



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St Paul District

Public Notice

ISSUED: June 19, 2017

REFER TO: RGP-003-MN (MVP-2016-02832)

**SECTIONS: 404 Clean Water Act and
10 Rivers and Harbors Act**

REVOCATION OF PORTIONS OF REGIONAL GENERAL PERMIT RGP-003-MN IN MINNESOTA

1. **PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE.** By this notice, the St. Paul District Corps of Engineers (Corps) announces immediate revocation of eighteen of the activity categories of RGP-003-MN. Six categories of activities as issued on February 3, 2017 are retained. Please refer to the attached Table 1 for a complete list of RGP-003-MN categories revoked and those that are retained. A final revised version of RGP-003-MN is attached.
2. **BACKGROUND.** RGP-003-MN is a general permit which provides Federal authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404) to discharge dredged and fill material associated with certain activities in waters of the United States in Minnesota. RGP-003-MN also provides Federal authorization under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10) for regulated activities in federally navigable waters. Under a separate notice, the Corps issued forty-two Nationwide Permits (NWP), another type of general permit, under Section 404 and Section 10 for use in Minnesota. The existing RGP-003-MN has been re-evaluated to limit duplication with the NWPs and retain coverage for activities not addressed in the NWPs. A public notice was issued on April 25, 2017 announcing the suspension and proposed revocation of eighteen RGP-003-MN activity categories.
3. **CATEGORIES REVOKED.** The eighteen suspended RGP-003-MN categories shown on Table 1 are revoked effective the date of this notice. All pending and future requests for Section 404 and Section 10 permits that would have previously been evaluated under the terms and conditions of the revoked RGP-003-MN categories will be processed under the NWPs or another applicable general permit, or an individual permit as appropriate.
4. **CATEGORIES RETAINED.** Six categories of activities in RGP-003-MN are retained as published by the Corps on February 3, 2017, and remain in effect. The retained RGP-003-MN categories either have no comparable NWP, the comparable NWP is suspended from use, or use of the similar NWP would increase regulatory review requirements compared to the current procedures.
5. **JURISDICTION AND REGULATORY AUTHORITY.** All work currently authorized under RGP-003-MN occurs in waters of the U.S., which include navigable waters of the U.S., wetlands, and other waters subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Corps pursuant to Section 404 and Section 10.
6. **FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT.** The revoked categories of RGP-003-MN will not affect Federally-listed endangered or

Suspension and Proposed Revocation of portions of RGP-003-MN

threatened species or their critical habitat. Revocation of these eighteen categories will not affect the Corps' responsibility to ensure that all Section 10 and Section 404 authorizations comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

7. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL. The revocation of portions of RGP-003-MN will not affect known or unknown archaeological, scientific, or historical resources. Implementation of this proposal will not affect the Corps' responsibility to ensure that all Section 10 and Section 404 authorizations comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
8. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION. Water quality certification was issued by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for RGP-003-MN on February 3, 2017. The revocations to RGP-003-MN were coordinated with the MPCA, and MPCA confirmed that the proposed actions do not require re-evaluation of the issued WQC. The WQC issued by MPCA remains valid for the six retained categories of RGP-003-MN.
9. PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW. The decision to revoke portions of RGP-003-MN was based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the actions on the public interest as described in 33 Code of Federal Regulations 325.7(a). Those considerations include changes in circumstance since the original permit was issued, the adequacy of or need for the existing permit, the extent to which suspension or other action (in this case, partial revocation) would adversely affect plans, investments and actions the regulated community has reasonably made or taken in reliance on RGP-003-MN. The administrative record for this permit is available for review in the Corps District Office.
10. FINAL ACTION. All eighteen suspended RGP-003-MN categories are revoked, effective the date of this notice. All retained categories remain as originally published.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Chad Konickson
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Table 1: Revocation of RGP-003-MN Activity Categories

RGP-003-MN Section	RGP category name	Revoked	Comparable NWP
A	Maintenance Activities	Yes	NWP 3
B	Bank Stabilization	Yes	NWP 13
C	Utility Line Discharges	No	NWP 12 (revoked in MN)
D	USCG Approved Bridges	Yes	NWP 15 (revoked in MN)
E	Return Water from Upland Contained Disposal Areas	Yes	NWP 16
F	Oil Spill/Hazardous Substances Clean Up	Yes	NWP 20
G	Structural Discharges	Yes	NWP 25
H	Completed Enforcement Actions	Yes	NWP 32
I	Stream & Wetland Restoration, Enhancement, or Establishment Activities	Yes	NWP 27
J	Moist Soil Management for Wildlife	Yes	NWP 30
K	Minor Discharges	No	NWP 18
L	Linear Transportation Crossings	No	NWP 14 (revoked in MN)
M	Grassed Waterways	Yes	NWP 40
N	Wildlife Ponds	No	No applicable NWP
O	Residential, Commercial, Agricultural & Institutional Developments	Yes	NWPs 29, 39, 40
Q	Compensatory Mitigation Bank Construction	Yes	NWP 27
R	Scientific Measuring Devices	Yes	NWP 5
S	Survey Activities/Test Drilling	Yes	NWP 6
T	Restoration of Impacts from Exempted Activities	Yes	No applicable NWP
U	Temporary Access, Structures or Dewatering	Yes	NWP 33
V	Time Sensitive Pipeline Repair or Maintenance	No	No applicable NWP
W	Outfall Structures/Assoc Intake	Yes	NWP 7
X	Beach Sand Blankets	No	No applicable NWP
Y	Boat Ramps	Yes	NWP 36

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

Permittee: The General Public in Minnesota

Permit No: Regional General Permit (RGP)-003-MN

Issuing Office: St. Paul District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Issuance Date: February 3, 2017

Modification Date: June 19, 2017

Expiration Date: February 2, 2022

NOTE: The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this permit, means the permittee or any future transferee. The term "this office" refers to the appropriate district or division office of the Corps of Engineers having jurisdiction over the permitted activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the commanding officer.

AUTHORITIES. Authorities include Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), as designated for each category of activities below in the section "Activities Authorized by the RGP-003-MN". General permits are issued for activities that are similar in nature and cause only minimal individual and cumulative impacts.

Project Description: The general public in Minnesota is hereby authorized to discharge dredged and fill material into waters of the United States, and perform work in/over/under Section 10 navigable waters, for the specified activities listed below. This authorization is subject to the enclosed terms, conditions, and limitations.

Project Location: RGP-003-MN project worksites are located in various waters of the United States, including streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands and navigable waters of the U.S. at various locations in the state of Minnesota, except within the exterior boundaries of Indian Reservations. For a complete list of Section 10 Waters in Minnesota please refer to the St. Paul District Regulatory Website: <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil>

Activities Specifically Excluded From RGP-003-MN: RGP-003-MN authorization is not valid for any activity that:

1. Would permanently alter over 500 linear feet of a natural watercourse in a single location through channelization, diversion or filling. NOTE: This exclusion does not apply to projects where the permanent alteration would have an overall beneficial effect on the aquatic ecosystem associated with discharges proposed under Activities I (Stream and Wetland Restoration, Enhancement or Establishment Activities) or Q (Compensatory Mitigation Bank Construction);
2. Is located within a component of a designated Federal Wild and Scenic River, when the responsible Federal Agency has determined that the project would have a direct and adverse impact on the values that made the designated river eligible. (See General Condition 15);
3. Except as noted below, is in a calcareous fen, or in wetlands adjacent to and within 300 feet of a state designated calcareous fen. A list of calcareous fens can be found on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) Website <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>. This restriction does not apply to work for which the MN DNR has approved a calcareous fen management plan specific to a project that otherwise qualifies for authorization under this general permit. Project proponents must provide evidence of an approved fen management plan to the District;
4. Is part of a project that would divert more than 10,000 gallons per day of surface or ground water into or out of the Great Lakes Basin;
5. Is within the exterior boundaries of a Federally-recognized Indian Reservation; or
6. May impact federally listed threatened or endangered species, species proposed for such designation or designated critical habitat until notified by the District that the requirements of the Endangered Species Act have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized(See General Condition 21).

