampling the exposed material. The area in which the exploratory trench is dug must be restored to its pre-construction elevation upon completion of the work and must not drain a water of the United States. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. This NWP authorizes the construction of temporary pads, provided the discharge does not exceed 1/10-acre in waters of the U.S. Discharges and structures associated with the recovery of historic resources are not authorized by this NWP. Drilling and the discharge of excavated material from test wells for oil and gas exploration are not authorized by this NWP; the plugging of such wells is authorized. Fill placed for roads and other similar activities is not authorized by this NWP. The NWP does not authorize any permanent structures. The discharge of drilling mud and cuttings may require a permit under section 402 of the Clean Water Act. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

- a. Work cannot preclude the passage of anadromous fishes within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below.
- b. The use of in-water explosives is prohibited within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below.

**7. Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures.** Activities related to the construction or modification of outfall structures and associated intake structures, where the effluent from the outfall is authorized, conditionally authorized, or specifically exempted by, or otherwise in compliance with regulations issued under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (section 402 of the Clean Water Act). The construction of intake structures is not authorized by this NWP, unless they are directly associated with an authorized outfall structure.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

- a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, any proposed intake structures must include “wedge wire” screening with mesh opening sizes of 2 millimeters (mm) or less and intake velocities equal to or less than 0.5 feet per second. This condition may be granted a variance by the Corps of Engineers if an applicant proposes to utilize new or improved technologies that meet or exceed the “wedge wire” design technology.
- b. Within Essential Fish Habitat, the applicant shall also demonstrate that the intake structure will be located and constructed to maximize its design effectiveness to minimize impingement and entrainment of aquatic species. This would include efforts that result in stream velocities over, around or past the intake structure that exceed the velocities through the intake structure.
- c. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, the applicant shall include SAV information in the required PCN.

**8. Oil and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf.** Structures for the exploration, production, and transportation of oil, gas, and minerals on the outer continental shelf within areas leased for such purposes by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Such structures shall not be placed within the limits of any designated shipping safety fairway or traffic separation scheme, except temporary anchors that comply with the fairway regulations in 33 CFR 322.5(l). The district engineer will review such proposals to ensure

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compliance with the provisions of the fairway regulations in 33 CFR 322.5(l). Any Corps review under this NWP will be limited to the effects on navigation and national security in accordance with 33 CFR 322.5(f), as well as 33 CFR 322.5(l) and 33 CFR part 334. Such structures will not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas as designated in 33 CFR part 334, nor will such structures be permitted in EPA or Corps-designated dredged material disposal areas.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 10)

**Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):** None

**9. Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas.** Structures, buoys, floats, and other devices placed within anchorage or fleeting areas to facilitate moorage of vessels where such areas have been established for that purpose. (Authority: Section 10)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

a. A preconstruction notification (PCN) is required for all activities and shall require submission of a completed copy of Enclosure 3 entitled “**Commercial Mooring Buoy Application Additional Information**” with the PCN.

b. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, the applicant shall include SAV information in the required PCN.

**10. Mooring Buoys.** Non-commercial, single-boat, mooring buoys. (Authority: Section 10)

**Permit-specific Regional Condition (Buffalo and New York Districts):**

a. Mooring buoys must be tagged with the name and the address of the owner. The placement of buoys must not hinder navigation, create unsafe conditions to the public, or hinder safe access to and from a person’s property. Buoys must be placed so that each moored vessel will avoid contact or interference with any other moored vessel or structure.

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

b. All mooring buoys must be approved by the Ninth Coast Guard District prior to installation. Information concerning the approval process may be obtained by calling (216)-902-6069 or by writing to: Commander (DPW), Ninth Coast Guard District, ATTN: Private Aids to Navigation, 1240 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44199-2060. All requests for approval must be submitted on a CG-2554 form (Private Aids to Navigation Application).

**Note: Buffalo District Regional Permit (RP) #87-000-1 Special Condition #12** authorizes ~~up to four~~ commercial and non-commercial mooring buoys ~~per property~~. The RP includes activities authorized by NWP 10 to simplify permitting when other structures (i.e. docks, hoists, etc.) are also proposed. Both the NWP 10 and RP have similar conditions relating to mooring buoys, therefore either permit may be used for non-commercial mooring buoys. (<https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/New-York-Permit-Information/>)

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

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- c. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, water depths in the mooring area must be sufficient such that any moored vessels float at all stages of the tide.
- d. Within Essential Fish Habitat, mooring buoys are prohibited in areas with submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).
- e. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

**11. Temporary Recreational Structures.** Temporary buoys, markers, small floating docks, and similar structures placed for recreational use during specific events such as water skiing competitions and boat races or seasonal use, provided that such structures are removed within 30 days after use has been discontinued. At Corps of Engineers reservoirs, the reservoir managers must approve each buoy or marker individually. (Authority: Section 10)

#### Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:

- a. This NWP does not authorize the placement of seasonal structures that are not associated with a specific event. Seasonal structures may be authorized by Buffalo District Regional Permit #87-000-1 (<https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/New-York-Permit-Information/>)

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:

- b. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, all temporary structures must be located with sufficient water depths such that the structures float at all stages of the tide.
- c. This NWP does not authorize the placement of any temporary structures within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, in areas with submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).
- d. Within tidal waters, this NWP authorizes only the placement of seasonal structures that are associated with a specific event.
- e. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

**12. Oil or Natural Gas PipelineUtility Line Activities.** Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of oil and natural gas pipelines utility lines and associated facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project.

Oil or natural gas pipelines:Utility lines: This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States and structures or work in navigable waters for crossings of those waters associated with the construction, maintenance, or repair of oil and natural gas pipelines,utility lines, including outfall and intake structures. There must be no change in pre-construction contours of waters of the United States. ~~A~~ An “oil or natural gas pipeline” “utility line” is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any ~~form of oil or natural gas, including petrochemical products gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substance,~~ for any purpose, ~~and any cable, line, or wire for the transmission for any purpose of electrical energy, telephone, and telegraph messages, and internet, radio, and television communication. The term “utility line” does not include activities that drain a water of the United States, such as drainage tile or french drains, but it does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area.~~

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, provided the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. The district engineer may extend the period of temporary side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil

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from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line crossing of each waterbody.

Utility line~~Oil or natural gas pipeline~~ substations: This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities associated with ~~a power line an oil~~ or ~~utility line~~oil or natural gas pipeline in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

Foundations for~~overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors~~ above-ground oil or natural gas pipelines: This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for ~~overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors~~above-ground oil or natural gas pipelines in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary ~~and separate footings for each tower leg (rather than a larger single pad) are used where feasible.~~

Access roads: This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of ~~utility lines, including overhead power lines and utility line substations~~ oil or natural gas pipelines, in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize oil or natural gas pipelines ~~utility lines~~ in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (See 33 CFR part 322). Oil or natural gas pipelines ~~Overhead utility lines constructed over section 10 waters and utility lines that are~~ routed in, over, or under section 10 waters without a discharge of dredged or fill material require a section 10 permit.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that Department of the Army authorization is required, temporary structures, fills, and work necessary for the remediation of inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States through sub-soil fissures or fractures that might occur during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing oil or natural gas pipelines ~~utility lines~~. These remediation activities must be done as soon as practicable, to restore the affected waterbody. District engineers may add special conditions to this NWP to require a remediation plan for addressing inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing oil or natural gas pipelines ~~utility lines~~.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to conduct the oil or natural gas pipeline ~~utility line~~ 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. After construction, 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.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if ~~any of the following criteria are met~~: (1) ~~the activity involves mechanized land clearing in a forested wetland for the utility line right-of-way;~~ (2) a section 10 permit is required; (3) ~~the utility line in waters of the United~~



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~~States, excluding overhead lines, exceeds 500 feet; (4) the utility line is placed within a jurisdictional area (i.e., water of the United States), and it runs parallel to or along a stream bed that is within that jurisdictional area; (5) discharges that~~ 2) the discharge will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States; (6) permanent access roads are constructed above grade in waters of the United States for a or 3) the proposed oil or natural gas pipeline activity is associated with an overall project that is greater than 250 miles in length and the project purpose is to install new pipeline (vs. conduct repair or maintenance activities) along the majority of the distance of more than 500 feet; or (7) permanent access roads are constructed in waters of the United States with impervious materials. the overall project length. If the proposed oil or gas pipeline is greater than 250 miles in length, the pre-construction notification must include the locations and proposed impacts for all crossings of waters of the United States that require DA authorization, including those crossings authorized by NWP would not otherwise require pre-construction notification. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** Where the oil or natural gas pipeline utility line is constructed ~~or,~~ installed, or maintained in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, a copy of the NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), for charting the oil or natural gas pipeline utility line to protect navigation.

**Note 2:** For oil or natural gas pipeline utility line activities crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Oil or natural gas pipeline utility line activities must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

~~**Note 3:** Utility lines consisting of aerial electric power transmission lines crossing navigable waters of the United States (which are defined at 33 CFR part 329) must comply with the applicable minimum clearances specified in 33 CFR 322.5(i).~~

~~**Note 3:**~~ **Note 4:** Access roads used for both construction and maintenance may be authorized, provided they meet the terms and conditions of this NWP. Access roads used solely for construction of the oil or natural gas pipeline utility line must be removed upon completion of the work, in accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.

**Note 54:** Pipes or pipelines used to transport gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substances over navigable waters of the United States are considered to be bridges, ~~not utility lines~~, and may require a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. However, any discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with such oil or natural gas pipelines will require a section 404 permit (see NWP 15).

**Note 65:** This NWP authorizes oil or natural gas pipeline utility line maintenance and repair activities that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f) exemption for maintenance of currently serviceable fills or fill structures.

~~**Note 7:** For overhead utility lines authorized by this NWP, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.~~

**Note 86:** For NWP 12 activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

**Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):**

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#### ~~a. For Aerial Transmission Lines Across Navigable Waters:~~

~~1. All aerial crossings must comply with the elevation clearances specified in 33 CFR 322.5(i)(2) and 33 CFR 322.5(i)(3), as referenced in NWP 12 Note 3. The following table pertains to aerial transmission lines across navigable waters, is located at 33 CFR 322.5(i)(2) and is included here for easy reference:~~

<i>Nominal System Voltage (kV)</i>	<i>Min. additional clearance (ft.) above clearance required for bridges</i>
115 and below	20
136	22
161	24
230	26
350	30
500	35
700	42
750 and above	45

~~2. Within 60 days of completion of the work, the permittee shall furnish the Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, N/CS261, Marine Chart Division, Nautical Data Branch, Station 7317, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Springs, MD 20910 3282, with certification that the aerial wire has been installed in compliance with the approved plans. The certification shall include a survey, conducted by a licensed surveyor, which clearly shows the minimum clearance of the aerial wire above the applicable high water line at the time of the survey. The certification shall also include a statement by the permittee that the clearance of the wire(s), at maximum sag conditions, shall never be less than the clearance shown on the approved plans.~~

#### ~~ba. For Submerged Cables and Pipelines Across Navigable Waters and Federal Navigation Channels:~~

1. This nationwide permit is not applicable to activities on the following waterways: (1) Arthur Kill; (2) Atlantic Ocean; (3) East River; (4) Harlem River; (5) Hudson River, downstream of the southern limit of the New York State Barge Canal at Waterford, New York; (6) Jamaica Bay/Rockaway Inlet, 20 foot deep entrance channel from the mouth of the inlet, upstream to the second channel bend at Rockaway Point; (7) Kill Van Kull; (8) Long Island Sound; (9) Lower New York Bay; (10) Newark Bay; (11) Raritan Bay; (12) Rondout Creek/Harbor, downstream of the Route 9W highway bridge; and (13) Upper New York Bay, including Bay Ridge, Red Hook and Buttermilk Channels.

2. For proposed submerged ~~cables and~~ pipelines buried within navigable waterways, excluding waters listed in 12.b.1. above:

- The top of the ~~cable or~~ pipeline crossing any Federal project channel, fleeting or anchorage area, shall be located a minimum of 12 feet below the authorized project channel depth.
- The burial depth is measured from the authorized project channel depth to the top of the outermost layer of the utility line.
- In cases where the channel's existing bottom is already deeper than the authorized project depth, the utility line shall be located a minimum of 4 feet below the existing bottom in sediment and 2 feet below the existing bottom in compacted rock.
- In areas outside of Federal project channels, fleeting or anchorage areas, the top of the utility line shall be located a minimum of 4 feet below the existing bottom in sediment and 2 feet below the existing bottom in compacted rock.
- The District Engineer, on a case-by-case basis, may modify these depth requirements where circumstances are deemed appropriate (i.e. water intake lines, dry hydrants, etc.). Any request to modify these depth requirements must include a discussion of potential effects of the utility line to



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public safety associated with public use of the waterway (i.e. fishing anchorage, boating, swimming, navigation, etc.), how the line will be protected from ice scour and movement by waves or currents and details as to any anchoring systems.

- vi. Where trenching and backfilling are proposed, backfill material shall consist of suitable heavy materials and shall be placed no higher or lower than the adjacent river bottom elevation.

3. For proposed submerged ~~cables and~~ pipelines placed on the waterway bottom within navigable waters, excluding waters listed in 12.b.1. above and Federal project channels, fleeting or anchorage areas: the preconstruction notification (PCN) shall include justification for the need to place the utility line on the waterway bottom, a discussion on potential effects of the proposed exposed utility line to public safety associated with public use of the waterway (i.e. fishing, anchorage, boating, swimming, navigation, etc.), how the line will be protected from ice scour and movement by waves or currents and details as to any anchoring systems.

4. With the exception of water intake lines, this nationwide permit is not applicable for single and complete linear projects in navigable waters that would exceed 500 linear feet and the utility line is located in but would not cross the waterway, unless a variance is issued by the District Engineer.

5. Within 15 days after completion of the authorized work, the permittee shall post visible signage on weatherproof placards no smaller than 4 feet by 4 feet on each shoreline at the location of the authorized crossing. The placard shall contain language informing waterway users of the presence of a ~~cable or~~ pipeline crossing (e.g., "WARNING – ~~CABLE~~ [or PIPELINE] CROSSING"), unless specifically authorized otherwise by the District Engineer. The sign shall be maintained in place for as long as the pipeline remains in place.

6. Within 60 days of completion of the work, the permittee shall furnish the Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, N/CS261, Marine Chart Division, Nautical Data Branch, Station 7317, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Springs, MD 20910-3282, with certification that the cable or pipeline has been installed in compliance with the approved plans. The certification shall include a survey, conducted by a licensed surveyor, which clearly shows the elevations and alignment of the ~~cable or~~ pipeline across the waterway. If the post-completion survey reveals a discrepancy between the authorized and actual alignment of the ~~cable or~~ pipeline, the permittee shall note clearly these discrepancies in the survey.

~~eb.~~ A PCN is required for any utility line or transmission facility whenever the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requires an Environmental Impact Statement.

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:

~~dc.~~ For those waterways not already disqualified by Condition 12.b.1. above, and located within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

~~e-d~~ For those waterways not already disqualified by Condition 12.b.1. above, and located within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

~~fe~~ Within Essential Fish Habitat, this NWP does not authorize the discharge into waters of the United States of any drilling muds that may be generated through such methods as directional boring or drilling.

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Further, any directional drilling or boring activities must include a plan that addresses prevention, containment and cleanup of any accidental discharges known as “frack out”.

g. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

h. Within National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Threatened, Endangered or Candidate (TE&C) habitat, any proposed pilings which would be steel or would exceed 12 inches in diameter shall require a PCN.

**13. Bank Stabilization.** Bank stabilization activities necessary for erosion control or prevention, such as vegetative stabilization, bioengineering, sills, rip rap, revetment, gabion baskets, stream barbs, and bulkheads, or combinations of bank stabilization techniques, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) No material is placed in excess of the minimum needed for erosion protection;
- (b) The activity is no more than 500 feet in length along the bank, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects (an exception is for bulkheads – the district engineer cannot issue a waiver for a bulkhead that is greater than 1,000 feet in length along the bank);
- (c) The activity will not exceed an average of one cubic yard per running foot, as measured along the length of the treated bank, below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;
- (d) The activity does not involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;
- (e) No material is of a type, or is placed in any location, or in any manner, that will impair surface water flow into or out of any waters of the United States;
- (f) No material is placed in a manner that will be eroded by normal or expected high flows (properly anchored native trees and treetops may be used in low energy areas);
- (g) Native plants appropriate for current site conditions, including salinity, must be used for bioengineering or vegetative bank stabilization;
- (h) The activity is not a stream channelization activity; and
- (i) The activity must be properly maintained, which may require repairing it after severe storms or erosion events. This NWP authorizes those maintenance and repair activities if they require authorization.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to construct the bank stabilization 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. After construction, 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.

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**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if the bank stabilization activity: (1) involves discharges into special aquatic sites; or (2) is in excess of 500 feet in length; or (3) will involve the discharge of greater than an average of one cubic yard per running foot as measured along the length of the treated bank, below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note: In coastal waters and the Great Lakes, living shorelines may be an appropriate option for bank stabilization, and may be authorized by NWP 54.

#### Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):

- a. Every effort should be made to prevent hardening of the shoreline in New York waterbodies by selection of vegetative stabilization measures and/or rip-rap stone material, in lieu of vertical structures (i.e. wood, concrete, stacked rectangular rock or sheet pile bulkheads/retaining walls). Any woody vegetation utilized as part of the activity must be native species in order to maintain riparian buffers. In addition to notification requirements outlined in the NWP, a preconstruction notification (PCN) will be required for any proposed vertical structures placed below the applicable high water line and shall include written justification as to why other natural methods (i.e. vegetation, bioengineering, etc.) are not practicable, along with any proposed mitigation measures for adverse impacts (i.e. 1:2 to 1:3 sloped toe stone, measures to facilitate movement of wildlife if necessary, etc.).
- b. Every effort should be made to prevent additional encroachment into the beds of New York waterbodies. All repair or rehabilitation activities should focus on using the area immediately landward of the existing structure. Bulkhead replacement shall be completed in-place or landward of the existing structure where practicable. When that is not practicable, a PCN shall be required for any encroachment proposed within tidal waters of the U.S. or any extensions, excluding the placement of toe stone protection recommended/required by state/federal resource agencies (i.e. NYSDEC, NYSDOS, USFWS & USEPA), which exceed 18 inches waterward of the existing bulkhead within non-tidal waters. The PCN must include justification for a waterward extension of the bulkhead (e.g. geologic conditions, engineering requirements, etc.).

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:

- c. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.
- d. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.
- e. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.
- f. Within National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Threatened, Endangered or Candidate (TE&C) habitat, any proposed pilings which would be steel or would exceed 12 inches in diameter shall require a PCN.

**14. Linear Transportation Projects.** Activities required for crossings of waters of the United States associated with the construction, expansion, modification, or improvement of linear transportation projects (e.g., roads, highways, railways, trails, driveways, airport runways, and taxiways) in waters of the United States. For linear transportation projects in non-tidal waters, the discharge cannot cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. For linear transportation projects in tidal waters, the discharge cannot cause the loss of greater than 1/3-acre of waters of the United States. Any stream channel modification, including bank stabilization,

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is limited to the minimum necessary to construct or protect the linear transportation project; such modifications must be in the immediate vicinity of the project.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to construct the linear transportation project. 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.

This NWP cannot be used to authorize non-linear features commonly associated with transportation projects, such as vehicle maintenance or storage buildings, parking lots, train stations, or aircraft hangars.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) the loss of waters of the United States exceeds 1/10-acre; or (2) there is a discharge in a special aquatic site, including wetlands. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** For linear transportation projects crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Linear transportation projects must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

**Note 2:** Some discharges for the construction of farm roads or forest roads, or temporary roads for moving mining equipment, may qualify for an exemption under section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (see 33 CFR 323.4).

**Note 3:** For NWP 14 activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

b. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

c. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

d. Within National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Threatened, Endangered or Candidate (TE&C) habitat, any proposed pilings which would be steel or would exceed 12 inches in diameter shall require a PCN.

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**REMINDER TO APPLICANT:** For projects involving culverts, please take particular note of the requirements of General Regional Conditions G-B.1. and B.2. below.

**15. U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges.** Discharges of dredged or fill material incidental to the construction of a bridge across navigable waters of the United States, including cofferdams, abutments, foundation seals, piers, and temporary construction and access fills, provided the construction of the bridge structure has been authorized by the U.S. Coast Guard under section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 or other applicable laws. Causeways and approach fills are not included in this NWP and will require a separate section 404 permit. (Authority: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404))

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

**16. Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas.** Return water from an upland contained dredged material disposal area. The return water from a contained disposal area is administratively defined as a discharge of dredged material by 33 CFR 323.2(d), even though the disposal itself occurs in an area that has no waters of the United States and does not require a section 404 permit. This NWP satisfies the technical requirement for a section 404 permit for the return water where the quality of the return water is controlled by the state through the section 401 certification procedures. The dredging activity may require a section Clean Water Act 404 permit (33 CFR 323.2(d)), and will require a section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the United States. (Authority: Section 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

**17. Hydropower Projects.** Discharges of dredged or fill material associated with hydropower projects having: (a) Less than ~~5000~~ 10,000 kW of total generating capacity at existing reservoirs, where the project, including the fill, is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the Federal Power Act of 1920, as amended; or (b) a licensing exemption granted by the FERC pursuant to section 408 of the Energy Security Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2705 and 2708) and section 30 of the Federal Power Act, as amended.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, the applicant shall include SAV information in the required PCN.

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**18. Minor Discharges.** Minor discharges of dredged or fill material into all waters of the United States, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) The quantity of discharged material and the volume of area excavated do not exceed 25 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line;
- (b) The discharge will not cause the loss of more than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States; and
- (c) The discharge is not placed for the purpose of a stream diversion.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) the discharge or the volume of area excavated exceeds 10 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line, or (2) the discharge is in a special aquatic site, including wetlands. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

- a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.
- b. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.
- c. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

**19. Minor Dredging.** Dredging of no more than ~~25~~-50 cubic yards below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the mean high water mark from navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters). This NWP does not authorize the dredging or degradation through siltation of coral reefs, sites that support submerged aquatic vegetation (including sites where submerged aquatic vegetation is documented to exist but may not be present in a given year), anadromous fish spawning areas, or wetlands, or the connection of canals or other artificial waterways to navigable waters of the United States (see 33 CFR 322.5(g)). All dredged material must be deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

- a. This NWP does not authorize minor dredging to improve recreational use as those activities may be authorized by Buffalo District Regional Permit 81-000-1. (<https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/New-York-Permit-Information/>)

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

- b. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.



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- c. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.
- d. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.
- e. Within National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Threatened, Endangered or Candidate (TE&C) habitat, any proposed dredging that would not be for maintenance and would not use a mechanical dredge, shall require a PCN.

**20. Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances.** Activities conducted in response to a discharge or release of oil or hazardous substances that are subject to the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (40 CFR part 300) including containment, cleanup, and mitigation efforts, provided that the activities are done under either: (1) the Spill Control and Countermeasure Plan required by 40 CFR 112.3; (2) the direction or oversight of the federal on-scene coordinator designated by 40 CFR part 300; or (3) any approved existing state, regional or local contingency plan provided that the Regional Response Team (if one exists in the area) concurs with the proposed response efforts. This NWP also authorizes activities required for the cleanup of oil releases in waters of the United States from electrical equipment that are governed by EPA's polychlorinated biphenyl spill response regulations at 40 CFR part 761. This NWP also authorizes the use of temporary structures and fills in waters of the U.S. for spill response training exercises. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

- a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

**21. Surface Coal Mining Activities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with surface coal mining and reclamation operations, provided the following criteria are met:

(a) The activities are already authorized, or are currently being processed by states with approved programs under Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 or ~~as part of an integrated permit processing procedure~~ by the Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement;

(b) The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. ~~The discharge must not cause the loss of more than 300 linear feet of stream bed, unless for intermittent and ephemeral stream beds the district engineer waives the 300 linear foot limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. The loss of stream bed plus any other losses of jurisdictional wetlands and waters caused by the NWP activity cannot exceed 1/2-acre.~~ This NWP does not authorize discharges into tidal waters or non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters; and

(c) The discharge is not associated with the construction of valley fills. A "valley fill" is a fill structure that is typically constructed within valleys associated with steep, mountainous terrain, associated with surface coal mining activities.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer ~~and receive written authorization prior to commencing the activity.~~ (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):** None

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**22. Removal of Vessels.** Temporary structures or minor discharges of dredged or fill material required for the removal of wrecked, abandoned, or disabled vessels, or the removal of man-made obstructions to navigation. This NWP does not authorize maintenance dredging, shoal removal, or riverbank snagging.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) the vessel is listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; or (2) the activity is conducted in a special aquatic site, including coral reefs and wetlands. (See general condition 32.) ~~If condition 1 above is triggered,~~ If the vessel is listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, the permittee cannot commence the activity until informed by the district engineer that compliance with the “Historic Properties” general condition is completed. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** If a removed vessel is disposed of in waters of the United States, a permit from the U.S. EPA may be required (see 40 CFR 229.3). If a Department of the Army permit is required for vessel disposal in waters of the United States, separate authorization will be required.

**Note 2:** Compliance with general condition 18, Endangered Species, and general condition 20, Historic Properties, is required for all NWPs. The concern with historic properties is emphasized in the notification requirements for this NWP because of the possibility that shipwrecks may be historic properties.

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

- a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.
- b. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.
- c. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

**23. Approved Categorical Exclusions.** Activities undertaken, assisted, authorized, regulated, funded, or financed, in whole or in part, by another Federal agency or department where:

(a) That agency or department has determined, pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR part 1500 et seq.), that the activity is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment analysis, because it is included within a category of actions which neither individually nor cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment; and

(b) The Office of the Chief of Engineers (Attn: CECW-CO) has concurred with that agency's or department's determination that the activity is categorically excluded and approved the activity for authorization under NWP 23.

The Office of the Chief of Engineers may require additional conditions, including pre-construction notification, for authorization of an agency's categorical exclusions under this NWP.



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**Notification:** Certain categorical exclusions approved for authorization under this NWP require the permittee to submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see general condition 32). The activities that require pre-construction notification are listed in the appropriate Regulatory Guidance Letter(s). (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** The agency or department may submit an application for an activity believed to be categorically excluded to the Office of the Chief of Engineers (Attn: CECW-CO). Prior to approval for authorization under this NWP of any agency's activity, the Office of the Chief of Engineers will solicit public comment. As of the date of issuance of this NWP, agencies with approved categorical exclusions are: the Bureau of Reclamation, Federal Highway Administration, and U.S. Coast Guard. Activities approved for authorization under this NWP as of the date of this notice are found in Corps Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-07, ~~which is available at:~~ <http://www.usace.army.mil/Portals/2/docs/civilworks/RGLS/rgl05-07.pdf>. Any future approved categorical exclusions will be announced in Regulatory Guidance Letters and posted on this same web site.

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

**24. Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs.** Any activity permitted by a state or Indian Tribe administering its own section 404 permit program pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1344(g)-(l) is permitted pursuant to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. (Authority: Section 10)

**Note 1:** As of the date of the promulgation of this NWP, only New Jersey and Michigan administer their own section 404 permit programs.

**Note 2:** Those activities that do not involve an Indian Tribe or State section 404 permit are not included in this NWP, but certain structures will be exempted by Section 154 of Pub. L. 94-587, 90 Stat. 2917 (33 U.S.C. 591) (see 33 CFR 322.4(b)).

**Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):** None

**25. Structural Discharges.** Discharges of material such as concrete, sand, rock, etc., into tightly sealed forms or cells where the material will be used as a structural member for standard pile supported structures, such as bridges, transmission line footings, and walkways, or for general navigation, such as mooring cells, including the excavation of bottom material from within the form prior to the discharge of concrete, sand, rock, etc. This NWP does not authorize filled structural members that would support buildings, building pads, homes, house pads, parking areas, storage areas and other such structures. The structure itself may require a separate section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the United States. (Authority: Section 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

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b. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

c. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

#### 26. [Reserved]

**27. Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment Activities.** Activities in waters of the United States associated with the restoration, enhancement, and establishment of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and riparian areas, the restoration and enhancement of non-tidal streams and other non-tidal open waters, and the rehabilitation or enhancement of tidal streams, tidal wetlands, and tidal open waters, provided those activities result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services.

To be authorized by this NWP, the aquatic habitat restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity must be planned, designed, and implemented so that it results in aquatic habitat that resembles an ecological reference. An ecological reference may be based on the characteristics of ~~an~~ one or more intact aquatic habitats or riparian areas of the same type that exists in the region. An ecological reference may be based on a conceptual model developed from regional ecological knowledge of the target aquatic habitat type or riparian area.

To the extent that a Corps permit is required, activities authorized by this NWP include, but are not limited to: the removal of accumulated sediments; releasing sediment from reservoirs to restore downstream habitat, the installation, removal, and maintenance of small water control structures, dikes, and berms, as well as discharges of dredged or fill material to restore appropriate stream channel configurations after small water control structures, dikes, and berms, are removed; the installation of current deflectors; the enhancement, rehabilitation, or re-establishment of riffle and pool stream structure; the placement of in-stream habitat structures; modifications of the stream bed and/or banks to enhance, rehabilitate, or re-establish stream meanders; the removal of stream barriers, such as undersized culverts, fords, and grade control structures; the backfilling of artificial channels; the removal of existing drainage structures, such as drain tiles, and the filling, blocking, or reshaping of drainage ditches to restore wetland hydrology; the installation of structures or fills necessary to restore or enhance wetland or stream hydrology; the construction of small nesting islands; the construction of open water areas; the construction of oyster habitat over unvegetated bottom in tidal waters; coral restoration or relocation; shellfish seeding; activities needed to reestablish vegetation, including plowing or disking for seed bed preparation and the planting of appropriate wetland species; re-establishment of submerged aquatic vegetation in areas where those plant communities previously existed; re-establishment of tidal wetlands in tidal waters where those wetlands previously existed; mechanized land clearing to remove non-native invasive, exotic, or nuisance vegetation; and other related activities. Only native plant species should be planted at the site.

This NWP authorizes the relocation of non-tidal waters, including non-tidal wetlands and streams, on the project site provided there are net increases in aquatic resource functions and services.

Except for the relocation of non-tidal waters on the project site, this NWP does not authorize the conversion of a stream or natural wetlands to another aquatic habitat type (e.g., the conversion of a stream to wetland or vice versa) or uplands. Changes in wetland plant communities that occur when wetland hydrology is more fully restored during wetland rehabilitation activities are not considered a conversion to another aquatic habitat type. This NWP does not authorize stream channelization. This NWP does not authorize the relocation of tidal waters or the conversion of tidal waters, including tidal wetlands, to other aquatic uses, such as the conversion of tidal wetlands into open water impoundments.

Compensatory mitigation is not required for activities authorized by this NWP since these activities must result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services.

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**Reversion.** For enhancement, restoration, and establishment activities conducted: (1) In accordance with the terms and conditions of a binding stream or wetland enhancement or restoration agreement, or a wetland establishment agreement, between the landowner and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the National Ocean Service (NOS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), or their designated state cooperating agencies; (2) as voluntary wetland restoration, enhancement, and establishment actions documented by the NRCS or USDA Technical Service Provider pursuant to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide standards; or (3) on reclaimed surface coal mine lands, in accordance with a Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act permit issued by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) or the applicable state agency, this NWP also authorizes any future discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the reversion of the area to its documented prior condition and use (i.e., prior to the restoration, enhancement, or establishment activities). The reversion must occur within five years after expiration of a limited term wetland restoration or establishment agreement or permit, and is authorized in these circumstances even if the discharge occurs after this NWP expires. The five-year reversion limit does not apply to agreements without time limits reached between the landowner and the FWS, NRCS, FSA, NMFS, NOS, USFS, or an appropriate state cooperating agency. This NWP also authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States for the reversion of wetlands that were restored, enhanced, or established on prior-converted cropland or on uplands, in accordance with a binding agreement between the landowner and NRCS, FSA, FWS, or their designated state cooperating agencies (even though the restoration, enhancement, or establishment activity did not require a section 404 permit). The prior condition will be documented in the original agreement or permit, and the determination of return to prior conditions will be made by the Federal agency or appropriate state agency executing the agreement or permit. Before conducting any reversion activity the permittee or the appropriate Federal or state agency must notify the district engineer and include the documentation of the prior condition. Once an area has reverted to its prior physical condition, it will be subject to whatever the Corps Regulatory requirements are applicable to that type of land at the time. The requirement that the activity results in a net increase in aquatic resource functions and services does not apply to reversion activities meeting the above conditions. Except for the activities described above, this NWP does not authorize any future discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the reversion of the area to its prior condition. In such cases a separate permit would be required for any reversion.

**Reporting.** For those activities that do not require pre-construction notification, the permittee must submit to the district engineer a copy of: (1) The binding stream enhancement or restoration agreement or wetland enhancement, restoration, or establishment agreement, or a project description, including project plans and location map; (2) the NRCS or USDA Technical Service Provider documentation for the voluntary stream enhancement or restoration action or wetland restoration, enhancement, or establishment action; or (3) the SMCRA permit issued by OSMRE or the applicable state agency. The report must also include information on baseline ecological conditions on the project site, such as a delineation of wetlands, streams, and/or other aquatic habitats. These documents must be submitted to the district engineer at least 30 days prior to commencing activities in waters of the United States authorized by this NWP.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing any activity (see general condition 32), except for the following activities:

(1) Activities conducted on non-Federal public lands and private lands, in accordance with the terms and conditions of a binding stream enhancement or restoration agreement or wetland enhancement, restoration, or establishment agreement between the landowner and the FWS, NRCS, FSA, NMFS, NOS, USFS or their designated state cooperating agencies;

(2) Activities conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions of a binding coral restoration or relocation agreement between the project proponent and the NMFS or any of its designated state cooperating agencies;

(3) Voluntary stream or wetland restoration or enhancement action, or wetland establishment action, documented by the NRCS or USDA Technical Service Provider pursuant to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide standards; or

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(34) The reclamation of surface coal mine lands, in accordance with an SMCRA permit issued by the OSMRE or the applicable state agency.

However, the permittee must submit a copy of the appropriate documentation to the district engineer to fulfill the reporting requirement. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** This NWP can be used to authorize compensatory mitigation projects, including mitigation banks and in-lieu fee projects. However, this NWP does not authorize the reversion of an area used for a compensatory mitigation project to its prior condition, since compensatory mitigation is generally intended to be permanent.

