

BEFORE THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Application of the United States Department of the Army,
Corps of Engineers, for Water Quality Certification for the
Final Regulations Pertaining to the Issuance, Reissuance,)
and Modification of Nationwide Permits)

On January 6, 2017, the United States Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (COE), published its final notice regarding the Issuance of Nationwide Permits (NWP) in the Federal Register (agency docket number COE-2015-0017). The publication includes new, existing, and modified NWPs. Publication of these NWPs serves as the Corps' application to the State for water quality certification (WQC) under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA).

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has examined the final regulations pursuant to Section 401, CWA, and Chapter NR 299, Wisconsin Administrative Code (Wis. Adm. Code).

The WDNR has determined the following conditions for the NWPs are required to ensure compliance with state water quality standards enumerated in s. 299.04, Wis. Adm. Code. The certification contained herein shall expire on March 19, 2022.

Section 401 Certification does not release the permittee from obtaining all other necessary federal, state, and local permits, licenses, certificates, approvals, registrations, charters, or similar forms of permission required by law. It does not limit any other state permit, license, certificate, approval, registration, charter, or similar form of permission required by law that imposes more restrictive requirements. It does not eliminate, waive, or vary the permittee's obligation to comply with all other laws and state statutes and rules throughout the construction, installation, and operation of the project. This Certification does not release the permittee from any liability, penalty, or duty imposed by Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Note: The specific language in the NWPs is not included in this document. Copies of complete nationwide permits published in the Federal Register on January 6, 2017, may be obtained from your local COE field office.

STATE CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF CERTIFICATION

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1. The permittee shall allow the WDNR reasonable entry and access to the discharge site to inspect the discharge for compliance with the certification and applicable laws.

2. If any of these §401 water quality certification conditions are found invalid or unenforceable, the water quality certification is denied for all activities to which that condition applies.

3. Water quality certification is denied without prejudice for activities involving the temporary stockpiling of dredged or fill material in waters of the state, including wetlands.

4. No discharges of dredged or fill material below the ordinary high water mark of a navigable stream as defined by s. 310.03(5), Wis. Adm. Code, may take place during fish spawning periods or times when nursery areas would be adversely impacted. These periods are:

- September 15th through May 15th for all trout streams and upstream to the first dam or barrier on the Root River (Racine County), the Kewaunee River (Kewaunee County), and Strawberry Creek (Door County). To determine if a waterway is a trout stream, you may use the WDNR website trout maps at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout/streammaps.html>.
- March 1st through June 15th for ALL OTHER waters.

5. Unless specifically exempt from state statute and federal Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) requirements, Applicants seeking authorization under these NWP's shall complete the Joint State/Federal Permit Application on the department e-permitting site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/Permits/Water/>.

Nationwide Permits Granted Water Quality Certification:

- NWP 3 – Maintenance
- NWP 4 – Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities
- NWP 5 – Scientific Measurement Devices
- NWP 6 – Survey Activities
- NWP 13 – Bank Stabilization
- NWP 15 – U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges
- NWP 16 – Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas
- NWP 18 – Minor Discharges
- NWP 20 – Response Operations for Oil or Hazardous Substances
- NWP 22 – Removal of Vessels
- NWP 25 – Structural Discharges
- NWP 27 – Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment Activities
- NWP 28 – Modifications of Existing Marinas
- NWP 30 – Moist Soil Management for Wildlife
- NWP 31 – Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities
- NWP 35 – Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins
- NWP 36 – Boat Ramps
- NWP 37 – Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation
- NWP 38 – Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste
- NWP 45 – Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
- NWP 53 – Removal of Low-Head Dams
- NWP 54 – Living Shorelines

Nationwide Permits for which Water Quality Certification is Partially Denied

WQC is certified or denied without prejudice as indicated below for the activities authorized by the following NWP. Certified activities are subject to WQC conditions 1-5 above. If activities are denied without prejudice, the applicant must apply to the WDNR for an individual 401 WQC.