TERMS and PROVISIONS:

1. DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY. As allowed under 33 CFR 325.2(e)(2), the Corps retains discretionary authority to require an individual permit review of any activity eligible for authorization under RGP-003-MN based on concern for the aquatic environment or for any other factor of the public interest.

2. PRECONSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION (PCN). Where required by the terms of this regional general permit, a prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer by submitting a PCN prior to beginning the activity and shall not begin the activity until written confirmation that the project is authorized by RGP-003-MN is provided, except as otherwise indicated. See Activities Requiring a PCN in How to Apply for Authorization Information in #4 below.

3. CALCULATING AQUATIC IMPACTS. For those activities with threshold limits, impacts shall be calculated using the units of measure specified in each permitting category (i.e. area, linear feet, and/or volume) of waters of the United States temporarily and permanently occupied by a structure, plus the area (or other measure as required by the category) of waters of the United States temporarily and permanently filled, excavated, inundated, drained, or converted to a different cover type (unless otherwise indicated). Waters of the United States permanently converted to another wetland cover type are considered a permanent impact. Activities must meet all limitations contained in a permit category (for example: linear and area threshold limits).

For activities requiring PCN, all impacts, permanent and temporary, must be included in the PCN.

4. HOW TO APPLY FOR AUTHORIZATION UNDER RGP-003-MN:

a. Activities Requiring a PCN- Where required by the terms of this RGP, the prospective permittee must notify the District Engineer with a PCN, and shall not begin the activity until notified by the St. Paul District that the project is eligible for authorization under this RGP and work may proceed with any special conditions imposed by the District Engineer, or designated representative.

PCN requirements give the Corps the opportunity to evaluate certain proposed RGP activities on a case-by-case basis to ensure that they will have no more than minimal adverse effects, individually and cumulatively. This case-by-case review often results in adding project-specific conditions to the authorization to ensure that the RGP authorizes only activities that result in minimal individual and cumulative effects on the aquatic environment and other public interest review factors. Review of the PCN may also result in the Corps asserting discretionary authority to require a higher level of individual permit review.

Contents of the PCN: The notification must be in writing and include the following: (1) Name, address, and telephone numbers of prospective permittee; (2) Location of the proposed project; (3) A description of the proposed project and scope of work; (4) all direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause; (5) identification of aquatic resources in the project area (in some cases the Corps may require a delineation of the project area prepared in accordance with the current Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and appropriate regional supplement); (6) a statement regarding compensatory mitigation (33 CFR 325.1(d)(7)); (7) drawings or sketches should be provided as necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the RGP; and (8) any other general or individual permits used or intended to be used to authorize the project.

b. Activities Not Requiring PCN- Activities authorized by this RGP that do not require a PCN may commence when project proponents have carefully confirmed that the activity will be conducted in compliance with all of the terms and conditions of RGP-003-MN. No PCN to the Corps is required; however, if requested, the Corps will confirm whether or not proposed work is authorized by the RGP. Persons proposing to do work should note that conditions of the RGP require that adverse impacts on water and wetland resources be avoided and minimized to the maximum extent practical. Activities that would adversely affect Federal endangered plant or animal species, certain cultural/archaeological resources, or activities specifically excluded from authorization under RGP-003-MN are excluded from authorization under the no PCN required categories of this RGP.

General Information- Information about the Corps Regulatory Program, Corps staff contacts by county and permit requirements may be obtained by emailing mvp-reg-inquiry@usace.army.mil or on the District's web page <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil>. If the necessary information is not available on the referenced web site, the Corps contact for your county can be obtained by calling 651-290-5525 or 1-800-290-5847 ext. 5525.

5. ENDANGERED SPECIES. The Corps review will include a determination regarding compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Corps staff will consult directly with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

concerning projects or proposals which appear to have the potential to affect threatened or endangered species (listed species), species proposed for such designation or designated critical habitat as identified under the Federal ESA. Projects that impact waters of the U.S, including wetlands, within areas with known occurrences of listed species must be coordinated with the St. Paul District to assure listed species will not be affected. Work on projects that may affect listed species or designated critical habitat shall not begin until the project proponent is notified by the District that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. Information about currently listed Federal Threatened or Endangered species in Minnesota may be obtained by contacting the USFWS Twin Cities Field Office at 952-252-0092 or visiting <http://www.fws.gov>. The USFWS evaluates species and habitats as proposed candidates for listing and continually updates the federal list. See General Condition 21.

Persons performing work should be aware that Federal or state regulations concerning endangered species may apply to their projects whether or not the work requires a Corps permit.

6. HISTORIC PROPERTIES AND CULTURAL RESOURCES. The Corps review will include a determination regarding compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as appropriate. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted to determine the presence or absence of known cultural resources. Corps staff will consult cultural resources staff concerning projects with the potential to affect cultural resources. Corps staff will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office as appropriate. Cultural resources surveys will be required where necessary and in most cases, the District will require that the project proponent conduct the investigation (survey). (33 CFR Part 325 Appendix C.5(e)). See General Condition 8.

Information concerning cultural resources may be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office website (<http://www.mnhs.org>) or by calling (651) 259-3457.

Persons performing work should be aware that Federal or state regulations concerning cultural resources may apply to their projects whether or not the work requires a Corps permit.

7. STATE DESIGNATED TROUT STREAMS. Projects with impacts to a state designated trout stream or a water of the U.S., including wetlands, that are adjacent to and within 300 feet of a state designated trout stream must notify the District Engineer with a PCN, and shall not proceed until written verification that the project is authorized by RGP-003-MN is provided. Special conditions may be imposed by the District Engineer, or designated representative.

8. FEDERAL PROJECTS (Section 408). Projects with the potential to affect federal projects must notify the District Engineer with a PCN, and shall not proceed until notified by the St. Paul District that the project is eligible for authorization under this RGP and work may proceed with any special conditions imposed by the District Engineer, or designated representative.

Examples of federal projects include but are not limited to works that were built by the Corps and are locally maintained (such as local flood control projects) or operated and maintained by the Corps (such as locks and dams).

Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and codified in 33 USC 408 (commonly referred to as "Section 408") authorizes the Secretary of the Army, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a USACE civil works project if the Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project.

9. FEDERAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITY TO INDIAN TRIBES. Projects that the Corps finds to have potential to affect tribal interests will be coordinated with the appropriate Indian Tribal governments. The Tribe's views and the federal trust responsibility will be considered in the Corps evaluation. See General Condition 14.

10. OTHER AGENCY PERMIT REQUIREMENTS. Corps RGP-003-MN authorization does not eliminate the need for other local, state or federal authorizations, including but not limited to, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or State Disposal System (SDS) permits from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), public waters work permits from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), or Wetland Conservation Act authorizations from the applicable local governmental unit.