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, any activity involving shellfish seeding, such as the placement of shell material or any other habitat development or enhancement, is restricted to shellfish species that are native to that waterbody.

b. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, a PCN is required.

**28. Modifications of Existing Marinas.** Reconfiguration of existing docking facilities within an authorized marina area. No dredging, additional slips, dock spaces, or expansion of any kind within waters of the United States is authorized by this NWP. (Authority: Section 10)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, any work that is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

b. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

c. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

d. Within National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Threatened, Endangered or Candidate (TE&C) habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, any proposed pilings which would be steel or would exceed 12 inches in diameter shall require a PCN.

**29. Residential Developments.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction or expansion of a single residence, a multiple unit residential development, or a residential subdivision. This NWP authorizes the construction of building foundations and building pads and attendant features that are necessary for the use of the residence or residential development. Attendant features may include but are not limited to roads, parking lots, garages, yards, utility lines, storm water management facilities, septic fields, and recreation facilities such as playgrounds, playing fields, and golf courses (provided the golf course is an integral part of the residential development).

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The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. ~~The discharge must not cause the loss of more than 300 linear feet of stream bed, unless for intermittent and ephemeral stream beds the district engineer waives the 300 linear foot limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects.~~ This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters. ~~The loss of stream bed plus any other losses of jurisdictional wetlands and waters caused by the NWP activity cannot exceed 1/2 acre.~~

**Subdivisions:** For residential subdivisions, the aggregate total loss of waters of United States authorized by this NWP cannot exceed 1/2-acre. This includes any loss of waters of the United States associated with development of individual subdivision lots.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

#### Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):

- a. The proposed impacts to waters of the United States shall include those direct impacts associated with construction of the proposed project, as well as any indirect impacts which may occur as a result of the project (e.g., filling waters of the United States to increase size of usable yard space, impacts to existing hydrologic regimes, etc.).
- b. This NWP does not authorize the discharge of dredged or fill material into open water areas of lakes or rivers which converts the area to dry land.
- c. Whenever a multiple-lot subdivision is submitted to the Corps of Engineers for review, it must be designed, to the maximum extent practicable, such that wetlands are not located on the resulting individual lots. If the applicant cannot design the subdivision in accordance with this requirement, the preconstruction notification (PCN) must include a discussion as to why this requirement cannot be accomplished, along with a detailed description as to how the wetland areas on each individual lot will be adequately protected.
  - i. All areas within the multiple-lot subdivision that are components of compensatory mitigation, including waters of the United States and associated upland buffers, must be covered by a conservation easement or other legal protective covenant.
  - ii. For all other waters of the United States, following completion of work authorized by this nationwide permit, a copy of this permit and regional conditions, along with permit drawings showing the locations of waters of the United States, must be provided with the deed to all individual lots that will contain waters of the United States.

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:

- d. This NWP is not applicable for activities located in the following areas:
  1. The Great Swamp in Putnam and Dutchess Counties
  2. Mianus River and adjacent wetlands
  3. Harbor Herons System in Staten Island, New York. For additional information on the Harbor Herons System, please see the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation web site at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/27238.html> or contact the Trust for Public Land at the following address:

The Trust for Public Land  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office  
666 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10012

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e. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. Justification must be submitted as part of the required PCN if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

**30. Moist Soil Management for Wildlife.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States and maintenance activities that are associated with moist soil management for wildlife for the purpose of continuing ongoing, site-specific, wildlife management activities where soil manipulation is used to manage habitat and feeding areas for wildlife. Such activities include, but are not limited to, plowing or discing to impede succession, preparing seed beds, or establishing fire breaks. Sufficient riparian areas must be maintained adjacent to all open water bodies, including streams, to preclude water quality degradation due to erosion and sedimentation. This NWP does not authorize the construction of new dikes, roads, water control structures, or similar features associated with the management areas. The activity must not result in a net loss of aquatic resource functions and services. This NWP does not authorize the conversion of wetlands to uplands, impoundments, or other open water bodies. (Authority: Section 404)

**Note:** The repair, maintenance, or replacement of existing water control structures or the repair or maintenance of dikes may be authorized by NWP 3. Some such activities may qualify for an exemption under section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (see 33 CFR 323.4).

**Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):** None

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

**Maintenance Baseline:** The maintenance baseline is a description of the physical characteristics (e.g., depth, width, length, location, configuration, or design flood capacity, etc.) of a flood control project within which maintenance activities are normally authorized by NWP 31, subject to any case-specific conditions required by the district engineer. The district engineer will approve the maintenance baseline based on the approved or constructed capacity of the flood control facility, whichever is smaller, including any areas where there are no constructed channels but which are part of the facility. The prospective permittee will provide documentation of the physical characteristics of the flood control facility (which will normally consist of as-built or approved drawings) and documentation of the approved and constructed design capacities of the flood control facility. If no evidence of the constructed capacity exists, the approved capacity will be used. The documentation will also include best management practices to ensure that the adverse environmental impacts caused by the maintenance activities are no more than minimal, especially in maintenance areas where there are no constructed channels. (The Corps may request maintenance records in areas where there has not been recent maintenance.) Revocation or modification of the final determination of the maintenance baseline can only be done in accordance with 33 CFR 330.5. Except in emergencies as described below, this NWP cannot be used until the district engineer approves the maintenance baseline and determines the



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need for mitigation and any regional or activity-specific conditions. Once determined, the maintenance baseline will remain valid for any subsequent reissuance of this NWP. This NWP does not authorize maintenance of a flood control facility that has been abandoned. A flood control facility will be considered abandoned if it has operated at a significantly reduced capacity without needed maintenance being accomplished in a timely manner. A flood control facility will not be considered abandoned if the prospective permittee is in the process of obtaining other authorizations or approvals required for maintenance activities and is experiencing delays in obtaining those authorizations or approvals.

**Mitigation:** The district engineer will determine any required mitigation one-time only for impacts associated with maintenance work at the same time that the maintenance baseline is approved. Such one-time mitigation will be required when necessary to ensure that adverse environmental effects are no more than minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Such mitigation will only be required once for any specific reach of a flood control project. However, if one-time mitigation is required for impacts associated with maintenance activities, the district engineer will not delay needed maintenance, provided the district engineer and the permittee establish a schedule for identification, approval, development, construction and completion of any such required mitigation. Once the one-time mitigation described above has been completed, or a determination made that mitigation is not required, no further mitigation will be required for maintenance activities within the maintenance baseline (see Note, below). In determining appropriate mitigation, the district engineer will give special consideration to natural water courses that have been included in the maintenance baseline and require mitigation and/or best management practices as appropriate.

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

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer before any maintenance work is conducted (see general condition 32). The pre-construction notification may be for activity-specific maintenance or for maintenance of the entire flood control facility by submitting a five-year (or less) maintenance plan. The pre-construction notification must include a description of the maintenance baseline and the disposal site for dredged or excavated material. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** If the maintenance baseline was approved by the district engineer under a prior version of NWP 31, and the district engineer imposed the one-time compensatory mitigation requirement on maintenance for a specific reach of a flood control project authorized by that prior version of NWP 31, during the period this version of NWP 31 is in effect (insert applicable dates based on final NWPs) ~~March 19, 2017, to March 18, 2022~~ the district engineer will not require additional compensatory mitigation for maintenance activities authorized by this NWP in that specific reach of the flood control project.

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, the applicant shall include SAV information in the required PCN.

**32. Completed Enforcement Actions.** Any structure, work, or discharge of dredged or fill material remaining in place or undertaken for mitigation, restoration, or environmental benefit in compliance with either:

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(i) The terms of a final written Corps non-judicial settlement agreement resolving a violation of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; or the terms of an EPA 309(a) order on consent resolving a violation of section 404 of the Clean Water Act, provided that:

(a) The activities authorized by this NWP cannot adversely affect more than 5 acres of non-tidal waters or 1 acre of tidal waters;

(b) The settlement agreement provides for environmental benefits, to an equal or greater degree, than the environmental detriments caused by the unauthorized activity that is authorized by this NWP; and

(c) The district engineer issues a verification letter authorizing the activity subject to the terms and conditions of this NWP and the settlement agreement, including a specified completion date; or

(ii) The terms of a final Federal court decision, consent decree, or settlement agreement resulting from an enforcement action brought by the United States under section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; or

(iii) The terms of a final court decision, consent decree, settlement agreement, or non-judicial settlement agreement resulting from a natural resource damage claim brought by a trustee or trustees for natural resources (as defined by the National Contingency Plan at 40 CFR subpart G) under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act, Section 107 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, Section 312 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, section 1002 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, or the Park System Resource Protection Act at 16 U.S.C. 19jj, to the extent that a Corps permit is required.

Compliance is a condition of the NWP itself; non-compliance of the terms and conditions of an NWP 32 authorization may result in an additional enforcement action (e.g., a Class I civil administrative penalty). Any authorization under this NWP is automatically revoked if the permittee does not comply with the terms of this NWP or the terms of the court decision, consent decree, or judicial/non-judicial settlement agreement. This NWP does not apply to any activities occurring after the date of the decision, decree, or agreement that are not for the purpose of mitigation, restoration, or environmental benefit. Before reaching any settlement agreement, the Corps will ensure compliance with the provisions of 33 CFR part 326 and 33 CFR 330.6(d)(2) and (e). (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):** None

**33. Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering.** Temporary structures, work, and discharges, including cofferdams, necessary for construction activities or access fills or dewatering of construction sites, provided that the associated primary activity is authorized by the Corps of Engineers or the U.S. Coast Guard. This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, work, and discharges, including cofferdams, necessary for construction activities not otherwise subject to the Corps or U.S. Coast Guard permit requirements. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain near normal downstream flows and to minimize flooding. Fill must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. The use of dredged material may be allowed if the district engineer determines that it will not cause more than minimal adverse environmental effects. Following completion of construction, temporary fill must be entirely removed to an area that has no waters of the United States, dredged material must be returned to its original location, and the affected areas must be restored to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must also be revegetated, as appropriate. This permit does not authorize the use of cofferdams to dewater wetlands or other aquatic areas to change their use. Structures left in place after construction is completed require a separate [§](#)Section 10 permit if located in navigable waters of the United States. (See 33 CFR part 322.)

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if the activity is conducted in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., [§](#)section 10 waters) (see general



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condition 32). The pre-construction notification must include a restoration plan showing how all temporary fills and structures will be removed and the area restored to pre-project conditions. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

#### Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions: None

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

b. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

c. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

**34. Cranberry Production Activities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material for dikes, berms, pumps, water control structures or leveling of cranberry beds associated with expansion, enhancement, or modification activities at existing cranberry production operations. The cumulative total acreage of disturbance per cranberry production operation, including but not limited to, filling, flooding, ditching, or clearing, must not exceed 10 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands. The activity must not result in a net loss of wetland acreage. This NWP does not authorize any discharge of dredged or fill material related to other cranberry production activities such as warehouses, processing facilities, or parking areas. For the purposes of this NWP, the cumulative total of 10 acres will be measured over the period that this NWP is valid.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer once during the period that this NWP is valid, and the NWP will then authorize discharges of dredge or fill material at an existing operation for the permit term, provided the 10-acre limit is not exceeded. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

#### Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts): None

**35. Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins.** The removal of accumulated sediment for maintenance of existing marina basins, access channels to marinas or boat slips, and boat slips to previously authorized depths or controlling depths for ingress/egress, whichever is less. All dredged material must be deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization. Proper sediment controls must be used for the disposal site. (Authority: Section 10)

#### Permit-specific Regional Condition (Buffalo and New York Districts):

a. In addition to the preconstruction notification (PCN) requirements of General Condition #32, all PCN submittals must include:

1. Documentation that the dredging depths were previously authorized or details on what establishes the controlling depths;
2. An assessment of impacts that the proposed work will have on endangered species and essential fish habitat including the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the proposed dredging.

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3. A location map, address and color photographs of the proposed dredged material disposal site, and any other pertinent information (i.e. delineation report, soil survey, etc.) which clearly demonstrate that the proposed disposal site does not include any waters of the U.S.

#### Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:

- b. NWP 35 activities that propose disposal areas not previously approved by USACE require a PCN.

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:

- c. All NWP 35 activities located within New York District require a PCN.
- d. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, a complete copy of any PCN submitted to the Corps of Engineers shall also be forwarded by the applicant, directly to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Habitat Conservation Division, 74 Magruder Road, Highlands, New Jersey 07732. The applicant must provide evidence to the Corps that this has been accomplished.
- e. Within National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Threatened, Endangered or Candidate (TE&C) habitat, any proposed dredging that would not use a mechanical dredge shall require that justification be submitted as part of the required PCN.

**36. Boat Ramps.** Activities required for the construction of boat ramps, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

- (a) The discharge into waters of the United States does not exceed 50 cubic yards of concrete, rock, crushed stone or gravel into forms, or in the form of pre-cast concrete planks or slabs, unless the district engineer waives the 50 cubic yard limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;
- (b) The boat ramp does not exceed 20 feet in width, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;
- (c) The base material is crushed stone, gravel or other suitable material;
- (d) The excavation is limited to the area necessary for site preparation and all excavated material is removed to an area that has no waters of the United States; and,
- (e) No material is placed in special aquatic sites, including wetlands.

The use of unsuitable material that is structurally unstable is not authorized. If dredging in navigable waters of the United States is necessary to provide access to the boat ramp, the dredging must be authorized by another NWP, a regional general permit, or an individual permit.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) The discharge into waters of the United States exceeds 50 cubic yards, or (2) the boat ramp exceeds 20 feet in width. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

- a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam

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installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

b. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. A PCN is required if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

c. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

#### **37. Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation.** Work done by or funded by:

(a) The Natural Resources Conservation Service for a situation requiring immediate action under its emergency Watershed Protection Program (7 CFR part 624);

(b) The U.S. Forest Service under its Burned-Area Emergency Rehabilitation Handbook (FSH 2509.13);

(c) The Department of the Interior for wildland fire management burned area emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (DOI Manual part 620, Ch. 3);

(d) The Office of Surface Mining, or states with approved programs, for abandoned mine land reclamation activities under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (30 CFR subchapter R), where the activity does not involve coal extraction; or

(e) The Farm Service Agency under its Emergency Conservation Program (7 CFR part 701).

In general, the ~~prospective~~ permittee should wait until the district engineer issues an NWP verification or 45 calendar days have passed before proceeding with the watershed protection and rehabilitation activity. However, in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately and the district engineer will consider the information in the pre-construction notification and any comments received as a result of agency coordination to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5.

**Notification:** Except in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity (see general condition 32). (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

#### **Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):**

a. Every effort should be made to prevent hardening of the shoreline in New York waterbodies by selection of vegetative stabilization measures and/or rip-rap stone material, in lieu of vertical structures (i.e. wood, concrete, stacked rectangular rock or sheet pile bulkheads/retaining walls). Any woody vegetation utilized as part of the activity must be native species in order to maintain riparian buffers. In addition to notification requirements outlined in the NWP, a preconstruction notification (PCN) will be required for any proposed vertical structures placed below the applicable high water line and shall include written justification as to why other natural methods (i.e. vegetation, bioengineering, etc.) are not practicable, along with any proposed mitigation measures for adverse impacts (i.e. 1:2 to 1:3 sloped toe stone, measures to facilitate movement of wildlife if necessary, etc.).

b. Every effort should be made to prevent additional encroachment into the beds of New York waterbodies. All repair or rehabilitation activities should focus on using the area immediately landward of the existing structure. Bulkhead replacement shall be completed in-place or landward of the existing structure where practicable. When that is not practicable, a PCN shall be required for any encroachment proposed within tidal waters of the U.S. or any

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extensions, excluding the placement of toe stone protection recommended/required by state/federal resource agencies (i.e. NYSDEC, NYSDOS, USFWS & USEPA), which exceed 18 inches waterward of the existing bulkhead within non-tidal waters. The PCN must include justification for a waterward extension of the bulkhead (e.g. geologic conditions, engineering requirements, etc).

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:

c. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, the applicant shall include SAV information when a PCN is required.

**38. Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste.** Specific activities required to effect the containment, stabilization, or removal of hazardous or toxic waste materials that are performed, ordered, or sponsored by a government agency with established legal or regulatory authority. Court ordered remedial action plans or related settlements are also authorized by this NWP. This NWP does not authorize the establishment of new disposal sites or the expansion of existing sites used for the disposal of hazardous or toxic waste.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (**Authorities:** Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** Activities undertaken entirely on a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) site by authority of CERCLA as approved or required by EPA, are not required to obtain permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

#### Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions: None

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:

a. For those activities that are located within Essential Fish Habitat waters as defined in Section G-E.8. below, to the maximum extent practicable, no in-water work shall occur between March 1 and June 30.

b. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, the applicant shall include anadromous fish information in the required PCN.

c. For those activities that would impact more than 0.5 acres of waters of the United States, and are located within Essential Fish Habitat, a complete copy of the PCN submitted to the Corps of Engineers shall also be forwarded by the applicant, directly to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Habitat Conservation Division, 74 Magruder Road, Highlands, New Jersey 07732. The applicant must provide evidence to the Corps that this has been accomplished.