- NWP 7 - Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures
 - WQC denied: Where the effluent from the outfall is not regulated under the WPDES permit program. WPDES permit information is available at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PermitApplications.html>
 - WQC certified: All other NWP 7 activities.
- NWP 32 - Completed Enforcement Actions
 - WQC denied: If WDNR is not a party to the agreement or if WDNR has not concurred in writing with the settlement agreement.
 - WQC certified: All other NWP 32 activities.
- NWP 39 - Commercial and Institutional Developments
 - WQC denied: Discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction of the following attendant features: yards, recreation facilities, stormwater management facilities or wastewater management facilities.
 - WQC certified: All other NWP 39 activities.
- NWP 41 - Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
 - WQC denied: If any portion of the project will occur in or adjacent to a trout stream or any perennial tributaries to a trout stream. To determine if a waterway is a trout stream, you may use the WDNR website trout maps at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout/streammaps.html>.
 - WQC certified: All other NWP 41 activities.
- NWP 42 - Recreational Activities
 - WQC denied: If the project involves the placement of any dredged or fill material into Wisconsin navigable waters as defined in s. NR 310.03(5), Wis. Adm. Code.
 - WQC certified: All other NWP 42 activities.
- NWP 44 - Mining Activities
 - WQC denied: If the project involves the placement of any dredged or fill material into Wisconsin navigable waters as defined in s. NR 310.03(5), Wis. Adm. Code.
- NWP 46 - Discharges in Ditches
 - WQC denied: If the project involves the placement of any dredged or fill material into Wisconsin navigable waters as defined in s. NR 310.03(5), Wis. Adm. Code.
 - WQC certified: All other NWP 46 activities.
- NWP 51 - Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
 - WQC denied: Discharges of dredged or fill material for the construction of the following attendant features: yards, recreation facilities, stormwater management facilities or wastewater management facilities.
 - WQC certified: All other NWP 51 activities.

Water Quality Certification Is Also Denied for the Nationwide Permits Revoked by the Corps of Engineers in Wisconsin and Listed Below:

- NWP 8 – Oils and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf
- NWP 12 – Utility Line Activities
- NWP 14 – Linear Transportation Projects
- NWP 15 – U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges
- NWP 21 – Surface Coal Mining Activities
- NWP 23 – Approved Categorical Exclusions
- NWP 24 – Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs
- NWP 34 – Cranberry Production Activities
- NWP 49 – Coal Re-mining Activities
- NWP 50 – Underground Coal Mining Activities

Nationwide Permits Denied Water Quality Certification Without Prejudice At This Time:

The following NWP categories are denied Water Quality Certification (WQC) in their entirety and require an individual Section 401 WQC for all activities under these NWPs. In instances where a state has denied the 401 WQC for discharges under a particular NWP, permittees must furnish the District Engineer for the COE with an individual 401 WQC.

Each category was reviewed and it was determined that: potential water quality and beneficial use impacts would be beyond that considered minimal; the activity was not likely to occur in Wisconsin; the NWP doesn't align with state general permit standards required by statute (NWP 29, 40, 43); inadequate data was available for WDNR to fully evaluate potential water quality and beneficial use impacts; or the category was empty (Reserved).

- NWP 17 – Hydropower Projects
- NWP 19 – Minor Dredging
- NWP 26 – Reserved
- NWP 29 – Residential Developments
- NWP 33 – Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering
- NWP 40 – Agricultural Activities
- NWP 43 – Stormwater Management Facilities
- NWP 47 – Reserved
- NWP 48 – Existing Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Activities
- NWP 52 – Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects

Note: State water quality certification is not required for the following Section 10 only NWPs: 1 – Aids to Navigation, 2 – Structures in Artificial Canals, 9 – Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas, 10 – Mooring Buoys, 11 – Temporary Recreational Structures, 28 – Modifications of Existing Marinas, 35 – Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins.

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin Statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227.42, Wisconsin Statutes, you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources.

This determination becomes final in accordance with the provisions of s. NR 299.05(7), Wisconsin Administrative Code, and is judicially reviewable when final. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to Sections 227.52 and 227.53, Wisconsin Statutes, you have 30 days after the decision becomes final to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and to serve the petition on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The petition must name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

Reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 227.48(2), Wisconsin Statutes.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin June 1, 2017

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By 
Cathy Stepp, Secretary