11. OTHER AGENCY INFORMATION. Other agency information may assist project proponents in designing projects or preparing information about their project. This information, such as Best Practices for Meeting DNR General Public Waters Work Permit GP2004-0001: MN Department of Transportation Projects with Bridges, Culverts, or Outfalls, dated May 2011, is located on the DNR's website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

12. DEFINITIONS.

Bioengineering - Bioengineering is the combination of biological, mechanical, and ecological concepts to control erosion and stabilize shorelines through the use of vegetation or a combination of vegetation and construction materials. Some examples of bioengineering techniques include: coir fabric, fascines, rootwad revetments, live pole cuttings, brush mattresses, vegetated reinforced soil slope (VRSS), etc.

Compensatory Mitigation - The restoration (re-establishment or rehabilitation), establishment (creation), enhancement, and/or, in certain circumstances, preservation of aquatic resources for the purposes of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization measures have been incorporated into the project.

Conversion or Exchange - Activities that involve converting one type of wetland or aquatic resource to another. Conversion typically does not result in increased functions. For example, excavating a sedge meadow to create deep marsh, impounding water over a forested wetland that drowns out the woody vegetation and replaces it with an aquatic bed community, or placing a control structure on a stream to create an impoundment, may degrade the functions of the existing wetland or aquatic resource and, if regulated, can trigger the requirement for compensatory mitigation to offset adverse impacts and loss of functions of the previously existing wetland or aquatic resource.

Creation (Establishment) – Activities that involve manipulating an area or constructing a wetland in an upland site where wetlands have not historically existed.

Currently Serviceable - Useable as is or with some maintenance, but not so degraded as to essentially require reconstruction.

Enhancement - Enhancement involves activities or management techniques that result in improvement or a net increase to specific functions(s) of an existing wetland or aquatic resource, such as invasive weed eradication or control, prescribed burns, planting of native vegetation, or instream habitat structures. This increase in one or more functions does not result in a gain in aquatic resource acres and may result in a decrease in other aquatic resource functions. Work resulting in a change in type does not constitute enhancement.

Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material - Fill material (as defined in 33 CFR 323.2) means material placed in waters of the United States where the material has the effect of:

- (a) Replacing any portion of a water of the United States with dry land; or
- (b) Changing the bottom elevation of any portion of a water of the United States.

Examples of fill material include, but are not limited to: rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mining or other excavation activities, and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in the waters of the United States. The term fill material does not include trash or garbage.

Forested Wetlands - Forested wetlands include all wetlands that meet the technical criteria established by Eggers, S.D. and D.M. Reed. 1997. [Wetland Plants and Plant Communities of Minnesota and Wisconsin. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District] for Coniferous Bog, Hardwood Swamp, Coniferous Swamp, or Floodplain Forest plant community types. This definition includes areas that have been deforested within the last 5 years.

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

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

Invasive/Nonnative plant species - For the purposes of this RGP invasive and/or non-native plant species include but are not limited to: reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), smooth brome grass (*Bromus inermis*), giant ragweed (*Ambrosia trifida*), common ragweed (*Ambrosia*

artemisiifolia), quack grass (*Elytrigia repens*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), sweet clovers (*Melilotus alba* and *M. officinalis*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), yellow iris (*Iris psuedacorus*), crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*), birdsfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), non-native honeysuckles (e.g., *Lonicera x bella*), non-native buckthorns (*Rhamnus cathartica* and *R. frangula*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Note – this list is provided primarily for informational purposes only and is applicable for project proponents developing on-site compensatory mitigation plans; and for those proposing projects under categories I, J, M and N. This list is not a General Condition for which all RGP-003-MN authorizations are subject.

Loss of Waters - Waters of the United States that are permanently adversely affected by filling, flooding, excavation, or drainage because of the regulated activity. Permanent adverse effects include permanent discharges of dredged or fill material that change an aquatic area to dry land, increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody, or change the use of a waterbody. The acreage of loss of waters of the U.S. is a threshold measurement of the impact to jurisdictional waters for determining whether a project may qualify for RGP-003-MN; it is not a net threshold that is calculated after considering compensatory mitigation that may be used to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. The loss of stream bed includes the linear feet of stream bed that is filled or excavated. Waters of the United States temporarily filled, flooded, excavated, or drained, but restored to pre-construction contours and elevations after construction, are not included in the measurement of loss of waters of the United States. Impacts resulting from activities eligible for exemptions under Section 404(f) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) are not considered when calculating the loss of waters of the United States.

Ordinary High Water Mark - The term ordinary high water mark means that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of the soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter or debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas (33 CFR 328.3(e)).

Practicable – Available and capable of being done after taking into consideration cost, existing technology and logistics in light of the overall project purpose.

Preconstruction Notification - A written request submitted by the prospective permittee to the Corps for confirmation that a particular activity is authorized by a general permit. The request may be a permit application, letter, or similar document that includes information about the proposed scope of work, location, extent of resources in the project area, and the projects anticipated environmental effects. A PCN may be voluntarily submitted in cases where PCN is not required but the prospective permittee wants Corps confirmation that the activity is authorized by a general permit (See section 4a under Terms and Provisions for PCN requirements).

Previously Authorized - For the purposes of this RGP, this refers to projects that have previously received authorization under Section 404 of the CWA or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. This includes projects authorized by general permits that do not require a PCN but does not include projects constructed under CWA exemptions, projects constructed prior to enactment of the CWA, or unauthorized fills.

Real Estate Subdivision - Any land that is divided for the purposes of disposition into two or more lots, parcels, units, or interests.

Restoration - Restoration consists of the re-establishment or rehabilitation of sites that historically supported wetlands or streams and frequently retain some wetland components (e.g., hydric soils) or stream processes even after man-made disturbances such as drainage, cropping or channelization. Re-establishment involves techniques for returning wetland functions to a location where no wetland currently exists and generally results in a gain in wetland function and acres. Rehabilitation involves repairing or increasing the functions of an existing, degraded wetland or stream and does not result in a gain in wetland acres.

Reversion - The act of returning an area or part of the landscape to a previous land use condition (i.e. agricultural land that is returned to agricultural production after the terms of a wetland enhancement agreement has expired).

Section 10 - Refers to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. This act addresses activities in, over or under navigable waters of the United States.

Shoreland (Wetland) Protection Zone – For the purposes of RGP-003-MN, the term shoreland wetland protection zone includes areas defined under Minnesota Statute 103G.005, subdivision 15b. (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov>)

Single and Complete Project - For purposes of RGP-003-MN, the term, "single and complete project" means the total project proposed. For example, if construction of a residential development or linear project such as a road or utility line affects several different areas of waters/wetlands, the cumulative total of impacted waters of the U.S., including wetlands, is the basis for deciding the project's total wetland/water impact. For "phased" developments, each phase may constitute a single and complete project if it has independent utility and would accomplish its intended purpose whether or not other phases were constructed.

Special Aquatic Site - Special aquatic sites are defined in the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR part 230) as those sites identified in subpart E. They are geographic areas, large or small, possessing special ecological characteristics of productivity, habitat, wildlife protection, or other important and easily disrupted ecological values. These areas are generally recognized as significantly influencing or positively contributing to the general overall environmental health or vitality of the entire ecosystem of a region. Those most frequently found in Minnesota are wetlands, riffle-pool complexes, and vegetated shallows.