**39. Commercial and Institutional Developments.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction or expansion of commercial and institutional building foundations and building pads and attendant features that are necessary for the use and maintenance of the structures. Attendant features may include, but are not limited to, roads, parking lots, garages, yards, utility lines, storm water management facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, and recreation facilities such as playgrounds and playing fields. Examples of commercial developments include retail stores, industrial facilities, restaurants, business parks, and shopping centers. Examples of institutional developments include schools, fire stations, government office buildings, judicial buildings, public works buildings, libraries, hospitals, and places of worship. The construction of new golf courses and new ski areas is not authorized by this NWP.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. ~~The discharge must not cause the loss of more than 300 linear feet of stream bed, unless for intermittent and ephemeral stream beds the district engineer waives the 300 linear foot limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. The loss of stream bed plus any~~

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~~other losses of jurisdictional wetlands and waters caused by the NWP activity cannot exceed 1/2 acre.~~ This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** For any activity that involves the construction of a wind energy generating structure, solar tower, or overhead transmission line, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

#### Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):

- a. This NWP does not authorize the discharge of dredged or fill material into open water areas of lakes or rivers which converts the area to dry land.
- b. Whenever a multiple-lot subdivision is submitted to the Corps of Engineers for review, it must be designed, to the maximum extent practicable, such that wetlands are not located on the resulting individual lots. If the applicant cannot design the subdivision in accordance with this requirement, the preconstruction notification (PCN) must include a discussion as to why this requirement cannot be accomplished, along with a detailed description as to how the wetland areas on each individual lot will be adequately protected.
  - i. All areas within the multiple-lot subdivision that are components of compensatory mitigation, including waters of the United States and associated upland buffers, must be covered by a conservation easement or other legal protective covenant.
  - ii. For all other waters of the United States, following completion of work authorized by this nationwide permit, a copy of this permit and regional conditions, along with permit drawings showing the locations of waters of the United States, must be provided with the deed to all individual lots that will contain waters of the United States.

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:

- c. This NWP is not available for activities located in the following waterbodies:
  1. The Great Swamp in Putnam and Dutchess Counties
  2. Mianus River and adjacent wetlands.
  3. Harbor Herons System in Staten Island, New York. For additional information on the Harbor Herons System, please see the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation web site at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/27238.html> or contact the Trust for Public Land at the following address:

The Trust for Public Land  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office  
666 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10012

- d. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. Justification must be submitted as part of the required PCN if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

**40. Agricultural Activities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for agricultural activities, including the construction of building pads for farm buildings. Authorized activities include the installation, placement, or construction of drainage tiles, ditches, or levees; mechanized land clearing;

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land leveling; the relocation of existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in waters of the United States; and similar activities.

This NWP also authorizes the construction of farm ponds in non-tidal waters of the United States, excluding perennial streams, provided the farm pond is used solely for agricultural purposes. This NWP does not authorize the construction of aquaculture ponds.

This NWP also authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States to relocate existing serviceable drainage ditches constructed in non-tidal streams.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. ~~The discharge must not cause the loss of more than 300 linear feet of stream bed, unless for intermittent and ephemeral stream beds the district engineer waives the 300 linear foot limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. The loss of stream bed plus any other losses of jurisdictional wetlands and waters caused by the NWP activity cannot exceed 1/2 acre.~~ This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

**Note:** Some discharges for agricultural activities may qualify for an exemption under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (see 33 CFR 323.4). This NWP authorizes the construction of farm ponds that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f)(1)(C) exemption because of the recapture provision at section 404(f)(2).

**Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):** None

**41. Reshaping Existing Drainage and Irrigation Ditches.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States, excluding non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters, to modify the cross-sectional configuration of currently serviceable drainage and irrigation ditches constructed in waters of the United States, for the purpose of improving water quality by regrading the drainage or irrigation ditch with gentler slopes, which can reduce erosion, increase growth of vegetation, and increase uptake of nutrients and other substances by vegetation. The reshaping of the drainage ditch cannot increase drainage capacity beyond the original as-built capacity nor can it expand the area drained by the drainage ditch as originally constructed (i.e., the capacity of the drainage ditch must be the same as originally constructed and it cannot drain additional wetlands or other waters of the United States). Compensatory mitigation is not required because the work is designed to improve water quality.

This NWP does not authorize the relocation of drainage or irrigation ditches constructed in waters of the United States; the location of the centerline of the reshaped drainage or irrigation ditch must be approximately the same as the location of the centerline of the original drainage or irrigation ditch. This NWP does not authorize stream channelization or stream relocation projects. (Authority: Section 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

a. This NWP is not available for activities located in the following waterbodies:

1. The Great Swamp in Putnam and Dutchess Counties
2. Mianus River and adjacent wetlands.
3. Harbor Herons System in Staten Island, New York. For additional information on the Harbor Herons System, please see the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation web site at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/27238.html> or contact the Trust for Public Land at the following address:

The Trust for Public Land  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

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**42. Recreational Facilities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Examples of recreational facilities that may be authorized by this NWP include playing fields (e.g., football fields, baseball fields), basketball courts, tennis courts, hiking trails, bike paths, golf courses, ski areas, horse paths, nature centers, and campgrounds (excluding recreational vehicle parks). This NWP also authorizes the construction or expansion of small support facilities, such as maintenance and storage buildings and stables that are directly related to the recreational activity, but it does not authorize the construction of hotels, restaurants, racetracks, stadiums, arenas, or similar facilities.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. ~~The discharge must not cause the loss of more than 300 linear feet of stream bed, unless for intermittent and ephemeral stream beds the district engineer waives the 300 linear foot limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. The loss of stream bed plus any other losses of jurisdictional wetlands and waters caused by the NWP activity cannot exceed 1/2 acre.~~ This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

#### Permit-specific Regional Condition (Buffalo and New York Districts):

a. This NWP does not authorize the discharge of dredged or fill material into open water areas of lakes or rivers which converts the area to dry land.

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:

b. This NWP is not available for activities located in the following waterbodies:

1. The Great Swamp in Putnam and Dutchess Counties
2. Mianus River and adjacent wetlands.
3. Harbor Herons System in Staten Island, New York. For additional information on the Harbor Herons System, please see the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation web site at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/27238.html> or contact the Trust for Public Land at the following address:

The Trust for Public Land  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office  
666 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10012

**43. Stormwater Management Facilities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction of stormwater management facilities, including stormwater detention basins and retention basins and other stormwater management facilities; the construction of water control structures, outfall structures and emergency spillways; the construction of low impact development integrated management features such as bioretention facilities (e.g., rain gardens), vegetated filter strips, grassed swales, and infiltration trenches; and the construction of pollutant reduction green infrastructure features designed to reduce inputs of sediments, nutrients, and other pollutants into waters, such as features needed to meet reduction targets established under Total Daily Maximum Loads set under the Clean Water Act.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that a section 404 permit is required, discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the maintenance of stormwater management facilities, low impact development integrated management features, and pollutant reduction green infrastructure features. The



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maintenance of stormwater management facilities, low impact development integrated management features, and pollutant reduction green infrastructure features that are not waters of the United States does not require a section 404 permit.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. ~~The discharge must not cause the loss of more than 300 linear feet of stream bed, unless for intermittent and ephemeral stream beds the district engineer waives the 300 linear foot limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects.~~ This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters. ~~The loss of stream bed plus any other losses of jurisdictional wetlands and waters caused by the NWP activity cannot exceed 1/2 acre.~~ This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction of new stormwater management facilities in perennial streams.

**Notification:** For discharges into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction of new stormwater management facilities or pollutant reduction green infrastructure features, or the expansion of existing stormwater management facilities or pollutant reduction green infrastructure features, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) Maintenance activities do not require pre-construction notification if they are limited to restoring the original design capacities of the stormwater management facility or pollutant reduction green infrastructure feature. (Authority: Section 404)

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

a. This NWP is not applicable for activities located in the following waterbodies:

1. The Great Swamp in Putnam and Dutchess Counties
2. Mianus River and adjacent wetlands.
3. Harbor Herons System in Staten Island, New York. For additional information on the Harbor Herons System, please see the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation web site at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/27238.html> or contact the Trust for Public Land at the following address:

The Trust for Public Land  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office  
666 Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10012

**44. Mining Activities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for mining activities, except for coal mining activities, provided the activity meets all of the following criteria:

(a) For mining activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal wetlands, the discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal wetlands;

(b) For mining activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material in non-tidal open waters (e.g., rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds) or work in non-tidal navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters), the mined area, including permanent and temporary impacts due to discharges of dredged or fill material into jurisdictional waters, must not exceed 1/2-acre; and

(c) The acreage loss under paragraph (a) plus the acreage impact under paragraph (b) does not exceed 1/2-acre.



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~~The discharge must not cause the loss of more than 300 linear feet of stream bed, unless for intermittent and ephemeral stream beds the district engineer waives the 300 linear foot limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects.~~

~~The loss of stream bed plus any other losses of jurisdictional wetlands and waters caused by the NWP activity cannot exceed 1/2 acre.~~

This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction-notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) If reclamation is required by other statutes, then a copy of the final reclamation plan must be submitted with the pre-construction notification. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

#### Permit-specific Regional Condition (Buffalo and New York Districts):

a. This NWP does not authorize the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with mining of accumulated sediments (i.e. gravel and point bars) within stream channels. This NWP also does not authorize peat mining.

**45. Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events.** This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material, including dredging or excavation, into all waters of the United States for activities associated with the restoration of upland areas damaged by storms, floods, or other discrete events. This NWP authorizes bank stabilization to protect the restored uplands. The restoration of the damaged areas, including any bank stabilization, must not exceed the contours, or ordinary high water mark, that existed before the damage occurred. The district engineer retains the right to determine the extent of the pre-existing conditions and the extent of any restoration work authorized by this NWP. The work must commence, or be under contract to commence, within two years of the date of damage, unless this condition is waived in writing by the district engineer. This NWP cannot be used to reclaim lands lost to normal erosion processes over an extended period.

This NWP does not authorize beach restoration or nourishment.

Minor dredging is limited to the amount necessary to restore the damaged upland area and should not significantly alter the pre-existing bottom contours of the waterbody.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer (see general condition 32) within 12 months of the date of the damage; for major storms, floods, or other discrete events, the district engineer may waive the 12-month limit for submitting a pre-construction notification if the permittee can demonstrate funding, contract, or other similar delays. The pre-construction notification must include documentation, such as a recent topographic survey or photographs, to justify the extent of the proposed restoration. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** The uplands themselves that are lost as a result of a storm, flood, or other discrete event can be replaced without a section 404 permit, if the uplands are restored to the ordinary high water mark (in non-tidal waters) or high tide line (in tidal waters). (See also 33 CFR 328.5.) This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with the restoration of uplands.

#### Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):

a. Every effort should be made to prevent hardening of the shoreline in New York waterbodies by selection of vegetative stabilization measures and/or rip-rap stone material, in lieu of vertical structures (i.e. wood, concrete, stacked rectangular rock or sheet pile bulkheads/retaining walls). Any woody vegetation utilized as part of the activity must be native species in order to maintain riparian buffers. In addition to notification requirements outlined in the NWP, a preconstruction notification (PCN) will be required for any proposed vertical structures placed below the applicable high water line and shall include written justification as to why other natural methods

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(i.e. vegetation, bioengineering, etc.) are not practicable, along with any proposed mitigation measures for adverse impacts (i.e. 1:2 to 1:3 sloped toe stone, measures to facilitate movement of wildlife if necessary, etc.).

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:

b. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, sediment removal and pile and sheet pile/cofferdam installation and removal shall be avoided from March 1 to June 30 of any year. Work within cofferdams can proceed any time during the year provided that the cofferdams are installed or removed outside of the seasonal work restriction. Justification must be submitted as part of the required PCN if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

c. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within areas identified as EFH for winter flounder eggs and larvae, in-water work shall be avoided from January 15 to May 31 of any year. Justification must be submitted as part of the required PCN if a variance of this seasonal work window is requested.

d. Within Essential Fish Habitat, if any work is proposed within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) habitat or within 50 feet of SAV habitat, the applicant shall include SAV information in the required PCN.

**46. Discharges in Ditches.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal ditches that are: (1) constructed in uplands, (2) receive water from an area determined to be a water of the United States prior to the construction of the ditch, (3) divert water to an area determined to be a water of the United States prior to the construction of the ditch, and (4) determined to be waters of the United States. The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than one acre of waters of the United States.

This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into ditches constructed in streams or other waters of the United States, or in streams that have been relocated in uplands. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material that increase the capacity of the ditch and drain those areas determined to be waters of the United States prior to construction of the ditch.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authority: Section 404)

#### Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts): None

#### 47. [Reserved]

**48. Commercial Shellfish ~~Mariculture~~ Aquaculture Activities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or structures or work in navigable waters of the United States necessary for new and continuing commercial shellfish ~~mariculture~~ aquaculture operations in authorized project areas. For the purposes of this NWP, the project area is the area in which the operator is authorized to conduct commercial shellfish ~~mariculture~~ aquaculture activities, as identified through a lease or permit issued by an appropriate state or local government agency, a treaty, or any easement, lease, deed, contract, or other legally binding agreement that establishes an enforceable property interest for the operator. ~~A "new commercial shellfish aquaculture operation" is an operation in a project area where commercial shellfish aquaculture activities have not been conducted during the past 100 years.~~

This NWP authorizes the installation of buoys, floats, racks, trays, nets, lines, tubes, containers, and other structures into navigable waters of the United States. This NWP also authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States necessary for shellfish seeding, rearing, cultivating, transplanting, and harvesting activities. Rafts and other floating structures must be securely anchored and clearly marked.

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This NWP does not authorize:

(a) The cultivation of a nonindigenous species unless that species has been previously cultivated in the waterbody;

(b) The cultivation of an aquatic nuisance species as defined in the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990; or

(c) Attendant features such as docks, piers, boat ramps, stockpiles, or staging areas, or the deposition of shell material back into waters of the United States as waste; or

~~(d) Activities that directly affect more than 1/2 acre of submerged aquatic vegetation beds in project areas that have not been used for commercial shellfish aquaculture activities during the past 100 years.~~

~~**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if: (1) the activity will include a species that has never been cultivated in the waterbody; or (2) the activity occurs in a project area that has not been used for commercial shellfish aquaculture activities during the past 100 years. If the operator will be conducting commercial shellfish aquaculture activities in multiple contiguous project areas, he or she can either submit one PCN for those contiguous project areas or submit a separate PCN for each project area. (See general condition 32.)~~

~~In addition to the information required by paragraph (b) of general condition 32, the pre-construction notification must also include the following information: (1) a map showing the boundaries of the project area(s), with latitude and longitude coordinates for each corner of each project area; (2) the name(s) of the species that will be cultivated during the period this NWP is in effect; (3) whether canopy predator nets will be used; (4) whether suspended cultivation techniques will be used; and (5) general water depths in the project area(s) (a detailed survey is not required). No more than one pre-construction notification per project area or group of contiguous project areas should be submitted for the commercial shellfish operation during the effective period of this NWP. The pre-construction notification should describe all species and culture activities the operator expects to undertake in the project area or group of contiguous project areas during the effective period of this NWP. If an operator intends to undertake unanticipated changes to the commercial shellfish aquaculture operation during the effective period of this NWP, and those changes require Department of the Army authorization, the operator must contact the district engineer to request a modification of the NWP verification; a new pre-construction notification does not need to be submitted. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)~~

**Note 1:** The permittee should notify the applicable U.S. Coast Guard office regarding the project.

**Note 2:** To prevent introduction of aquatic nuisance species, no material that has been taken from a different waterbody may be reused in the current project area, unless it has been treated in accordance with the applicable regional aquatic nuisance species management plan.

**Note 3:** The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 defines “aquatic nuisance species” as “a nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.”

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

Note: This NWP does not apply to the portion of New York State with Buffalo District as there are no marine or estuarine waters within their area of review.

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

a. The applicant shall submit a location map showing latitude and longitude or UTM coordinates to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, N/CS261, Marine Chart Division, Nautical Data

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Branch, Station 7317, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Springs, MD 20910-3282, for charting purposes prior to initiation of the aquaculture activities.

b. Any interaction between a sea turtle or any other federally threatened or endangered species (e.g., North Atlantic right whale, humpback whale, shortnose sturgeon) and the gear/equipment or vessels associated with the aquaculture project must be reported to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as follows. If the animal appears alive and uninjured, the permittee or its agent/employee must report the incident to the NMFS Northeast Regional Office, (978) 281-9300 or fax (978) 281-9394, within 24 hours of returning from the trip on which they made the discovery. If the animal appears to be injured or dead, the permittee or its agent/employee must immediately call the NMFS Northeast Region Stranding and Entanglement Hotline at (978) 281-9351 so the appropriate rehabilitation or stranding network representative can be contacted. The attached reporting form (Enclosure 4) must be filled out when interactions are discovered, and the form must be sent to the NMFS Northeast Regional Office, Protected Resources Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930 or faxed to (978) 281-9394. Finally, the applicant shall also copy the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on all correspondence with the NMFS within two calendar days. If portions of the reporting protocol or form are unclear, please contact the NMFS Northeast Regional Office at (978) 281-9300.

c. For those activities that are located within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, activities are not authorized within submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) areas.

d. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within 50 feet of SAV habitat, a PCN is required.

e. For those activities that are located within Essential Fish Habitat waters, the applicant must obtain a permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

f. For those activities that are located within Essential Fish Habitat waters, all structures associated with the aquaculture activity must be removed from waters of the United States when/if the activity is abandoned.

g. Use of unsuitable materials for shellfish seeding (i.e. asphalt, bituminous concrete slag, tires, wallboard, plastic, wood, metal, crushed glass and garbage) is prohibited.

h. Predator control devices (i.e. mesh fences, mesh nets and mesh tents) suspended or erected vertically or obliquely in the water column to surround or enclose shellfish containment gear is prohibited.

