

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS P.O. BOX 60267 NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE ANNOUNCING THE REISSUANCE OF THE NATIONWIDE PERMITS

On February 21, 2012, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) published the notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the reissuance of all existing nationwide permits (NWPs), general conditions, and definitions with some modifications. The Corps also issued two new NWPs, three new general conditions, and three new definitions. The NWPs will be effective on March 19, 2012, and will expire on March 18, 2017.

With the publication of this *Federal Register* notice, Corps districts will begin finalizing their regional conditions for the new and reissued NWPs. Regional conditions will provide additional protection for the aquatic environment, and will help ensure that the NWPs authorize only those activities with minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. Regional conditions will help ensure protection of high value waters within the [*insert district name*] District.

The publication of this *Federal Register* notice also begins the 60-day period for states, Indian Tribes, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to complete their water quality certification (WQC) process for the NWPs. The 60-day period for WQC will end on April 20, 2012. This *Federal Register* notice also begins the 90-day period for coastal states to complete their Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determination processes. The 90-day period for CZMA consistency determinations will end on May 21, 2012.

While the states, Indian Tribes, and EPA complete their WQC processes, the use of an NWP to authorize a discharge into waters of the United States is contingent upon obtaining individual water quality certification or a case-specific WQC waiver. Likewise, while coastal states complete their CZMA consistency determination processes, the use of an NWP to authorize an activity within, or outside, a state's coastal zone that will affect land or water uses or natural resources of that state's coastal zone, is contingent upon obtaining an individual CZMA consistency determination, or a case-specific presumption of CZMA concurrence.

The February 21, 2012, Federal Register notice is available for viewing at [insert Corps district name and address] or on the Internet at http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/NationwidePermits.aspx. As an alternate, Internet users can access the Federal Register through the U.S. Government Printing Office at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=FR.

The Corps has also issued final decision documents for the new and reissued NWPs. These documents are also available on the Internet at http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/NationwidePermits.aspx and Corps district offices. Furthermore, the NWP decision documents will be supplemented by Division Engineers to address decisions concerning the addition of regional conditions to the NWPs.

The applicant is applying to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services for a Water Quality Certification in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LAC 33:IX.1507.A-E and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Comments concerning this application can be filed with the Water Permits Section within ten days of this notice by referencing WQC 120223-01/AI 149056 to the following address:

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Water Permits Division P.O. Box 4313 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313 Attn: Jamie Phillippe

A copy of the application is available for inspection and review at the LDEQ Public Records Center, on the first floor of the Galvez Building, Room 127 at 602 North Fifth Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.