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

ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED BY THE RGP-003-MN:

A. Reserved.

B. Reserved.

C. Utility Line Discharges.

Discharges of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S. or work in/over/under Section 10 waters required for the construction, maintenance and repair of utility lines and associated facilities, including:

1. Utility lines: Discharges of dredged or fill material associated with excavation, backfilling or placement of bedding material for the construction or maintenance of utility lines for a single and complete project provided that the area is restored to preconstruction contours and elevations.

A utility line is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any gaseous, liquid, liquefiable, or slurry substance, for any purpose, and any cable, line, or wire for the transmission of electrical energy, telephone, electronic data, and radio or television communication. The term utility line does not include activities which drain a water of the United States, such as drainage tile or french drains, but does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the U.S. for up to 90 days during the growing season (May 1 through October 1), provided that the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. Temporary fills that would remain in place for longer periods must be approved by the District Engineer and must comply with the PCN requirements identified in General Condition 6. In

wetlands, the top 6" to 12" of the trench shall normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. Furthermore, the trench shall not be constructed in such a manner as to drain waters of the U.S. (e.g. backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a French drain effect). Utility line trenches can be backfilled with clay blocks to ensure that the trench does not drain waters of the U.S. Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line crossing of each water body.

2. Foundations for overhead utility lines, utility poles or anchors: Discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction or maintenance of foundations, utility poles or anchors in waters of the U.S., provided that the foundations are the minimum size necessary and separate footings are used where feasible.

3. Utility line substation or associated facilities: Discharges of dredged or fill material for construction of substation or other facilities associated with a utility line that permanently impact not more than ½ acre of waters of the U.S.

Temporary structures, fills and work necessary to construct or conduct the maintenance/repair activity are authorized. This includes the placement of temporary construction mats and mechanized land clearing necessary for the construction, repair or maintenance of utility lines, substations and foundations, provided that the cleared area is kept to a minimum and pre-construction contours and elevations are restored. Temporary fill impacts must be kept to the minimum necessary to complete the work. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary

structures/work/discharges including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of clean fill 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 contours and elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be re-vegetated, with native, non-invasive plant species, as appropriate. **(Section 10 RHA / Section 404 CWA)**

Notification Requirements:

The project proponent must notify the District Engineer by submitting a PCN and receive written confirmation that the project is authorized by the RGP-003-MN, if any of the following criteria are met:

The utility line that is in or crosses waters of the U.S. totals more than 500 feet in length; **or** mechanized land clearing of forested wetland or permanent conversion of forested wetlands would occur; **or** activities are conducted in/over/under waters covered by Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; **or** temporary fills would remain in place in excess of 90 days during the growing season (May 1 through October 1).

D. Reserved.

E. Reserved.

F. Reserved.

G. Reserved.

H. Reserved.

I. Reserved.

J. Reserved.

K. Minor discharges.

Discharges of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S., or activities in/over/under Section 10

waters, for a single and complete project that would result in filling, draining, excavating or inundating not more than 400 square feet of waters of the U.S., including wetlands. This authorization may NOT be used more than once by the permittee or property owner so as to impact more than 400 square feet of the same wetland basin. **(Section 10 RHA / Section 404 CWA)**

Notification Requirements:

The project proponent must notify the District Engineer by submitting a PCN if activities are conducted in/over/under navigable waters covered by Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

L. Linear transportation

crossings. Discharges of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S. or work in/over/under Section 10 waters required for the construction, expansion, modification, or improvement of linear transportation projects (e.g. roads, highways, railways, and taxiways). The discharge into waters of the U.S. cannot exceed 0.5 acre of total permanent impacts or 500 linear feet of permanent impacts to a tributary at a single location. The width of the crossing must be limited to the minimum necessary for the actual crossing, and shall be culverted, bridged or otherwise designed to prevent the restriction of and withstand the expected high flows, prevent the restriction of low flows, and provide for the movement of organisms and the natural transport of sediment. This RGP category cannot be used to authorize non-linear features that may be associated with transportation projects, such as maintenance buildings, parking lots or aircraft hangars. Additionally, this RGP category cannot be used to authorize discharges associated with the maintenance, reconstruction, expansion, modification, or improvement of existing public road systems proposed by public road authorities; such discharges

will be evaluated pursuant to RGP-004-MN.

Temporary structures, fills and work necessary to conduct the construction activity are authorized. Temporary impacts are not included in the ½ acre limitation. Temporary impacts must be kept to the minimum necessary to complete the work. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures/work/discharges including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of clean fill 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 contours and elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be re-vegetated with native, non-invasive plant species, as appropriate. **(Section 10 RHA / Section 404 CWA)**

Notification Requirements:

The project proponent must notify the District Engineer by submitting a PCN and receive written confirmation that the project is authorized by the RGP-003-MN, if any of the following criteria are met:

There is any discharge into a special aquatic site, including wetlands; **or** there is any discharge into a stream or river; **or** activities are conducted in/over/under waters covered by Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

M. Reserved.

N. Wildlife Ponds. Discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction of wildlife ponds that result in permanent and temporary impacts, through filling, excavation, or inundation, of up to

½ acre of waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Wildlife ponds shall be constructed with irregular shorelines, shallow side slopes that are 8-foot horizontal to 1-foot vertical or flatter, dominated by water depths of 4 feet or less and no deeper than 6.6 feet (2 meters). All excess excavated material must be placed at an upland location and no temporary stockpiling of excavated material is allowed in wetlands outside the footprint of the pond site. The primary purpose of this activity must be wildlife habitat. The creation of nesting islands is not authorized and impacts to forested wetlands is not authorized under this category. This RGP category does not authorize the discharge of dredged or fill material into streams. **(Section 404 CWA)**

Notification Requirements:

The project proponent must notify the District Engineer by submitting a PCN and receive written confirmation that the project is authorized by the RGP-003-MN.

O. Reserved.

P. Reserved.

Q. Reserved.

R. Reserved.

S. Reserved.

T. Reserved.

U. Reserved.

V. Time Sensitive Pipeline Repair or Maintenance.

Discharges of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S. or work in/over/under Section 10 waters required for the inspection, repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of any currently serviceable structure or fill for pipelines that have been identified by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's Pipeline Safety Program (PHP) as time-sensitive (see 49 CFR parts 192 and 195).

This RGP category does not authorize the construction of new

pipelines. This RGP category does not authorize the re-alignment of existing pipelines to a new area. This RGP category does not authorize any repair that permanently impacts the flow or circulation of waters of the U.S., such as an alteration or channelization of streams.

(Section 10 RHA / Section 404 CWA)

Notification Requirements:

The project proponent must notify the District Engineer by submitting a PCN and receive written confirmation that the project is authorized by the RGP-003-MN.

The exclusion to work in a calcareous fen or in wetlands adjacent to or within 300 feet of a state designated calcareous fen do not apply to this category if the project proponent provides a MN DNR approved fen management plan specific to the work.

W. Reserved.

X. Beach Sand Blankets.

Discharges associated with the placement of sand blankets in waters of the U.S. or work in/over/under Section 10 waters, provided that no material is placed in wetlands above the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and that the sand blanket does not exceed 50 feet in width (parallel to the shoreline) and 10 feet in length (perpendicular to the shoreline) waterward of the OHWM. This RGP category does not authorize material to be placed in areas of existing emergent vegetation without first obtaining a MN DNR permit to control aquatic plants. This RGP category does not authorize material to be placed in posted fish spawning areas. This RGP category does not authorize the use of a plant barrier or liner.