**49. Coal Remining Activities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States associated with the remining and reclamation of lands that were previously mined for coal. The activities must already be authorized, or they must currently be in process ~~as part of an integrated permit processing procedure,~~ by the Department of the Interior Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, or by states with approved programs under Title IV or Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). Areas previously mined include reclaimed mine sites, abandoned mine land areas, or lands under bond forfeiture contracts.

As part of the project, the permittee may conduct new coal mining activities in conjunction with the remining activities when he or she clearly demonstrates to the district engineer that the overall mining plan will result in a net increase in aquatic resource functions. The Corps will consider the SMCRA agency's decision regarding the amount of currently undisturbed adjacent lands needed to facilitate the remining and reclamation of the previously mined area. The total area disturbed by new mining must not exceed 40 percent of the total acreage covered by both the remined area and the additional area necessary to carry out the reclamation of the previously mined area.

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**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification and a document describing how the overall mining plan will result in a net increase in aquatic resource functions to the district engineer ~~and receive written authorization prior to commencing the activity.~~ (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):** None

**50. Underground Coal Mining Activities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States associated with underground coal mining and reclamation operations provided the activities are authorized, or are currently being processed ~~as part of an integrated permit processing procedure,~~ by the Department of the Interior, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, or by states with approved programs under Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. ~~The discharge must not cause the loss of more than 300 linear feet of stream bed, unless for intermittent and ephemeral stream beds the district engineer waives the 300 linear foot limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. The loss of stream bed plus any other losses of jurisdictional wetlands and waters caused by the NWP activity cannot exceed 1/2 acre.~~ This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters. This NWP does not authorize coal preparation and processing activities outside of the mine site.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer ~~and receive written authorization prior to commencing the activity.~~ (See general condition 32.) If reclamation is required by other statutes, then a copy of the reclamation plan must be submitted with the pre-construction notification. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** ~~Coal preparation and processing activities outside of the mine site may be authorized by NWP 21.~~

**Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):** None

**51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities.** Discharges of dredged or fill material into non-tidal waters of the United States for the construction, expansion, or modification of land-based renewable energy production facilities, including attendant features. Such facilities include infrastructure to collect solar (concentrating solar power and photovoltaic), wind, biomass, or geothermal energy. Attendant features may include, but are not limited to roads, parking lots, and stormwater management facilities within the land-based renewable energy generation facility.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. ~~The discharge must not cause the loss of more than 300 linear feet of stream bed, unless for intermittent and ephemeral stream beds the district engineer waives the 300 linear foot limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. The loss of stream bed plus any other losses of jurisdictional wetlands and waters caused by the NWP activity cannot exceed 1/2 acre.~~ This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if the discharge results in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** Utility lines constructed to transfer the energy from the land-based renewable energy generation facility to a distribution system, regional grid, or other facility are generally considered to be linear projects and each separate and distant crossing of a waterbody is eligible for treatment as a separate single and complete linear project. Those utility lines may be authorized by NWP ~~42-C~~ or another Department of the Army authorization.

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**Note 2:** If the only activities associated with the construction, expansion, or modification of a land-based renewable energy generation facility that require Department of the Army authorization are discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States to construct, maintain, repair, and/or remove utility lines and/or road crossings, then NWP ~~12-C~~ and/or NWP 14 shall be used if those activities meet the terms and conditions of NWPs ~~12-C~~ and 14, including any applicable regional conditions and any case-specific conditions imposed by the district engineer.

**Note 3:** For any activity that involves the construction of a wind energy generating structure, solar tower, or overhead transmission line, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

**Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):** None

**52. Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects.** Structures and work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States for the construction, expansion, modification, or removal of water-based wind, water-based solar, wave energy, or hydrokinetic renewable energy generation pilot projects and their attendant features. Attendant features may include, but are not limited to, land-based collection and distribution facilities, control facilities, roads, parking lots, and stormwater management facilities.

For the purposes of this NWP, the term “pilot project” means an experimental project where the water-based renewable energy generation units will be monitored to collect information on their performance and environmental effects at the project site.

~~The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, including the loss of more than 300 linear feet of stream bed, unless for intermittent and ephemeral stream beds the district engineer waives the 300 linear foot limit by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects. The loss of stream bed plus any other losses of jurisdictional wetlands and waters caused by the NWP activity cannot exceed 1/2-acre.~~

The placement of a transmission line on the bed of a navigable water of the United States from the renewable energy generation unit(s) to a land-based collection and distribution facility is considered a structure under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (see 33 CFR 322.2(b)), and the placement of the transmission line on the bed of a navigable water of the United States is not a loss of waters of the United States for the purposes of applying the 1/2-acre ~~or 300 linear foot limits~~.

For each single and complete project, no more than 10 generation units (e.g., wind turbines, wave energy devices, or hydrokinetic devices) are authorized. For floating solar panels in navigable waters of the United States, each single and complete project cannot exceed 1/2-acre in water surface area covered by the floating solar panels.

This NWP does not authorize activities in coral reefs. Structures in an anchorage area established by the U.S. Coast Guard must comply with the requirements in 33 CFR 322.5(l)(2). Structures may not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas designated in 33 CFR part 334, Federal navigation channels, shipping safety fairways or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard (see 33 CFR 322.5(l)(1)), or EPA or Corps designated open water dredged material disposal areas.

Upon completion of the pilot project, the generation units, transmission lines, and other structures or fills associated with the pilot project must be removed to the maximum extent practicable unless they are authorized by a separate Department of the Army authorization, such as another NWP, an individual permit, or a regional general permit. Completion of the pilot project will be identified as the date of expiration of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license, or the expiration date of the NWP authorization if no FERC license is required.



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**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note 1:** Utility lines constructed to transfer the energy from the land-based collection facility to a distribution system, regional grid, or other facility are generally considered to be linear projects and each separate and distant crossing of a waterbody is eligible for treatment as a separate single and complete linear project. Those utility lines may be authorized by NWP 12 or another Department of the Army authorization.

**Note 2:** An activity that is located on an existing locally or federally maintained U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project requires separate review and/or approval from the ~~Chief of Engineers or District Engineer~~ Corps under 33 U.S.C. 408.

**Note 3:** If the pilot project generation units, including any transmission lines, are placed in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, copies of the NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, for charting the generation units and associated transmission line(s) to protect navigation.

**Note 4:** Hydrokinetic renewable energy generation projects that require authorization by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission under the Federal Power Act of 1920 do not require separate authorization from the Corps under section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

**Note 5:** For any activity that involves the construction of a wind energy generating structure, solar tower, or overhead transmission line, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

#### Permit-specific Regional Condition (Buffalo and New York Districts):

a. This NWP does not authorize work or discharges associated with wind or solar energy generation projects.

#### New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:

b. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, the applicant shall include anadromous fish information in the required PCN.

c. Within Essential Fish Habitat, a complete copy of the PCN submitted to the Corps of Engineers shall also be forwarded by the applicant, directly to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Habitat Conservation Division, 74 Magruder Road, Highlands, New Jersey 07732. The applicant must provide evidence to the Corps that this has been accomplished.

d. Within National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Threatened, Endangered or Candidate (TE&C) habitat, if any proposed pilings would be steel or would exceed 12 inches in diameter, the applicant shall include a discussion regarding the types and sizes of pilings proposed.

**53. Removal of Low-Head Dams.** Structures and work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with the removal of low-head dams.

For the purposes of this NWP, the term “low-head dam” is defined as a dam built across a stream to pass flows from upstream over all, or nearly all, of the width of the dam crest on a continual and uncontrolled basis. (During a drought, there might not be water flowing over the dam crest.) In general, a low-head dam does not have a separate spillway or spillway gates but it may have an uncontrolled spillway. The dam crest is the top of the dam from left abutment to right abutment, and if present, an uncontrolled spillway. A low-head dam provides little storage function.



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The removed low-head dam structure must be deposited and retained in an area that has no waters of the United States unless otherwise specifically approved by the district engineer under separate authorization.

Because the removal of the low-head dam will result in a net increase in ecological functions and services provided by the stream, as a general rule compensatory mitigation is not required for activities authorized by this NWP. However, the district engineer may determine for a particular low-head dam removal activity that compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or structures or work in navigable waters to restore the stream in the vicinity of the low-head dam, including the former impoundment area. Nationwide permit 27 or other Department of the Army permits may authorize such activities. This NWP does not authorize discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or structures or work in navigable waters to stabilize stream banks. Bank stabilization activities may be authorized by NWP 13 or other Department of the Army permits.

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Condition:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, the applicant shall include anadromous fish information in the required PCN.

**54. Living Shorelines.** Structures and work in navigable waters of the United States and discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States for the construction and maintenance of living shorelines to stabilize banks and shores in coastal waters, which includes the Great Lakes, along shores with small fetch and gentle slopes that are subject to low- to mid-energy waves. A living shoreline has a footprint that is made up mostly of native material. It incorporates vegetation or other living, natural “soft” elements alone or in combination with some type of harder shoreline structure (e.g., oyster or mussel reefs or rock sills) for added protection and stability. Living shorelines should maintain the natural continuity of the land-water interface, and retain or enhance shoreline ecological processes. Living shorelines must have a substantial biological component, either tidal or lacustrine fringe wetlands or oyster or mussel reef structures. The following conditions must be met:

(a) The structures and fill area, including sand fills, sills, breakwaters, or reefs, cannot extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the activity will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;

(b) The activity is no more than 500 feet in length along the bank, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the activity will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;

(c) Coir logs, coir mats, stone, native oyster shell, native wood debris, and other structural materials must be adequately anchored, of sufficient weight, or installed in a manner that prevents relocation in most wave action or water flow conditions, except for extremely severe storms;

(d) For living shorelines consisting of tidal or lacustrine fringe wetlands, native plants appropriate for current site conditions, including salinity, must be used if the site is planted by the permittee;

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(e) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, and oyster or mussel reef structures in navigable waters, must be the minimum necessary for the establishment and maintenance of the living shoreline;

(f) If sills, breakwaters, or other structures must be constructed to protect fringe wetlands for the living shoreline, those structures must be the minimum size necessary to protect those fringe wetlands;

(g) The activity must be designed, constructed, and maintained so that it has no more than minimal adverse effects on water movement between the waterbody and the shore and the movement of aquatic organisms between the waterbody and the shore; and

(h) The living shoreline must be properly maintained, which may require periodic repair of sills, breakwaters, or reefs, or replacing sand fills after severe storms or erosion events. Vegetation may be replanted to maintain the living shoreline. This NWP authorizes those maintenance and repair activities, including any minor deviations necessary to address changing environmental conditions.

This NWP does not authorize beach nourishment or land reclamation activities.

**Notification:** The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the construction of the living shoreline. (See general condition 32.) The pre-construction notification must include a delineation of special aquatic sites (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). Pre-construction notification is not required for maintenance and repair activities for living shorelines unless required by applicable NWP general conditions or regional conditions. (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

**Note:** In waters outside of coastal waters, nature-based bank stabilization techniques, such as bioengineering and vegetative stabilization, may be authorized by NWP 13.

**Buffalo District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:** None

**New York District Only Permit-specific Regional Conditions:**

a. Within Essential Fish Habitat as discussed in Section G-E.8. below, if any work is proposed within areas supporting anadromous fish migration and spawning, the applicant shall include anadromous fish information in the required PCN.

b. Within National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Threatened, Endangered or Candidate (TE&C) habitat, if any proposed pilings would be steel or would exceed 12 inches in diameter, the applicant shall include a discussion regarding the types and sizes of pilings proposed.

A. Seaweed Mariculture Activities. Structures or work in marine waters, including structures anchored to the seabed in waters overlying the outer continental shelf, for seaweed mariculture activities. This NWP also authorizes shellfish mariculture if shellfish production is a component of an integrated multi-trophic mariculture system (e.g., the production of seaweed and shellfish on the same structure or a nearby mariculture structure that is part of the single and complete project).

This NWP authorizes the installation of buoys, long-lines, floats, anchors, rafts, racks, and other similar structures into navigable waters of the United States. Rafts, racks and other floating structures must be securely anchored and clearly marked.

Structures in an anchorage area established by the U.S. Coast Guard must comply with the requirements in 33 CFR 322.5(l)(2). Structures may not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas designated in 33 CFR part 334, Federal navigation channels, shipping safety fairways or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard (see 33 CFR 322.5(l)(1)), or EPA or Corps designated open water dredged material disposal areas.

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This NWP does not authorize:

(a) The cultivation of an aquatic nuisance species as defined in the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990; or

(b) Attendant features such as docks, piers, boat ramps, stockpiles, or staging areas.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer. (See general condition 32.)

In addition to the information required by paragraph (b) of general condition 32, the preconstruction notification must also include the following information: (1) a map showing the locations and dimensions of the structure(s); (2) the name(s) of the species that will be cultivated during the period this NWP is in effect; and (3) general water depths in the project area(s) (a detailed survey is not required). No more than one preconstruction notification per structure or group of structures should be submitted for the seaweed mariculture operation during the effective period of this NWP. The preconstruction notification should describe all species and culture activities the operator expects to undertake during the effective period of this NWP. (Authority: Section 10)

Note 1: The permittee should notify the applicable U.S. Coast Guard office regarding the project.

Note 2: To prevent introduction of aquatic nuisance species, no material that has been taken from a different waterbody may be reused in the current project area, unless it has been treated in accordance with the applicable regional aquatic nuisance species management plan.

Note 3: The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 defines “aquatic nuisance species” as “a nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.”

Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts): None

Note: This NWP does not apply to the portion of New York State with Buffalo District as there are no marine or estuarine waters within their area of review.

B. Finfish Mariculture Activities. Structures or work in marine and estuarine waters, including structures anchored to the seabed in waters overlying the outer continental shelf, for finfish mariculture activities. This NWP also authorizes shellfish mariculture and/or seaweed mariculture if the shellfish and/or seaweed production are a component of an integrated multi-trophic mariculture system (e.g., the production of seaweed or shellfish on the structure used for finfish mariculture, or a nearby mariculture structure that is part of the single and complete project).

This NWP authorizes the installation of cages, net pens, anchors, floats, buoys, and other similar structures into navigable waters of the United States. Net pens, cages, and other floating structures must be securely anchored and clearly marked.

This NWP does not authorize the construction of land-based fish hatcheries or other attendant features.

Structures in an anchorage area established by the U.S. Coast Guard must comply with the requirements in 33 CFR 322.5(1)(2). Structures may not be placed in established danger zones or restricted areas designated in 33 CFR part 334, Federal navigation channels, shipping safety fairways or traffic separation schemes established by the U.S. Coast Guard (see 33 CFR 322.5(1)(1)), or EPA or Corps designated open water dredged material disposal areas.

This NWP does not authorize:

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(a) The cultivation of an aquatic nuisance species as defined in the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990; or

(b) Attendant features such as docks, piers, boat ramps, stockpiles, or staging areas. Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer. (See general condition 32.)

In addition to the information required by paragraph (b) of general condition 32, the preconstruction notification must also include the following information: (1) a map showing the locations and dimensions of the structure(s); (2) the name(s) of the species that will be cultivated during the period this NWP is in effect; and (3) general water depths in the project area(s) (a detailed survey is not required). No more than one pre-construction notification per structure or group of structures should be submitted for the finfish mariculture operation during the effective period of this NWP. The pre-construction notification should describe all species and culture activities the operator expects to undertake during the effective period of this NWP. (Authority: Section 10)

Note 1: The permittee should notify the applicable U.S. Coast Guard office regarding the finfish mariculture activity.

Note 2: To prevent introduction of aquatic nuisance species, no material that has been taken from a different waterbody may be reused in the current project area, unless it has been treated in accordance with the applicable regional aquatic nuisance species management plan.

Note 3: The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 defines “aquatic nuisance species” as “a nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.”

Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts): None

Note: This NWP does not apply to the portion of New York State with Buffalo District as there are no marine or estuarine waters within their area of review.

C. Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities. Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of electric utility lines, telecommunication lines, and associated facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project.

*Electric utility lines and telecommunication lines:* This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States and structures or work in navigable waters for crossings of those waters associated with the construction, maintenance, or repair of electric utility lines and telecommunication lines. There must be no change in pre-construction contours of waters of the United States. An “electric utility line and telecommunication line” is defined as any cable, line, or wire for the transmission for any purpose of electrical energy, telephone, and telegraph messages, and internet, radio, and television communication.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, provided the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. The district engineer may extend the period of temporary side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the electric utility line or telecommunication line crossing of each waterbody.

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Electric utility line and telecommunications substations: This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities associated with an electric utility line or telecommunication line in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

Foundations for overhead electric utility line or telecommunication line towers, poles, and anchors: This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for overhead electric utility line or telecommunication line towers, poles, and anchors in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary and separate footings for each tower leg (rather than a larger single pad) are used where feasible.

