



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
St. Paul District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: July 11, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENT TO DEVELOP NEW REGIONAL GENERAL PERMITS

SUMMARY: This public notice is to inform the public of the St. Paul District's (District) intent to develop regional general permits for work in waters of the U.S. associated with utility line, linear transportation and minor activities not already authorized by nationwide permits. The regional general permits are proposed to be developed for use in Minnesota and Wisconsin, including Federally-recognized American Indian reservations. The regional general permits would be used to authorize work in waters of the U.S. that would result in no more than minimal adverse effects, individually and cumulatively.

BACKGROUND: On April 24, 2017, the District issued 42 nationwide general permits for use in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The District decided at that time not to utilize the nationwide permits to authorize work in waters of the U.S. associated with linear utility and linear transportation activities. Those projects are currently evaluated through existing regional general permits or via an individual permit process. New regional general permits will be developed to authorize work in waters of the U.S. associated with utility, transportation and various minor activities. The District's goals for this effort is threefold: 1) increase the utility of the regional general permits for the work in waters of the U.S. described above, 2) develop permit terms and conditions that are protective of the aquatic environment and public interest factors, and 3) have new regional general permits in place prior to the expiration of existing regional general permits in 2017 and 2018.

DRAFT PROPOSAL: Details on the content of the proposed regional general permits will be published as a draft in fall 2017 with a 30-day public comment period. The District is proposing to start using the permits in January 2018, provided all necessary agency, tribal, and public consultation and coordination has been completed. All activities authorized by the regional general permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will require 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) from the applicable state agency, tribe or the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). For each regional general permit, the applicable agency or tribe may issue the WQC with no conditions, issue the WQC with conditions, deny the WQC, or waive the WQC.

FUTURE UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMENT: If you are interested in future updates on the development these regional general permits, please send an email to colleen.a.whaley@usace.army.mil with the subject line of "RGP emails." You may also call Colleen Whaley at 651-290-5361 to be added to the email list serve. At the most, two emails a month will be sent to interested parties and email addresses will only be used for this expressed purpose.

All other questions concerning development of the regional general permits should be directed to the following main contacts.

Work in waters of the U.S. associated with:

Utility Line Activities: Rebecca Graser 651-290-5728 rebecca.m.graser@usace.army.mil

Linear Transportation Activities: Jill Bathke 651-290-5697 jill.c.bathke@usace.army.mil

Minor Activities not covered by Nationwide Permits: Kyle Zibung 651-290-5877 kyle.d.zibung@usace.army.mil

To sign up for other public notices, including on specific project or mitigation proposals, please go to:
http://mvp-extstp.mvp.usace.army.mil/list_server.