(Section 10 RHA /Section 404 CWA)

Notification Requirements:

The project proponent must notify the District Engineer by

submitting a PCN if a sand blanket is proposed to be placed in the same location more than twice or activities are conducted in/over/under navigable waters covered by Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

The limitation on sand reapplication applies regardless of the maintenance provisions of Category A of this RGP.

Y. Reserved.

General Conditions

All RGP-003-MN authorizations are subject to the following General Conditions, as applicable, in addition to any case-specific conditions imposed by the District Engineer. These conditions and any special conditions must be satisfied for any RGP authorization to be valid:

1. Mitigation/Sequencing.

Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. **must be minimized or avoided to the maximum extent practicable.**

When determining the least environmentally damaging practicable on-site alternative, impacts to all resources including jurisdictional waters, non-jurisdictional waters, and high quality uplands should be considered.

Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, or compensating) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal. Compensatory mitigation requirements are determined on a case by case basis and may be required to reduce adverse effects of a project, either temporary or permanent, to the minimal level.

The District Engineer will determine appropriate compensatory mitigation requirements in accordance with

Federal guidelines and established District policy.

Generally, compensatory wetland mitigation shall be required for projects that impact more than:

400 square feet in a shoreland wetland protection zone,

2,000 square feet in a "less-than-50 percent" county,

5,000 square feet in a "50%-to-80%" county, and

10,000 square feet in a "greater than 80%" county.

as shown on the attached map labeled enclosure 1:

When the above project thresholds are exceeded, the compensatory mitigation requirement applies to the project's total wetland impacts, including the threshold amounts specified above. Use of Corps-approved mitigation banks and in-lieu fee procedures are generally acceptable methods of providing compensatory mitigation for small projects having compensatory mitigation requirements.

Compensatory mitigation shall be designed to replace the functions lost as result of the project. Where certain functions and services of waters of the U.S. are permanently adversely affected as a result of the authorized discharge, such as the conversion of a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility right of way, or are temporarily affected, such as the temporary conversion of forested or scrub-shrub wetlands in a linear project corridor, compensatory mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse effects of the project to the minimal level.

For activities where compensatory mitigation is required, project proponents should include a mitigation plan prepared in accordance with 33 CFR Part 332, and St. Paul District Policy.

(<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil>). The plan prepared should describe the measures proposed to ensure that the activity complies with the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines (40 CFR Part 230). In cases where a Corps-approved bank is proposed to be used, a statement of intent to use the bank is generally sufficient. Compensatory mitigation required by other Federal or state programs may, but will not necessarily, satisfy this CWA requirement.

2. Navigation. (a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation. (b) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the U.S. No claim shall be made against the U.S. on account of any such removal or alteration.

3. Suitable fill material. No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, unprocessed asphalt, etc.). All fill (including riprap) authorized under this RGP, must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts.

4. Proper maintenance. Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety.

5. Erosion and siltation controls. Appropriate erosion and siltation controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil

and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Work should be done in accordance with state-approved, published practices, such as those defined in the MPCA document, PROTECTING WATER QUALITY IN URBAN AREAS - BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MINNESOTA.

Upon completion of earthwork operations, all exposed slopes, fills and disturbed areas must be given sufficient protection by appropriate means such as landscaping, planting and/or maintaining vegetative cover to prevent subsequent erosion. Cofferdams shall be constructed and maintained so as to prevent erosion into the water. If earthen material is used for cofferdam construction, sheet piling, riprap or a synthetic cover must be used to prevent dam erosion.

6. Removal of temporary fills. PARAGRAPH A, ACTIVITIES WITHOUT PCN REQUIREMENTS: Temporary discharges in waters of the U.S., including wetlands, must be avoided and limited to the smallest area and the shortest duration required to accomplish the project purpose. Temporary impacts may not remain in place longer than 90 days of the growing season (May 1 through October 1). Before 90 days has lapsed, or the alternative timeframe specified by the District in writing, all temporary fills must be removed in their entirety. Temporary discharges must be fully contained with appropriate erosion control or containment methods. If the temporary impact would remain in place for longer than 90 days a PCN is required and the activity is subject to the requirements and limitations described in paragraph B of this general condition.

PARAGRAPH B, ACTIVITIES WITH PCN REQUIREMENTS: Temporary discharges in waters of the U.S., including wetlands, must

be avoided and limited to the smallest area and the shortest duration required to accomplish the project purpose. The PCN must specify how long the temporary discharge will remain in place and include a restoration plan showing how all temporary fills and structures will be removed and the area restored to pre-project conditions. All temporary fills must be removed in their entirety in accordance with the PCN unless noted differently in the verification letter provided by the District. Temporary discharges must be fully contained with appropriate erosion control or containment methods.

7. Obstruction of high flows. To the maximum extent practicable, discharges must not permanently restrict or impede the passage of normal or expected high flows or cause the relocation of the water (unless the primary purpose of the fill is to impound waters).

8. Historic Properties, Cultural Resources. (a) No activity which may affect historic properties listed or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places is authorized until the District Engineer has complied with the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA. Federal project proponents should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of Section 106 and provide documentation of compliance with those requirements. Information on the location and existence of historic resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places. (b) If cultural resources, such as historic structures or buildings, or archaeological remains are identified in the project area, or are discovered during activities authorized by this permit, you must immediately stop work and notify the District Engineer of what you have found. The District will initiate the Federal and state coordination required to satisfy our responsibilities under Section 106

of the NHPA. (c) Rock or fill material used for activities authorized by this permit must either be obtained from existing quarries or, if a new borrow site is opened up to obtain fill material, the Corps must be notified prior to the use of the new site to determine whether a cultural resources survey of the site is necessary.

9. Adverse effects from impoundments. If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects on the aquatic system caused by the accelerated passage of water and/or the restriction of its flow shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

10. Migratory Bird breeding areas. Activities in waters of the U.S. that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds, including waterfowl, must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

11. Aquatic life movements. No activity may substantially disrupt the movement of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the water body, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water.

12. Spawning areas. Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

13. Equipment. Heavy equipment working in wetlands must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance. Equipment should be clean and free of greases, oils, fuels, and sediments prior to working within aquatic habitats.

14. Tribal rights. No activity or its

operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

15. Wild and Scenic Rivers. No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river has determined that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status. Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency in the area (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

16. Water quality standards. All work or discharges to a watercourse resulting from permitted construction activities, particularly hydraulic dredging, must meet applicable Federal, State, and local water quality and effluent standards on a continuing basis.

17. Preventive measures. Measures must be adopted to prevent potential pollutants from entering the watercourse. Construction materials and debris, including fuels, oil, and other liquid substances, shall not be stored in the construction area in a manner that would allow them to enter the watercourse as a result of spillage, natural runoff, or flooding. To the extent practicable and appropriate, measures should be taken to control and minimize the spread of invasive species via equipment transfer.

18. Spill contingency plan. A contingency plan must be formulated that would be effective in the event of a spill. This requirement is particularly

applicable in operations involving the handling of petroleum products. If a spill of any potential pollutant should occur, it is the responsibility of the permittee to remove such material, to minimize any contamination resulting from this spill, and to immediately notify the State Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798 and the U.S. Coast Guard at 1-800424-8802.