Access roads: This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of electric utility lines or telecommunication lines, including overhead lines and substations, in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize electric utility lines or telecommunication lines in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (see 33 CFR part 322). Electric utility lines or telecommunication lines constructed over section 10 waters and electric utility lines or telecommunication lines that are routed in or under section 10 waters without a discharge of dredged or fill material require a section 10 permit.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that Department of the Army authorization is required, temporary structures, fills, and work necessary for the remediation of inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States through sub-soil fissures or fractures that might occur during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing electric utility lines or telecommunication lines. These remediation activities must be done as soon as practicable, to restore the affected waterbody. District engineers may add special conditions to this NWP to require a remediation plan for addressing inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing electric utility lines or telecommunication lines.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to conduct the electric utility line 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. After construction, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to preconstruction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) a section 10 permit is required; or (2) the discharge will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: Where the electric utility line is constructed, installed, or maintained in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, a copy

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of the NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), for charting the electric utility line to protect navigation.

Note 2: For electric utility line or telecommunications activities crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Electric utility line and telecommunications activities must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

Note 3: Electric utility lines or telecommunication lines consisting of aerial electric power transmission lines crossing navigable waters of the United States (which are defined at 33 CFR part 329) must comply with the applicable minimum clearances specified in 33 CFR 322.5(i).

Note 4: Access roads used for both construction and maintenance may be authorized, provided they meet the terms and conditions of this NWP. Access roads used solely for construction of the electric utility line or telecommunication line must be removed upon completion of the work, in accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.

Note 5: This NWP authorizes electric utility line and telecommunication line maintenance and repair activities that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f) exemption for maintenance of currently serviceable fills or fill structures.

Note 6: For overhead electric utility lines and telecommunication lines authorized by this NWP, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided by the Corps to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

Note 7: For activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):

Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):

#### a. For Aerial Transmission Lines Across Navigable Waters:

1. All aerial crossings must comply with the elevation clearances specified in 33 CFR 322.5(i)(2) and 33 CFR 322.5(i)(3), as referenced in NWP C Note 3. The following table pertains to aerial transmission lines across navigable waters, is located at 33 CFR 322.5(i)(2) and is included here for easy reference:

<u>Nominal System Voltage (kV)</u>	<u>Min. additional clearance (ft.) above clearance required for bridges</u>
<u>115 and below</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>136</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>161</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>230</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>350</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>500</u>	<u>35</u>
<u>700</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>750 and above</u>	<u>45</u>



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2. Within 60 days of completion of the work, the permittee shall furnish the Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, N/CS261, Marine Chart Division, Nautical Data Branch, Station 7317, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Springs, MD 20910-3282, with certification that the aerial wire has been installed in compliance with the approved plans. The certification shall include a survey, conducted by a licensed surveyor, which clearly shows the minimum clearance of the aerial wire above the applicable high water line at the time of the survey. The certification shall also include a statement by the permittee that the clearance of the wire(s), at maximum sag conditions, shall never be less than the clearance shown on the approved plans.

b. For Submerged Cables and ~~Pipelines~~ Conduits Across Navigable Waters and Federal Navigation Channels:

1. This nationwide permit is not applicable to activities on the following waterways: (1) Arthur Kill; (2) Atlantic Ocean; (3) East River; (4) Harlem River; (5) Hudson River, downstream of the southern limit of the New York State Barge Canal at Waterford, New York; (6) Jamaica Bay/Rockaway Inlet, 20 foot deep entrance channel from the mouth of the inlet, upstream to the second channel bend at Rockaway Point; (7) Kill Van Kull; (8) Long Island Sound; (9) Lower New York Bay; (10) Newark Bay; (11) Raritan Bay; (12) Rondout Creek/Harbor, downstream of the Route 9W highway bridge; and (13) Upper New York Bay, including Bay Ridge, Red Hook and Buttermilk Channels.

2. For proposed submerged cables and ~~pipeline~~ conduits buried within navigable waterways, excluding waters listed in 12.b.1. above:

i. The top of the cable or ~~pipeline~~ conduit crossing any Federal project channel, fleeting or anchorage area, shall be located a minimum of 12 feet below the authorized project channel depth.

ii. The burial depth is measured from the authorized project channel depth to the top of the outermost layer of the utility line.

iii. In cases where the channel's existing bottom is already deeper than the authorized project depth, the utility line shall be located a minimum of 4 feet below the existing bottom in sediment and 2 feet below the existing bottom in compacted rock.

iv. In areas outside of Federal project channels, fleeting or anchorage areas, the top of the utility line shall be located a minimum of 4 feet below the existing bottom in sediment and 2 feet below the existing bottom in compacted rock.

v. The District Engineer, on a case-by-case basis, may modify these depth requirements where circumstances are deemed appropriate (i.e. water intake lines, dry hydrants, etc.). Any request to modify these depth requirements must include a discussion of potential effects of the utility line to public safety associated with public use of the waterway (i.e. fishing anchorage, boating, swimming, navigation, etc.), how the line will be protected from ice scour and movement by waves or currents and details as to any anchoring systems.

vi. Where trenching and backfilling are proposed, backfill material shall consist of suitable heavy materials and shall be placed no higher or lower than the adjacent river bottom elevation.

3. For proposed submerged cables and ~~pipeline~~ conduits placed on the waterway bottom within navigable waters, excluding waters listed in 12.b.1. above and Federal project channels, fleeting or anchorage areas: the preconstruction notification (PCN) shall include justification for the need to place the utility line on the waterway bottom, a discussion on potential effects of the proposed exposed utility line to public safety associated with public use of the waterway (i.e. fishing, anchorage, boating, swimming, navigation, etc.).



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how the line will be protected from ice scour and movement by waves or currents and details as to any anchoring systems.

4. This nationwide permit is not applicable for single and complete linear projects in navigable waters that would exceed 500 linear feet and the utility line is located in but would not cross the waterway, unless a variance is issued by the District Engineer.

5. Within 15 days after completion of the authorized work, the permittee shall post visible signage on weatherproof placards no smaller than 4 feet by 4 feet on each shoreline at the location of the authorized crossing. The placard shall contain language informing waterway users of the presence of a cable or conduit crossing (e.g., “WARNING – CABLE CROSSING”), unless specifically authorized otherwise by the District Engineer. The sign shall be maintained in place for as long as the pipelineutility line remains in place.

6. Within 60 days of completion of the work, the permittee shall furnish the Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, N/CS261, Marine Chart Division, Nautical Data Branch, Station 7317, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Springs, MD 20910-3282, with certification that the cable or pipeline has been installed in compliance with the approved plans. The certification shall include a survey, conducted by a licensed surveyor, which clearly shows the elevations and alignment of the utility line across the waterway. If the post-completion survey reveals a discrepancy between the authorized and actual alignment of the cable or pipeline, the permittee shall note clearly these discrepancies in the survey.

c. A PCN is required for any utility line or transmission facility whenever the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requires an Environmental Impact Statement.

D. Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances. Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of utility lines for water and other substances, excluding oil, natural gas, and electricity. Oil or natural gas pipeline activities or electric utility line and telecommunications activities may be authorized by NWP 12 or C, respectively. This NWP also authorizes associated utility line facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project.

Utility lines: This NWP authorizes discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States and structures or work in navigable waters for crossings of those waters associated with the construction, maintenance, or repair of utility lines for water and other substances, including outfall and intake structures. There must be no change in pre-construction contours of waters of the United States. A “utility line” is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substance, for any purpose that is not oil, natural gas, or petrochemicals. Examples of activities authorized by this NWP include utility lines that convey water, sewage, stormwater, wastewater, brine, irrigation water, and industrial products that are not petrochemicals. The term “utility line” does not include activities that drain a water of the United States, such as drainage tile or french drains, but it does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, provided the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. The district engineer may extend the period of temporary side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line crossing of each waterbody.

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Utility line substations: This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities associated with a utility line in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

Foundations for above-ground utility lines: This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for above-ground utility lines in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary.

Access roads: This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of utility lines, including utility line substations, in nontidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize utility lines in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (see 33 CFR part 322). Overhead utility lines constructed over section 10 waters and utility lines that are routed in or under section 10 waters without a discharge of dredged or fill material require a section 10 permit.

This NWP authorizes, to the extent that Department of the Army authorization is required, temporary structures, fills, and work necessary for the remediation of inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States through sub-soil fissures or fractures that might occur during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing utility lines. These remediation activities must be done as soon as practicable, to restore the affected waterbody. District engineers may add special conditions to this NWP to require a remediation plan for addressing inadvertent returns of drilling fluids to waters of the United States during horizontal directional drilling activities conducted for the purpose of installing or replacing utility lines.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to conduct the utility line 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. After construction, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to preconstruction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if: (1) a section 10 permit is required; or (2) the discharge will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States. (See general condition 32.) (Authorities: Sections 10 and 404)

Note 1: Where the utility line is constructed, installed, or maintained in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, a copy of the NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), for charting the utility line to protect navigation.

Note 2: For utility line activities crossing a single waterbody more than one time at separate and distant locations, or multiple waterbodies at separate and distant locations, each crossing is considered a single and complete project for purposes of NWP authorization. Utility line activities must comply with 33 CFR 330.6(d).

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Note 3: Access roads used for both construction and maintenance may be authorized, provided they meet the terms and conditions of this NWP. Access roads used solely for construction of the utility line must be removed upon completion of the work, in accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.

Note 4: Pipes or pipelines used to transport gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substances over navigable waters of the United States are considered to be bridges, not utility lines, and may require a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. However, any discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with such pipelines will require a section 404 permit (see NWP 15).

Note 5: This NWP authorizes utility line maintenance and repair activities that do not qualify for the Clean Water Act section 404(f) exemption for maintenance of currently serviceable fills or fill structures.

Note 6: For activities that require pre-construction notification, the PCN must include any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity, including other separate and distant crossings that require Department of the Army authorization but do not require pre-construction notification (see paragraph (b)(4) of general condition 32). The district engineer will evaluate the PCN in accordance with Section D, "District Engineer's Decision." The district engineer may require mitigation to ensure that the authorized activity results in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects (see general condition 23).

#### Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts):

##### For Submerged Pipelines Across Navigable Waters and Federal Navigation Channels:

1. This nationwide permit is not applicable to activities on the following waterways: (1) Arthur Kill; (2) Atlantic Ocean; (3) East River; (4) Harlem River; (5) Hudson River, downstream of the southern limit of the New York State Barge Canal at Waterford, New York; (6) Jamaica Bay/Rockaway Inlet, 20 foot deep entrance channel from the mouth of the inlet, upstream to the second channel bend at Rockaway Point; (7) Kill Van Kull; (8) Long Island Sound; (9) Lower New York Bay; (10) Newark Bay; (11) Raritan Bay; (12) Rondout Creek/Harbor, downstream of the Route 9W highway bridge; and (13) Upper New York Bay, including Bay Ridge, Red Hook and Buttermilk Channels.

2. For proposed buried pipelines within navigable waterways, excluding waters listed in 1. above:

i. The top of the pipeline crossing any Federal project channel, fleeting or anchorage area, shall be located a minimum of 12 feet below the authorized project channel depth.

ii. The burial depth is measured from the authorized project channel depth to the top of the outermost layer of the utility line.

iii. In cases where the channel's existing bottom is already deeper than the authorized project depth, the utility line shall be located a minimum of 4 feet below the existing bottom in sediment and 2 feet below the existing bottom in compacted rock.

iv. In areas outside of Federal project channels, fleeting or anchorage areas, the top of the utility line shall be located a minimum of 4 feet below the existing bottom in sediment and 2 feet below the existing bottom in compacted rock.

v. The District Engineer, on a case-by-case basis, may modify these depth requirements where circumstances are deemed appropriate (i.e. water intake lines, dry hydrants, etc.). Any request to modify these depth requirements must include a discussion of potential effects of the utility line to public safety associated with public use of the waterway (i.e. fishing anchorage, boating, swimming, navigation, etc.), how the line will be protected from ice scour and movement by waves or currents and details as to any anchoring systems.

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vi. Where trenching and backfilling are proposed, backfill material shall consist of suitable heavy materials and shall be placed no higher or lower than the adjacent river bottom elevation.

3. For proposed submerged pipelines placed on the waterway bottom within navigable waters, excluding waters listed in 1. above and Federal project channels, fleeting or anchorage areas: the preconstruction notification (PCN) shall include justification for the need to place the utility line on the waterway bottom, a discussion on potential effects of the proposed exposed utility line to public safety associated with public use of the waterway (i.e. fishing, anchorage, boating, swimming, navigation, etc.), how the line will be protected from ice scour and movement by waves or currents and details as to any anchoring systems.

4. With the exception of water intake lines, this nationwide permit is not applicable for single and complete linear projects in navigable waters that would exceed 500 linear feet and the utility line is located in but would not cross the waterway, unless a variance is issued by the District Engineer.

5. Within 15 days after completion of the authorized work, the permittee shall post visible signage on weatherproof placards no smaller than 4 feet by 4 feet on each shoreline at the location of the authorized crossing. The placard shall contain language informing waterway users of the presence of a cable or pipeline crossing (e.g., "WARNING – CABLE [or PIPELINE] CROSSING"), unless specifically authorized otherwise by the District Engineer. The sign shall be maintained in place for as long as the pipeline remains in place.

6. Within 60 days of completion of the work, the permittee shall furnish the Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, N/CS261, Marine Chart Division, Nautical Data Branch, Station 7317, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Springs, MD 20910-3282, with certification that the cable or pipeline has been installed in compliance with the approved plans. The certification shall include a survey, conducted by a licensed surveyor, which clearly shows the elevations and alignment of the cable or pipeline across the waterway. If the post-completion survey reveals a discrepancy between the authorized and actual alignment of the cable or pipeline, the permittee shall note clearly these discrepancies in the survey.

E. Water reclamation and reuse facilities. Discharges of dredged or fill material into nontidal waters of the United States for the construction, expansion, and maintenance of water reclamation and reuse facilities, including vegetated areas enhanced to improve water infiltration and constructed wetlands to improve water quality.

The discharge must not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters.

This NWP also authorizes temporary fills, including the use of temporary mats, necessary to construct the water reuse project and attendant features. 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. After construction, temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to preconstruction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate.

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity. (See general condition 31.) (Authority: Sections 10 and 404)

Permit-specific Regional Conditions (Buffalo and New York Districts): None

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**C. Nationwide Permit General Conditions** – See Federal Register for specific proposed language

**D. District Engineer’s Decision** - See Federal Register for specific proposed language

**E. Further Information** - See Federal Register for specific proposed language

**F. Definitions** - See Federal Register for specific proposed language

#### **G. Buffalo and New York District General Regional Conditions**

These conditions apply to ALL Nationwide Permits.

**G-A. Construction Best Management Practices (BMP’s):** Unless specifically approved otherwise through issuance of a variance by the District Engineer, the following BMP’s must be implemented to the maximum degree practicable, to minimize erosion, migration of sediments, and adverse environmental impacts. Note that at a minimum, all erosion and sediment control and stormwater management practices must be designed, installed and maintained throughout the entire construction project in accordance with the latest version of the “*New York Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control*” and the “*New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual*”. These documents are available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29066.html> and <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29072.html>, respectively. Prior to the discharge of any dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, authorized by NWP, the permittee must install and maintain erosion and sedimentation controls in and/or adjacent to wetlands or other waters of the United States.

1. All synthetic erosion control features (e.g., silt fencing, netting, mats), which are intended for temporary use during construction, shall be completely removed and properly disposed of after their initial purpose has been served. Only natural fiber materials, which will degrade over time, may be abandoned in place.
2. Materials resulting from trench excavation for utility line installation or ditch reshaping activities which are temporarily sidecast or stockpiled into waters of the United States must be backfilled or removed to an upland area within 30 days of the date of deposition. Note: upland options shall be utilized prior to temporary placement within waters of the U.S., unless it can be demonstrated that it would not be practicable or if the impacts of complying with this upland option requirement would result in more adverse impacts to the aquatic environment.
3. For trenching activities in wetlands the applicant shall install impermeable trench dams or trench breakers at the wetland boundaries and every 100 feet within wetland areas to prevent inadvertent drainage of wetlands or other waters of the United States.
4. Dry stream crossing methods (e.g., diversion, dam and pump, flume, bore) shall be utilized for culvert or other pipe, or utility installations to reduce downstream impacts from turbidity and sedimentation. This may require piping or pumping the stream flow around the work area and the use of cofferdams.
5. No in-stream work shall occur during periods of high flow, except for work that occurs in dewatered areas behind temporary diversions, cofferdams or causeways.
6. Construction access and staging areas shall be by means that avoid or minimize impacts to aquatic sites (e.g. use of upland areas for access & staging, floating barges, mats, etc.). Discharges of fill material associated with the construction of temporary access roads, staging areas and work pads in wetlands shall be placed on filter fabric. All temporary fills shall be removed upon completion of the work and the disturbed area restored to pre-construction contours, elevations and wetland conditions, including cover type. All vegetation utilized in the restoration activity shall consist of native species.
7. All return flow from dredged material disposal areas shall not result in an increase in turbidity in the

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receiving water body that will cause a substantial visible contrast to natural conditions. (See NWP #16)

8. For activities involving the placement of concrete into waters of the U.S., the permittee must employ watertight forms. The forms shall be dewatered prior to the placement of the concrete. The use of tremie concrete is allowed, provided that it complies with New York State water quality standards.

9. New stormwater management facilities shall be located outside of waters of the U.S. A variance of this requirement may be requested with the submission of a PCN. The PCN must include justification which demonstrates that avoidance and minimization efforts have been met.

10. To the maximum extent practicable, the placement of fill in wetlands must be designed to maintain pre-construction surface water flows/conditions between remaining on or off-site waters and to prevent draining of the wetland or permanent hydrologic alteration. This may require the use of culverts and/or other measures. Furthermore, the activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or expected high flows (unless the primary purpose of the fill is to impound waters). The activity may alter the pre-construction flows/conditions if it can be shown that it benefits the aquatic environment (i.e. wetland restoration and/or enhancement).

#### G-B. CULVERTS

1. **ALL NEW OR REPLACEMENT CULVERTS** in streams shall be constructed/installed in accordance with the following, in order to ensure compliance with NWP General Condition #2 – Aquatic Life Movement and #9 Management of Water Flows:

a. Size: Bank-full flows shall be accommodated through maintenance of the existing bank-full channel cross sectional dimensions within one culvert. Bank-full width is generally considered to be the top width at the stage where a stream begins to overtop its banks and spread into the floodplain. Either a bottomless culvert or bridge must be used where practicable. If the stream cannot be spanned, the culvert width shall be minimum of 1.25 times width of the stream channel at the ordinary high water, or a 2 year design storm.

b. Depth: To maintain low flow and aquatic life movement within culverts with a bottom, the culvert invert must be embedded. Specifically, the culvert must be installed with its bottom buried below the grade of the stream bed, as measured at the average low point, to a depth of a minimum of 20 percent of the culvert vertical rise (height) throughout the length of the culvert. (Note: When not practicable to do so due to small culvert size, it is acceptable to allow natural deposition to cover the interior of the culvert bed following placement of the culvert invert to the 20% depth.)

c. The dimension, pattern, and profile of the stream above and below the stream crossing shall not be permanently modified by changing the width or depth of the stream channel.

d. The culvert bed slope shall remain consistent with the slope of the adjacent stream channel.

e. Stone aprons and scour protection placed in streams shall not extend higher than the stream bed in order to create a uniform grade and shall be filled with native stream bed material and supplemented with similarly sized material, if needed, to fill interstitial spaces to maintain water flow on the surface of the stream bed.

**Note 1:** Use of the requirements alone will not satisfy the need for proper engineering and design. In particular, appropriate engineering is required to ensure structures are sized and designed to provide adequate capacity (to pass various flood flows) and stability (bed, bed forms, footings and abutments, both upstream and downstream). It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure the structure is appropriately designed.

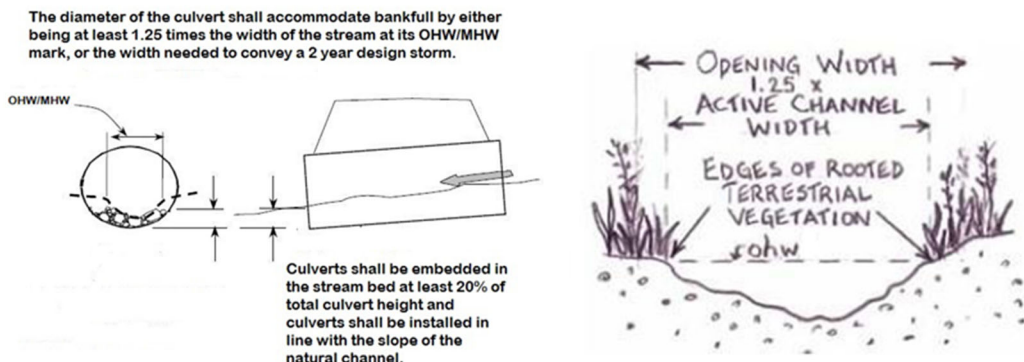
**Note 2:** This condition does not apply to temporary culverts used for construction access that are in place for less than one construction season. However, compliance with General Conditions #2 and #9 still



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applies.



#### Preconstruction Notification (PCN) Requirements:

A PCN is required for projects that do not meet all of the above requirements. In addition to the PCN requirements of General Condition #32, the PCN must include the following information:

- i. A statement indicating which of the above requirements will not be met by the proposed project;
- ii. Information as to why the use of such structures or measures would not be practicable;
- iii. A brief description of the stream discussing:
  - Site specific information (i.e. stream bed slope, type and size of stream bed material, stream type, existing natural or manmade barriers, etc.) assessed to determine appropriate culvert design and to ensure management of water flows and aquatic life movement.
  - Evaluation of the replacement for its impacts on: downstream flooding, upstream and downstream habitat (in-stream habitat, wetlands), potential for erosion and headcutting, and stream stability.
  - Flow/storm event the proposed culvert is designed to pass (2 year, 50 year, etc.)
- iv. Cross sections of the stream used to calculate the stream bed low point and ordinary high water width, consisting of:
  - Stream channel cross sections shall be taken at proximal locations to the crossing location to determine the average of the lowest points in elevation of the stream bed and the average width at ordinary high water.
    - For new crossing locations, the average values from at least three measurements (project location and straight sections of the stream upstream and downstream) shall be used.
    - For replacement of an existing structure, the average values from at least two cross sections (straight sections of the stream upstream and downstream from the existing structure representative of the natural channel) shall be used.
  - This average low point shall be used to ensure low flow is maintained through the culvert and from which all embedment depths are measured.
  - If the above cross section method was not practicable to use, an alternative method may be utilized. The PCN shall include justification for the method used including the data used and an explanation as to how it provides an equivalent measure.

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- v. An evaluation of the effects the crossing would have on aquatic life movement and/or water flows; and
- vi. Mitigation measures that will be employed to minimize these effects. Mitigation measures may include, but are not limited to baffles, weirs, roughened channels, and grade control structures

A variance of the requirement(s) will be issued by the Corps if it can be demonstrated that the proposal would meet General Conditions #2 & #9 and would result in the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (e.g. compliance with any of the requirement(s) would result in detrimental impacts to the aquatic system).

**2. ALL CULVERT REHABILITATION PROJECTS** in streams, not including culvert replacement projects, shall be constructed in accordance with the following, in order to ensure compliance with NWP General Condition #2 – Aquatic Life Movement and #9 Management of Water Flows:

- a. An evaluation of the existing culvert shall be conducted prior to the proposed culvert rehabilitation to determine if the existing culvert is in compliance with NWP GC #2 and #9. Specifically, the culvert shall be evaluated regarding its effect upon aquatic life movements and low/ high water flow. If the above requirements in General Regional Condition B. 1 (a)-(e) are met then the culvert is considered in compliance with NWP General Conditions #2 & #9. (Potential evaluation methods to consider include: North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC), US Forest Service Aquatic Organism Passage FishXing, etc.)
- b. A PCN is not required for projects that utilize cured-in-place pipe lining or other repair activities that do not raise the existing invert elevation such that it causes an impediment to the passage of either aquatic life movement or water flow unless there is an existing impediment.
- c. A PCN is required for any culvert rehabilitation project that includes a culvert which is not in compliance with GC #2 and/or #9 (i.e. impedes aquatic life movement or water flow) and which will not be corrected by the proposed repair.
- d. A PCN is required for culvert rehabilitation projects which will involve pipe slip lining or other activities, including concrete invert paving and concrete lining that raise the existing invert elevation such that it causes an impediment to the passage of low flow or aquatic life movement. Slip lining is defined as the insertion of a smaller diameter pipe into an existing pipe by pulling pushing, or spiral winding.

#### **Preconstruction Notification (PCN) Requirements:**

In addition to the PCN requirements of General Condition #32, the PCN must include the following information:

- i. A summary of the evaluation required in Item a. above including a discussion of the impediment(s) to aquatic life movement and/or water flow.
- ii. Information as to how the proposal will mitigate for the impediment. Mitigation measures may include, but are not limited to baffles, weirs, roughened channels, and grade control structures.

**G-C.** No regulated activity authorized by a Nationwide Permit can cause the loss of areas classified as a bog or fen in the State of New York, as determined by the Buffalo or the New York District Corps of Engineers, due to the scarcity of this habitat in New York State and the difficulty with in-kind mitigation. The Districts will utilize the following document in the classification:

Reschke, C. ~~1990~~<sup>March 2014</sup>. *Ecological Communities of New York State*. Second Edition. New York Natural Heritage Program. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Latham, N.Y. ~~96p~~. This document is available at the following location: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29389.html>  
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29384.html>

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**G-D. National Wild and Scenic Rivers (NWSR):** The Upper Delaware River has been designated as a National Wild and Scenic River from the confluence of the East and West Branches below Hancock, New York, to the existing railroad bridge immediately downstream of Cherry Island in the vicinity of Sparrow Bush, New York. Also, the portion of the Genesee River located within Letchworth Gorge State Park, beginning at the southern boundary of the park and extending downstream to the Mt. Morris Dam, was designated by Congress as a permanent Study River in the Genesee River Protection Act of 1989. In accordance with General Condition #16, no activity may occur within a NWSR, including Study Rivers, unless the National Park Service (NPS) has determined in writing that the proposed work will not adversely affect the NWSR designation or study status. Therefore, a PCN is required for any NWP which would impact the designated portions of the Genesee River or the Upper Delaware River, unless NPS has previously indicated the project will not adversely affect the waterway. (Note: the applicant may not commence work under any NWP until the NPS determines in writing that the project will not adversely affect the NWSR even if 45-days have passed since receipt of the PCN package.) Information regarding NWSR may be found at: <https://www.rivers.gov/new-york.php>

**G-E. For all proposals requiring a pre-construction notification (PCN), in addition to the requirements in General Condition 32, the applicant shall also include: (Note: the application will not be considered complete until all of the applicable information is received).**

**1. New York State/USACE Joint Application Form:** The application form shall be completed and signed and shall clearly indicate that the submission is a PCN.  
(<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Application-Forms/>)

**2. Drawings:** The PCN must include legible, black and white project drawings on 8.5" x 11" paper. Full size drawings may be submitted in addition to the 8.5" x 11" plans to aid in the application review. Three types of illustrations are needed to properly depict the work to be undertaken. These illustrations or drawings are a Vicinity Map (i.e. a location map such as a USGS topographical map), a Plan View and a Cross-Section Map. Each illustration should identify the project, the applicant, and the type of illustration (vicinity map, plan view or cross section). The Vicinity Map shall provide the location of the entire project site. In addition, each illustration should be identified with a figure or attachment number. The location map shall include the Latitude and Longitude or UTM coordinates of the project. For linear projects, the PCN shall include a map of the entire project including a delineation of all waters of the U.S. within the corridor. Aquatic resource information shall be submitted using the Cowardin Classification System mapping conventions (e.g. PFO, PEM, etc.)

**3. Color photographs:** The photos should be sufficient to accurately portray the project site, keyed to a location map and not taken when snow cover is present.

**4. Avoidance and Minimization:** The PCN must include a written narrative explaining how avoidance and minimization of temporary impacts and permanent losses of waters of the U.S. were achieved on the project site (i.e. site redesign, reduction in scope, alternate methods, etc.). It should include a description of the proposed construction practices that would be implemented to perform the proposed work and a description of the reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect effects to waters of the U.S. from the proposed construction practices.

**5. Mitigation** (See General Conditions 23 & 32(b)(6)): The PCN must include at least a conceptual compensatory mitigation plan for all projects resulting in the loss of greater than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of an acre of waters of the United States; ~~or for which a waiver of the 300 linear foot limit on intermittent and ephemeral streams is being requested.~~ Mitigation conceptual plans submitted with the PCN must include the following information at a minimum: proposed compensation type (bank or in-lieu fee credit, restoration, creation, preservation, etc.), location and brief discussion on factors considered for site selection (i.e. soils,

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water source, potential for invasive species, etc.), amount proposed per resource type and a discussion of how the proposal will compensate for aquatic resource functions and services lost as a result of the project.

Note 1: All mitigation projects must comply with the Federal Regulations on compensatory mitigation (33 CFR 332) entitled “Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources: Final Rule”, dated April 10, 2008, which is available at: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Portals/45/docs/regulatory/MitandMon/FinalMitigaitonRuleApril2008.pdf> and any applicable District Guidelines.

Note 2: Although a conceptual mitigation plan may be sufficient for the purposes of a PCN submission, a detailed mitigation plan must be approved by the Corps before any jurisdictional work may occur on the project site.

Note 3: If more than 0.10 acres of designated EFH habitat (as discussed in Section G-E.8. below) would be impacted such that habitat would be lost, compensatory mitigation at a minimum ratio of 1:1 is required. A ratio of more than 1:1 may be required depending upon the ecological value of the habitat to be lost or degraded and the form of compensatory mitigation proposed to be provided.

**6. Nationwide Rivers Inventory:** The PCN shall indicate if a river segment listed within the National Park Service Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) is located within the proposed project area. For project areas containing a listed NRI segment, the PCN shall also include a statement as to how adverse effects to the river have been avoided or mitigated. The list is available at: <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rca/nri/states/ny.html>.

**7. Historic or Cultural Resources:** In accordance with General Condition 20, a PCN is required for any non-federal activity which 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 (NR). Please refer to General Condition 20 for submission requirements. In addition, all PCNs must include:

- A written statement indicating if any such properties may be affected by the proposed project.
- A copy of any completed archaeology or building/structure survey reports. If a survey has not been performed, the statement shall include a list of resources checked in the determination.
- Copies of any available correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding historic properties.
- Copies of any available correspondence from federally recognized Indian Nations regarding historic properties that may be affected by the project.
- Projects with ground disturbance may have the potential to cause effects to buried historic properties, regardless of occurring outside SHPO designated archaeological sensitive areas. Therefore, the PCN shall indicate if the ground disturbance will occur in any areas of previously undisturbed soil. For areas with prior disturbance, the PCN shall include a brief narrative describing the disturbance and its limit (i.e. type of disturbance, size of area with current undisturbed soil, size of area with existing disturbed soils, when the disturbance occurred, an estimate on how deep the soil disturbance extends, etc.) as well as photos of the existing ground disturbance.
- Above ground buildings/structures that are over 50 years old and potentially affected by the project will need to be assessed to determine if they are eligible for the NR. The PCN shall: identify any structures present in the project area, which have not already been subject to SHPO review, include photos of the structures, and describe how the project would/would not affect them.

\* - see NWP definition section for further clarification

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NOTE 1: Information regarding historic properties may be found at: <https://cris.parks.ny.gov>. In addition, assistance regarding the determination of the presence of historic or cultural resources at or near the project site should be directed to SHPO.

NOTE 2: as stated in General Condition 20, if any listed, eligible or potentially eligible properties are present, the applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer in writing either that the activity has no potential to cause effects or that consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed.

**8. Endangered Species and Essential Fish Habitat:** In accordance with General Condition 18, non-federal applicants must submit a PCN if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat. Please refer to General Condition 18 for submission requirements. In addition, all PCNs must include:

- a written statement and documentation concerning any Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and any federally listed or proposed Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate (TE&C) species or designated and/or proposed critical habitat that might be affected or located in the vicinity of the project.
- a copy of any correspondence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service (NOAA-Fisheries), regarding the potential presence of TE&C species on the project site. USFWS TE&C website: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/es/section7.htm>. Information on NOAA-Fisheries (NMFS) species (both TE&C and EFH) can be found at: <https://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>
- an official TE&C species list printed within 90 days of the PCN submission from the USFWS Website.
- For projects where TE&C species are listed, a discussion of potential TE&C species habitat within the project site (See USFWS T&E website for species habitat information).
- If there is potential habitat for any TE&C species within the project site the following, as applicable, shall be submitted:
  - a. The results of any habitat surveys and presence/absence surveys. Note: all surveys should be coordinated with the USFWS and/or NOAA-Fisheries (NMFS) prior to initiation.
  - b. A detailed description of the proposed project, including secondary impacts and approximate proposed project construction schedule of project activities (e.g. land clearing, utilities, stormwater management).
  - c. A description of the natural characteristics of the property and surrounding area (e.g. forested areas, freshwater wetlands, open waters, and soils) and a description of surrounding land use (residential, agricultural, or commercial).
  - d. A description of the area to be impacted by the proposed project, including the species, typical sizes (d.b.h.) and number or acres of trees to be removed.
  - e. The location of the above referenced property and extent of any project related activities or discharges clearly indicated on a copy of a USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle (quad) with the name of the quad(s) and latitude/longitude clearly labeled.
  - f. A description of conservation measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts to listed species.

NOTE 1: There are no known TE&C species or EFH species under the jurisdiction of the NOAA-Fisheries (NMFS) within the Buffalo District. Therefore, all Buffalo District requests for information regarding the presence of TE&C species should be directed to the USFWS. In addition, no EFH review is necessary within the following New York District counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Schenectady, Schoharie and Warren.

NOTE 2: Please refer to the following website for further guidance and information relating to regulatory permits & TE&C species in New York:  
<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Endangered-Species/Endangered-Species-New-York/>

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NOTE 3: General Condition #18 is emphasized, ...”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 work will have “no effect” on listed species or critical habitat, or until Section 7 consultation has been completed.”