19. Disposal sites. If dredged or excavated material is placed on an upland disposal site (above the ordinary high-water mark or wetland boundary), the site must be securely diked or contained by some other acceptable method that prevents the return of potentially polluting materials to the watercourse by surface runoff or by leaching. The containment area, whether bulkhead or upland disposal site, must be fully completed prior to the placement of any dredged material.

20. Water intakes/activities. No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for repair or improvement of the public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

21. Endangered Species. (a) No activity is authorized under RGP-003-MN which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal ESA, or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species. No activity is authorized under RGP-003-MN which "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat, unless Section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed. Direct effects are the immediate effects on listed species and critical habitat caused by the RGP-003-MN activity. Indirect effects are

those effects on listed species and critical habitat that are caused by the RGP-003-MN activity and are later in time, but still are reasonably certain to occur.

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA. If pre-construction notification is required for the proposed activity, Federal permittees must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will verify that the appropriate documentation has been submitted. If the appropriate documentation has not been submitted, additional ESA section 7 consultation may be necessary for the activity and the respective federal agency would be responsible for fulfilling its obligation under Section 7 of the ESA.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, or if the activity is located in designated critical habitat, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that might be affected by the proposed activity or that utilize the designated critical habitat that might be affected by the proposed work. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity "may affect" or will have "no effect" to listed species and

designated critical habitat. In cases where the non-Federal applicant has identified listed species or critical habitat that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the activity, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification the proposed activities will have "no effect" on listed species or critical habitat, or until Section 7 consultation has been completed.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation with the FWS the district engineer may add species-specific permit conditions to the RGP-003-MN authorization.

(e) Authorization of an activity by RGP-003-MN does not authorize the "take" of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with "incidental take" provisions, etc.) from the FWS, the ESA prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word "harm" in the definition of "take" means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the FWS on their web page at <http://www.fws.gov>

22. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory

Bird Treaty Act

PCN to the Corps is required for projects within 0.5 miles (2,640 feet) of an eagle nest. There are approximately 1300 bald eagle nests distributed among 64 of Minnesota's 87 counties. In Minnesota, bald eagles typically nest in old, large diameter trees within approximately 500 feet of a water body.

It is recommended that the project proponent also contact the USFWS TCFO (952-252-0092) if the proposed project will disturb a bald eagle or a bald eagle nest. Projects involving the placement of potentially lethal infrastructure (communication towers, wind turbines, transmission lines, etc.) within two miles of a bald eagle nest may warrant additional review.

For more information concerning the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act refer to the following website: <http://www.fws.gov>

23. Expiration Date. Unless otherwise specified in the District's letter confirming your project complies with the requirements of this RGP, the time limit for completing work authorized by RGP-003-MN ends upon the expiration date of this RGP-003-MN. Activities authorized under the RGP-003-MN that have commenced construction or are under contract to commence construction, will remain authorized provided the activity is completed within 12 months of the date of the RGP-003-MN expiration, suspension, or revocation; whichever is sooner. If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least three months before the expiration date is reached.

24. Maintenance and Transfer. You must maintain the authorized activity in good condition and in

conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.

25. Inspection. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of RGP-003-MN.

26. State Section 401 Water Quality Certification. The MPCA has issued a 401 water quality certification for the RGP-003-MN. Permittees must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached.

27. Coastal Zone Management consistency determination. The State of Minnesota has determined that the RGP-003-MN is consistent with the CZM program.

Further Information:

1. Congressional Authorities: You have been authorized to undertake the activity described above pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

2. Limits of this authorization.

a. RGP-003-MN does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, state, or local authorizations required by law.

b. RGP-003-MN does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.

c. RGP-003-MN does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

d. RGP-003-MN does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project.

3. Limits of Federal Liability. In authorizing work, the Federal Government does not assume any liability, including but not limited to the following:

a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or un-permitted activities or from natural causes.

b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.

c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or un-permitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.

d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.

e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

4. Reliance on Project Proponent's Data: The determination by this office that an activity is not contrary to the public interest will be made in reliance on the information provided by the project proponent.

5. Reevaluation of Decision. This office may reevaluate its decision on an authorization at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require a reevaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. The permittee fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

b. The information provided by the permittee in support of the preconstruction notification proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate (see 4 above).

c. Significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision.

Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in 33 CFR 325.7 or enforcement procedures such as those contained in 33 CFR 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order requiring the permittee to comply with the terms and conditions of the permit and for the initiation of legal action where appropriate.

6. This Office may also reevaluate its decision to issue RGP-003-MN at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require a reevaluation include, but are not limited to, the following: significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision. Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in 33 CFR 325.7.

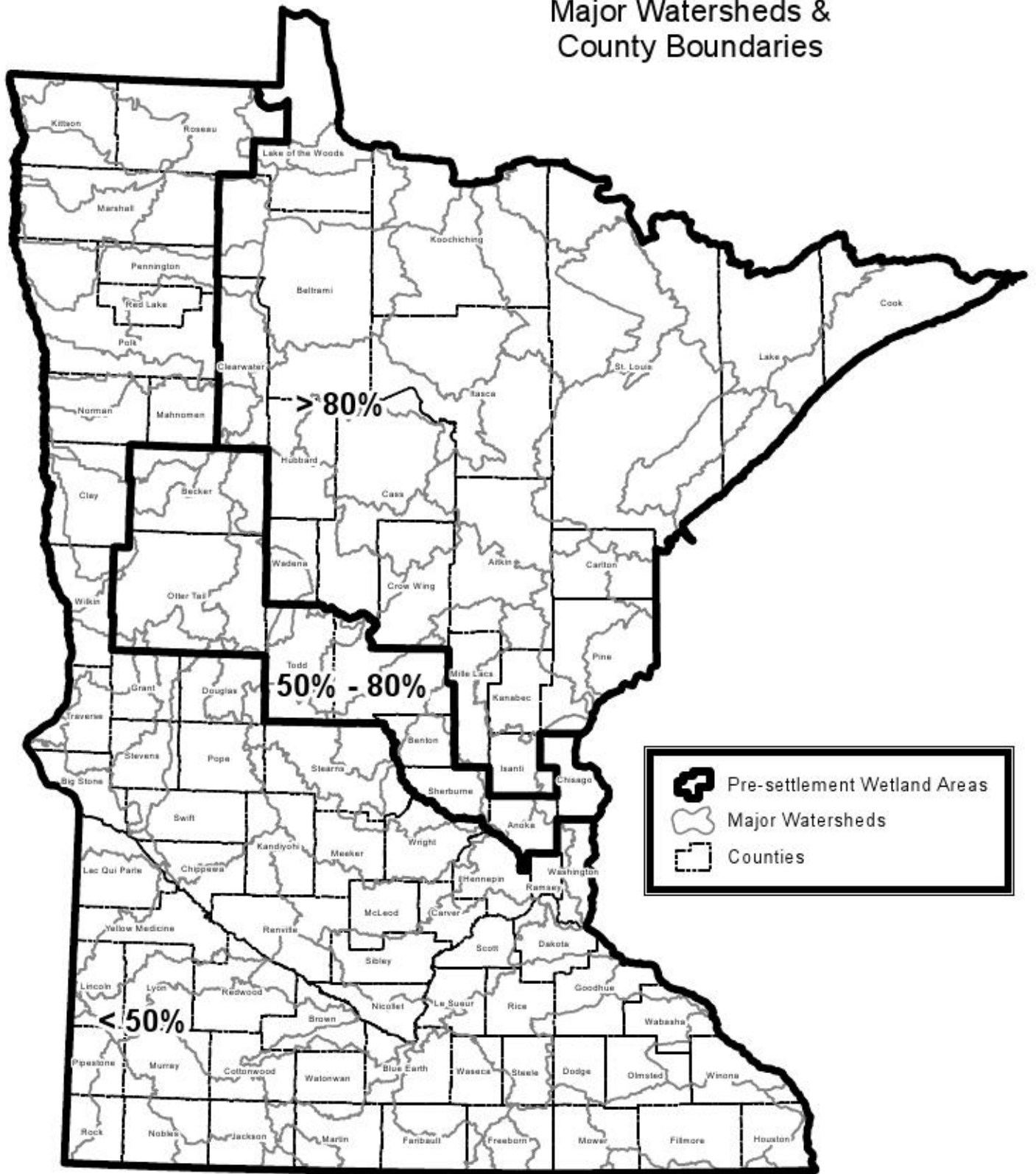
This permit becomes effective when the Federal official, designated to act for the Secretary of the Army, has signed below.