**9. 100 Year Floodplain:** For permanent fills within waters of the United States within the 100 year floodplain, documentation of compliance with FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

#### **10. Submission of Multiple Copies of PCN when provided via hard copy only:**

- ~~a)~~ ~~One (1) additional copy of the application drawings shall be provided to USACE for coordination with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for utility lines to be constructed or installed in navigable waters of the U.S. proposed under NWP #12, (See Note 1 of NWP #12)~~
- ~~b)a)~~ One (1) additional copy of the PCN package shall be provided to USACE for coordination with Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse (See NWP #12C, 39, 51 & 52 Notes) for:
  - i. overhead utility lines proposed under NWP #12C and
  - ii. any activity that involves the construction of a wind energy generating structure, solar tower, or overhead transmission lines proposed under NWP #39, 51 or 52
- ~~e)b)~~ Two (2) additional copies of the PCN package shall be provided to USACE when the project is located within the New York City Watershed, for coordination with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.
- ~~d)c)~~ Five (5) additional copies of the PCN package shall be submitted to USACE for agency coordination in accordance with General Condition # 31(d)(2) for:
  - i. All NWP activities that result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States,
  - ~~ii. NWP 21, 29, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 50, 51, and 52 activities that will result in the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of intermittent & ephemeral stream bed,~~
  - ~~iii-ii.~~ NWP 13 activities in excess of 500 linear feet, fills greater than one cubic yard per running foot, or involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites;
  - ~~iv-iii.~~ NWP 54 activities in excess of 500 linear feet or that extend into the waterbody more than 30 feet from the mean low water line in tidal waters or the ordinary high water mark in the Great Lakes.

#### **G-F. CRITICAL RESOURCE WATERS**

In accordance with NWP General Condition (GC) #22, certain activities in Critical Resource Waters cannot be authorized under the NWP program or would require a PCN (see GC #22 for a list of the NWP activities that are either excluded or require a PCN).

Critical Resource Waters in New York State include the following:

- 1. East-of-Hudson portion of the New York City Water Supply:** This area includes portions of Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester Counties as delineated on Enclosure 2.
- 2. Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR):** The Hudson River NERR consists of four components: Piermont Marsh, Iona Island, Tivoli Bay, and Stockport Flats.

**H. NYSDEC General Water Quality Certification (WQC) Conditions applicable to all NWPs for which WQC has been provided are as follows: (To be incorporated when WQC received)**



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#### **I. New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination Additional Information (applicable to all NWP's located within or affecting the NYS Coastal Zone):**

Where NYSDOS has objected to the USACE consistency determination or where the project will not comply with the NYSDOS NWP specific condition(s), as outlined in the specific NWP listing in Section B above, the applicant must submit a request for an individual consistency determination to NYSDOS. See Section K for NYSDOS contact information.

Further Information:

- Unless NYSDOS issues consistency concurrence or USACE has determined that NYSDOS concurrence is presumed, NWP's are not valid within the Coastal Zone.
- All consistency concurrence determination requests must be submitted directly to NYSDOS with a copy provided to USACE with any required Preconstruction Notification submissions.
- Limits of the coastal zone and details regarding NYSDOS submission requirements, including application forms can be obtained at: <https://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/consistency/index.html>

#### **J. INFORMATION ON NATIONWIDE PERMIT VERIFICATION**

Verification of the applicability of these Nationwide Permits is valid until ~~March 18, 2022~~ (new date when final) unless the Nationwide Permit is modified, suspended revoked, or the activity complies with any subsequent permit modification.

It is the applicant's responsibility to remain informed of changes to the Nationwide Permit program. A public notice announcing any changes will be issued when they occur and will be available for viewing at our website: <http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

Please note in accordance with 33 CFR part 330.6(b), that if you commence or are under contract to commence an activity in reliance of the permit prior to the date this Nationwide permit expires, is suspended or revoked, or is modified such that the activity no longer complies with the terms and conditions, you have twelve months from the date of permit modification, expiration, or revocation to complete the activity under the present terms and conditions of the permit, unless the permit has been subject to the provisions of discretionary authority.

Possession of this permit does not obviate you of the need to contact all appropriate state and/or local governmental officials to insure that the project complies with their requirements.

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**K. AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

**NYS Department of Environmental Conservation**

[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

**NYS DEC REGION 1**

Regional Permit Administrator  
SUNY @ Stony Brook  
50 Circle Road  
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409  
(631) 444-0365

**NYS DEC REGION 2**

Regional Permit Administrator  
1 Hunter's Point Plaza  
47-40 21st Street  
Long Island City, NY 11101-5407  
(718) 482-4997

**NYS DEC REGION 3**

Regional Permit Administrator  
21 South Putt Corners Road  
New Paltz, NY 12561-1620  
(845) 256-3054

**NYS DEC REGION 4**

Regional Permit Administrator  
1130 North Westcott Road  
Schenectady, NY 12306-2014  
(518) 357-2069

**NYS DEC REGION 4 Sub-Office**

Deputy Regional Permit Administrator  
65561 State Hwy 10  
Stamford, NY 12167-9503  
(607) 652-7741

**NYS DEC REGION 5**

Regional Permit Administrator  
PO Box 296  
1115 Route 86  
Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296  
(518) 897-1234

**NYS DEC REGION 5 Sub-Office**

Deputy Regional Permit Administrator  
PO Box 220  
232 Golf Course Rd  
Warrensburg, NY 12885-0220  
(518) 623-1281

**NYS DEC REGION 6**

Regional Permit Administrator  
317 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601-3787  
(315) 785-2245

**NYS DEC REGION 6 Sub-Office**

Deputy Regional Permit Administrator  
207 Genesee Street  
Utica, NY 13501-2885  
(315) 793-2555

**NYS DEC REGION 7**

Regional Permit Administrator  
615 Erie Blvd. West  
Syracuse, NY 13204-2400  
(315) 426-7438

**NYS DEC REGION 7 Sub-Office**

Deputy Regional Permit Administrator  
1285 Fisher Avenue  
Cortland, NY 13045-1090  
(607) 753-3095

**NYS DEC REGION 8**

Regional Permit Administrator  
6274 E. Avon - Lima Road  
Avon, NY 14414-9519  
(585) 226-2466

**NYS DEC REGION 9**

Regional Permit Administrator  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14203-2915  
(716) 851-7165

**NYS DEC REGION 9 Sub-Office**

Deputy Regional Permit Administrator  
182 East Union Street  
Allegany, NY 14706-1328  
(716) 372-0645

**NYS Department of State**

Division of Coastal Resources  
Consistency Review Unit  
One Commerce Plaza  
99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1010  
Albany, NY 12231-0001  
(518) 474-6000  
<https://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/consistency/index.html>

**US Army Corps of Engineers**

<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>

(For DEC Regions 1, 2 and 3)

**US Army Corps of Engineers NY District**

ATTN: Regulatory Branch  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 1937  
New York, NY 10278-0090  
Email: [CENAN.PublicNotice@usace.army.mil](mailto:CENAN.PublicNotice@usace.army.mil)  
For DEC Regions 1, 2, Westchester County  
and Rockland County (917) 790-8511  
For the other counties of DEC Region 3 -  
(917) 790-8411

(For DEC Regions 4, 5)

**Department of the Army**

**ATTN: CENAN-OP-R**

**NY District, Corps of Engineers**

1 Buffington Street  
Building 10, 3rd Floor  
Watervliet, NY 12189-4000  
(518) 266-6350 - Permits team  
(518) 266-6360 - Compliance Team

Email: [cenan.rfo@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenan.rfo@usace.army.mil)

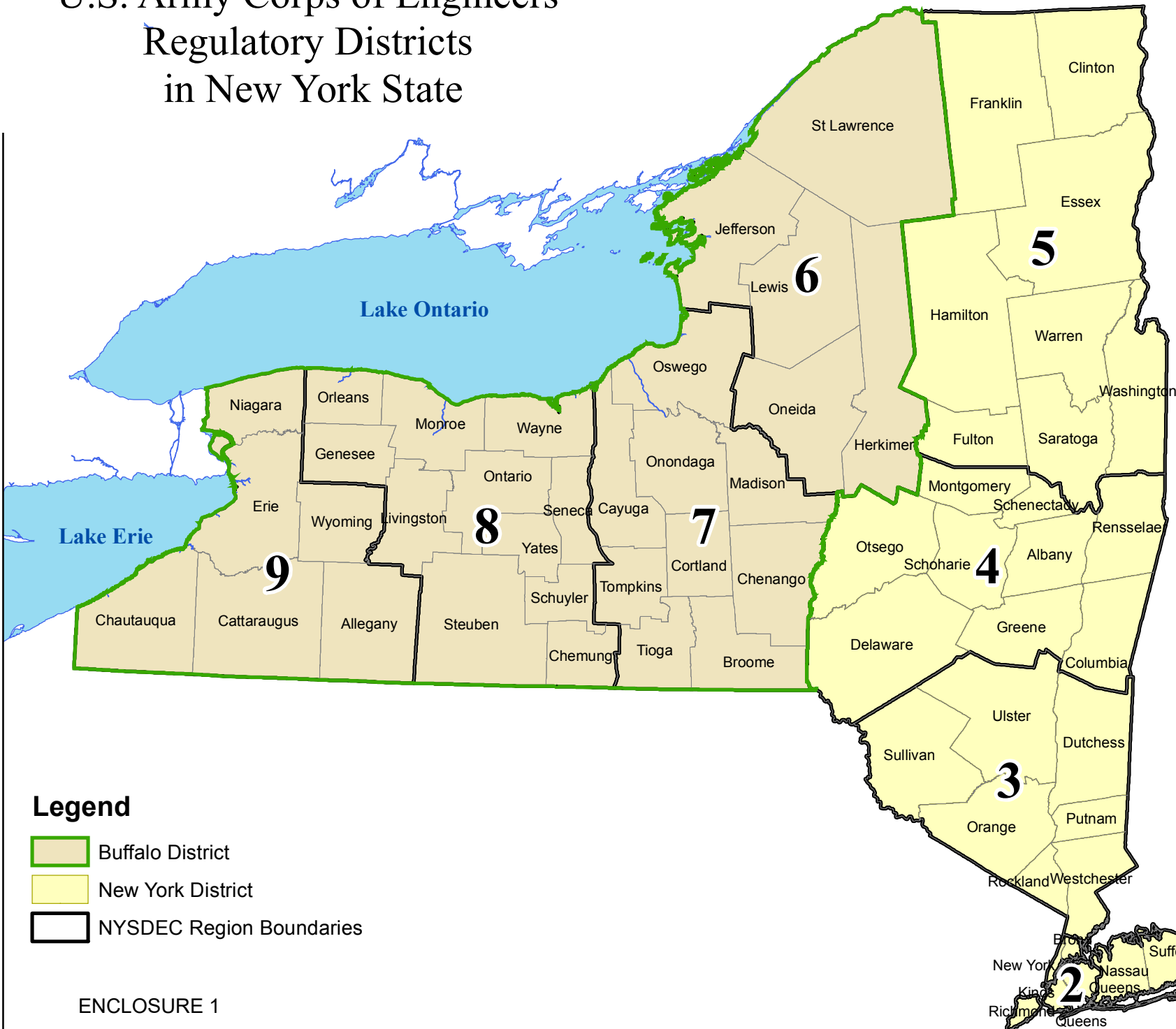
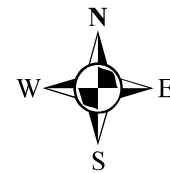
(For DEC Regions 6, 7, 8, 9)

**US Army Corps of Engineers**

**Buffalo District**

ATTN: Regulatory Branch  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199  
(716) 879-4330  
Email: [LRB.Regulatory@usace.army.mil](mailto:LRB.Regulatory@usace.army.mil)  
[www.lrb.usace.army.mil](http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil)

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Districts in New York State



## *Buffalo District*

Regulatory Branch, District Office  
1776 Niagara Street  
Buffalo, New York 14207  
(716) 879-4330

Regulatory Branch, Auburn Field Office  
7413 County House Road  
Auburn, New York 13021  
(315) 255-8090

## *New York District*

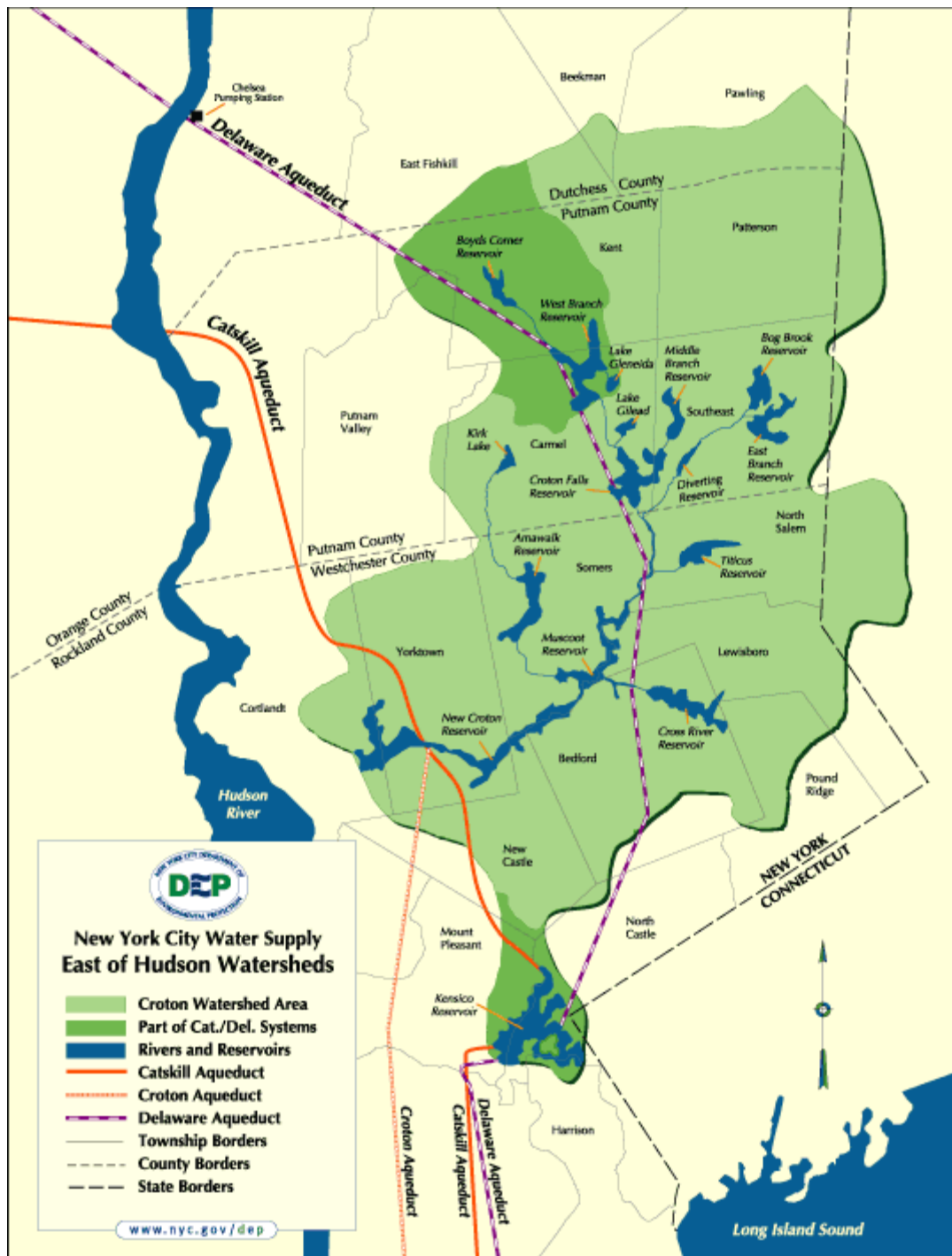
Regulatory Branch, District Office  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, New York 10278-0090  
(917) 790-8411

Regulatory Branch, Upstate Field Office  
1 Buffington Street  
Watervliet, New York 12189-4000  
(518) 266-6350

## Legend

- Buffalo District
- New York District
- NYSDEC Region Boundaries





**ENCLOSURE 2**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW YORK DISTRICT  
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING  
26 FEDERAL PLAZA  
NEW YORK NEW YORK 10278-0090

ENCLOSURE 3

REGULATORY BRANCH

Attn: \_\_\_\_\_

**Commercial Mooring Buoy Application Additional Information**

Permit Application Number NAN-\_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Attn: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Initial    Renewal

If Renewal, USCG Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION OF MOORING:**

Anchorage: \_\_\_\_\_ Chart: \_\_\_\_\_ On Scene Depth (ft.): \_\_\_\_\_

Position\*: \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ W

**MOORING BUOY DATA:**

No. of anchors: \_\_\_\_\_ Lbs. per anchor: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Chain size (in.): \_\_\_\_\_ Scope (yds.): \_\_\_\_\_

Pennant length (yds.): \_\_\_\_\_ Circ. /dia. (in.): \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_

**VESSEL/BARGE DATA:**

Max size (LxBxD): \_\_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_\_ Max No. of barges: \_\_\_\_\_

Configuration (# abreast x # astern): \_\_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_\_ Watch circle\*\* (yds.): \_\_\_\_\_

Swing Radius (yards): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please provide a copy of the NOAA chart showing your proposed mooring buoy location and the swing radius; also identify the Anchorage Ground, if applicable

\*\* Watch Circle =  $\sqrt{(\text{length of scope})^2 - (\text{water depth})^2}$

Swing Radius = (Watch circle) + (Barge(s) length astern) + (Pendant length(s)) + (10% of swing radius). You must maintain an additional 10% of your Swing Radius from any adjacent mooring buoy Swing Radius for safety and maneuvering.

**ENCLOSURE 4**