Samuel L. Calkins
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Date

Pre-Settlement Wetland Areas

With
Major Watersheds &
County Boundaries





Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300

800-657-3864 | Use your preferred relay service | info.pca@state.mn.us | Equal Opportunity Employer

February 3, 2017

Mr. Chad Konickson
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch Chief, St. Paul District
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678

RE: Regional General Permit: RGP-003-MN – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency 401 Certification
Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

Dear Mr. Konickson:

This letter is submitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) under authority of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), Minn. Stat. chs. 115 and 116 and Minn. R. 7001.1400-7001.1470, R 7050, 7052, and 7053. The MPCA has examined the information furnished by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), specifically the proposed Regional General Permit, RGP-003-MN, and is requiring conditions through the 401 Water Quality Certification.

Exclusion from 401 Certification of RGP-003-MN

1. **Bridge Maintenance or Demolition activities:**
 - a. This certification does not authorize bridge demolition activities using explosive devices to implode or collapse a bridge, or any portion of a bridge, into any surface water.
 - b. This certification does not authorize any grout material other than concrete to be used as the grout material for riprap. Prior to grouting, plywood sheeting, sheet piling, sand bags, or other suitable best management practices (BMPs) must be placed at the base of the riprap to minimize the discharge of grout into the waterbody. The BMPs must remain in place until all grout has cured.
 - c. Broken concrete from any existing bridge, defined as demolition debris in Minn. R. 7035.0300, subp. 30, cannot be used as riprap.
 - d. Bridge projects not meeting conditions a, b, and c above, are not authorized by this Certification and are denied without prejudice. Such projects will require an individual 401 Water Quality Certification. Bridge projects meeting conditions a, b, and c above are authorized by this Certification.

With the exception of the exclusion above, the MPCA certifies general permit (RGP-003-MN) because there is reasonable expectation that the activities identified within it will be conducted in a manner that will not violate applicable water quality standards so long as the work is done in accordance with the following conditions, which shall become conditions of RGP-003-MN:

Conditions Specific to Individual RGP-003 Categories

In addition to all other applicable certification conditions, the following activities must also comply with the activity-specific conditions below:

1. **Category E. Return Water from Upland Contained Disposal Areas:** The permittee must ensure that return water from dredging that is directly returned to the original source water meets the same water quality standards that apply to the original source water. If the return water is discharged into a receiving water that is not the original source water, then the permittee must ensure that the discharge water will meet the more stringent water quality standard of either the receiving water or the original source water. Discharges of return water must not violate the state water quality standard identified in Minn. R. 7050.0210. Subp.2.
2. **Category W. Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures:** The permittee must ensure that the construction, operation, and maintenance of outfall and intake structures will cause no harm to aquatic life outside of the permitted project area and will not result in an unauthorized loss of Waters of the U.S.

MPCA is responsible for interpretation of the requirements of this condition, determining compliance with the requirements of this condition, and enforcement of this condition. The point of contact at MPCA for questions regarding this condition is 401Certification.pca@state.mn.us.

General conditions

All activities authorized by RGP-003-MN must comply with the conditions below:

1. Permittees must ensure that all Waters of the U.S. in or bordering the construction area that are not identified as being impacted by the project are clearly identified prior to construction. This may be done through demarcation of the construction area on plan sheets or through marking boundaries in the field, for example construction staking, flagging, or the use of silt fences along boundaries. The permittee must not impact these areas while conducting activities under this permit.
2. Compensatory mitigation as imposed by special condition in a RGP-003-MN verification will satisfy the MPCA rules governing wetlands, Minn. R. 7050.0186.
3. The permittee must install in-water BMPs to minimize total suspended solids (TSS) and sedimentation for any work conducted below the ordinary high water level (OHWL) as defined in Minn. Stat. § 103G.005 Subp.14, of any water of the U.S. or within the delineated boundaries of wetlands.

The permittee must document the in-water BMPs to be used during the authorized work prior to disturbing any land at the site; this documentation may be stand-alone or part of an Erosion Control Plan, Construction Plan, or other relevant construction document. This documentation is not required to be submitted to the MPCA, but must be kept on-site during active construction by the contractor until the project is complete. Proper installation of BMPs is required before conducting the authorized in-water activities and properly maintained throughout the duration of the project's in-water work. While conducting the authorized work, the permittee must visually monitor the BMPs to ensure that the BMPs are working as intended to reduce TSS or

sedimentation. If the project activities cause an observable increase in TSS or sedimentation as described in Minn. R. 7050.0210. subp. 2, outside or downstream of the authorized defined working area, then the project activities must immediately cease and any malfunctioning BMPs must be repaired, or alternative BMPs must be implemented. This certification does not authorize the violation of applicable water quality standards outside or downstream of the defined work area. Minnesota water quality standards are located in Minn. R. 7050.

Information on the types of BMPs that may be suitable for in-water work is located in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Manual titled *Best Practices for Meeting DNR General Public Waters Work Permit GP 2004-0001*, located at:
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/pwpermits/gp_2004_0001_manual.html.

MPCA is responsible for interpretation of the requirements of this condition, determining compliance with the requirements of this condition, and enforcement of this condition. The point of contact at MPCA for questions regarding this condition is 401Certification.pca@state.mn.us.

4. The permittee must ensure that any dewatering activities do not create nuisance conditions as defined in Minn. R. 7050.0210. Subp.2. BMPs must be used that minimize TSS and sedimentation by removing solids in the water before discharging the water. The permittee must document the in-water BMPs prior to beginning any dewatering; this documentation may be stand-alone or part of an Erosion Control Plan, Construction Plan, or other relevant construction document. The permittee must ensure that properly installed BMPs are in place before conducting the authorized activities and maintained throughout the duration of the dewatering work.

MPCA is responsible for interpretation of the requirements of this condition, determining compliance with the requirements of this condition, and enforcement of this condition. The point of contact at MPCA for questions regarding this condition is 401Certification.pca@state.mn.us.

5. The permittee must ensure any earthen material used to construct or improve temporary or permanent dikes or dams, including cofferdams, or any roads, is contained in a manner that will prevent any of the earthen material from eroding. The permittee must completely remove temporary structures and restore original bathymetry or contours at project completion.
6. It is the permittee's responsibility to ensure that the authorized activities do not exacerbate any existing impairments of a CWA 303-(d) listed impaired waters. The following MPCA webpages contain more information and search tools available to determine which waters in Minnesota are impaired: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/lupg1125> and <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/mvri1126>. The applicable water quality standards are located in Minn. R. ch. 7050.

MPCA is responsible for interpretation of the requirements of this condition, determining compliance with the requirements of this condition, and enforcement of this condition. The point of contact at MPCA for questions regarding this condition is 401Certification.pca@state.mn.us.

7. Any fill used in any water of the U.S. must be clean fill that is free of any solid waste, toxic or hazardous contaminants, and invasive species as defined in Minn. Stat. 84D and Minn. R. 6216, including those discussed in A guide to Nonnative Invasive Plants Inventory in the North by Forest Inventory and Analysis, 2009, C. Olson and A. Cholewa.
http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs52.pdf.
8. The permittee must provide: a) a copy of this certification; b) documentation of any required BMPs under conditions 5 and 6; and c) any written demarcation of Waters of the U.S. under condition 3 to any prime contractor responsible for completing the project's authorized activities. The permittee must also ensure that there is a mechanism in place requiring each prime contractor to provide the same information to all subcontractors, at any level, responsible for fabricating or providing any material for the project or performing work at the project site. In addition, copies of these documents and any other relevant regulatory authorizations related to impacts to Waters of the U.S., must be available at or near the project site for use by contractors or staff responsible for completing the project work and must be available within 72 hours when requested by MPCA staff.
9. The permittee is responsible for ensuring that all requirements of this Certification are met.
10. This certification includes and incorporates by reference the general conditions of Minn. R. 7001.0150, subp.3.

NOTIFICATIONS: The following notifications are not conditions of the MPCA CWA 401 Certification of RGP-003-MN. They provide practices that can help reduce the potential environmental impacts, or they provide notification to the public in Minnesota that certain discharges in Waters of the State are also regulated under other rules administered by the MPCA:

1. Minn. R. chs. 7001 and 7090 requires any activity that will disturb one acre or more of land must first acquire a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) General Stormwater Permit from the MPCA for discharging stormwater during construction activity. Both the owners and operators of construction activity disturbing one acre or more of land are responsible for obtaining and complying with the conditions of the NPDES/SDS General Stormwater Permit prior to commencing construction activities. Sites disturbing less than one acre within a larger common plan of development or sale that is more than one acre also need permit coverage. A detailed Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), containing both temporary and permanent erosion and sediment control plans, must be prepared prior to submitting an application for the NPDES/SDS General Stormwater Permit. In addition, any project that will result in over 50 acres of disturbed area and has a discharge point within one mile of a special or impaired water is required to submit their SWPPP to the MPCA for a review at least 30 days prior to the commencement of land disturbing activities. If the SWPPP is out of compliance with the terms and conditions of the NPDES/SDS General Stormwater Permit, further delay may occur. For more information, please visit the following webpage: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/construction-stormwater>.
2. Any painting, cleaning, or restoration of bridges that is associated with the activity authorized by RGP-003-MN should consider curtains or other reliable containment methods to ensure paint,

chemicals, grouting or other contaminants will not discharge to any surface water. Any asbestos, lead paint, or lead plates on bridges being demolished shall be removed and disposed of in accordance with MPCA rules and regulations. Additional information on lead paint removal can be found at: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/5-16.pdf>.

3. Minn. R. ch. 7001.0030 requires that, prior to testing the structural integrity of any newly installed pipeline or any existing pipeline maintained or repaired that is authorized by RGP-003-MN, the permittee must obtain NPDES/SDS Permit coverage from the MPCA. The NPDES/SDS Permit regulates the discharge of water and trench waters associated with this activity.
4. Chloride from winter road salt affects water quality. MPCA encourages public road authorities pursuing projects under the general permit to consider the use of BMPs to reduce the use of chloride. General information about chloride and water quality, including the Draft Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride Management Plan, is located at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/r0pgb86>.
5. When riprap is used, the permittee should consider placing riprap in the following manner:
 - a. Use natural rock (average less than 6 inches or more than 30 inches in diameter) that is free of debris that may cause pollution or siltation.
 - b. A filter of crushed rock, gravel, or filter fabric material can be placed underneath the rock.
 - c. The riprap should be no more than 6 feet waterward of the ordinary high-water level (OHWL) as defined in Minn. Stat. chs. 103G.005 Subp.14.
 - d. The riprap should conform to the natural alignment of shore and should not obstruct navigation or the flow of water.
 - e. The minimum finished slope waterward of the OHWL should be no steeper than 3 to 1 (horizontal to vertical).
6. During the installation or removal of utility lines, the permittee should consider applying the following:
 - a. Prior to the start of each segment of construction, the permittee should create a written spill prevention plan, to be kept on-site, that details the steps that shall be taken to prevent, mitigate, and clean-up any spill from any product, including drilling mud, from entering any water of the state. The plan should include a directive to contact the State Duty Officer at 651-649-5451 for any spill greater than five gallons, and methods of disposal for the spill material.
 - b. Utilize low flow and winter construction methods whenever possible.
 - c. When using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), use drilling muds that do not contain any hazardous materials. The permittee should keep A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) on site for the HDD muds used.
 - d. When using HDD, and as part of the spill prevention plan in letter, item a. above, develop a Drilling Mud Containment Plan that includes how drilling mud will be contained, managed, and disposed.

- e. Restore the trench approaching at, and leading away from any water of the state, to its original contours before moving onto the next segment of trench. Limit open trench to 5280 linear feet at any given time.
- f. Stabilize the last 200 feet trench within 24 hours when the trench will discharge to a lake, river, stream or wetland.
- g. Use dry construction methods for any maintenance or repair of any surface water crossing.

Disclaimer:

Section 401 Certification does not release the permittee from obtaining all necessary federal, state, and local permits. It does not limit any other permit where requirements may be more restrictive. It does not eliminate, waive, or vary the permittee's obligation to comply with all other laws and state water statutes and rules through the construction, installation, and operation of the project. This Certification does not release the permittee from any liability, penalty, or duty imposed by Minnesota or federal statutes, regulations, rules, or local ordinances and it does not convey a property right or an exclusive privilege.

This Certification does not replace or satisfy any environmental review requirements, including those under the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In accordance with MEPA, Minn. Stat. § 116D.04, subd. 2b, and related rules, projects that are required to complete an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) may not be started until:

- A petition for an EAW is dismissed
- A negative declaration on the need for an EIS has been made
- An EIS has been determined to be adequate
- A variance has been granted by the state Environmental Quality Board

An Environmental Review, required by law, for any project, must be complete in order for any state permit or certification to be valid.

The MPCA reserves the right to modify this Certification or revoke this Certification as provided in Minn. R. 7001.0170.

Pursuant to Minn. R. 7001.1450, failure to comply with any of the conditions in this Certification may result in the MPCA invalidating or revoking this 401 Water Quality Certification on a project-by-project basis.

Mr. Chad Konickson

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February 3, 2017

If you have any questions on this Certification, please contact Jim Brist at 651-757-2245, or 401Certification.pca@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Kuskie', written in a cursive style.

Melissa Kuskie
Supervisor, Agency Rules Unit
Resource Management and Assistance Division

MK/JB:je

cc: Janice Cheng, EPA
Peter Swenson, EPA
Wendy Melgin, EPA
Kerryann Weaver, EPA
Pete Fasbender, USFWS
Andrew Horton, USFWS
Luke Skinner, DNR
Julie Ekman, DNR
Jill Bathke, USACE
Andy Beaudet, USACE
Kristen Hafer, USACE