

**2017 NATIONWIDE PERMIT (NWP) REGIONAL CONDITIONS
FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS**

The following regional conditions apply within the entire State of Texas:

1. For all discharges proposed for authorization under Nationwide Permits (NWP) 3, 6, 7, 12, 14, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 49, 51, and 52, into the following habitat types or specific areas, the applicant shall notify the appropriate District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32, Pre-Construction Notification (PCN). The Corps of Engineers (Corps) will coordinate with the resource agencies as specified in NWP General Condition 32(d) (PCN). The habitat types or areas are:

- a. Pitcher Plant Bogs: Wetlands typically characterized by an organic surface soil layer and include vegetation such as pitcher plants (*Sarracenia* spp.) and/or sundews (*Drosera* spp.).
- b. Bald Cypress-Tupelo Swamps: Wetlands dominated by bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) and/or water tupelo (*Nyssa aquatic*).

2. For all activities proposed for authorization under any Nationwide Permit (NWP) at sites approved as compensatory mitigation sites (either permittee-responsible, mitigation bank and/or in-lieu fee) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, the applicant shall notify the appropriate District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 - Pre-Construction Notification prior to commencing the activity.

3. For all activities proposed for authorization under NWP 16, the applicant shall notify the appropriate District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 (Pre-Construction Notification) and must obtain an individual water quality certification (WQC) from the TCEQ. Work cannot begin under NWP 16 until the applicant has received written approval from the Corps and WQC.

NOTE: For all activities proposing to use equipment that has operated or been stored in a water body on the Texas list of zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) infected water bodies, equipment should be decontaminated prior to relocation in accordance with Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Part 2, Chapter 57, Subchapter A. The following decontamination Best Management Practices (BMPs), as a minimum, are indicated:

- a. Clean: Clean both the inside and outside of equipment and gear, by removing all plants, animals, and mud and thoroughly washing the equipment using a high pressure spray nozzle.
- b. Drain: Drain all water from receptacles before leaving the area, including livewells, bilges, ballast, and engine cooling water on boats.
- c. Dry: Allow time for your equipment to dry completely before relocating in other waters. Equipment should be dried prior to relocation. High temperature pressure washing (greater than or equal to 140F) or professional cleaning may be substituted for drying time.

The following regional condition only applies within the Albuquerque, Fort Worth, and Galveston Districts:

4. For all activities proposed for authorization under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 12 that involve a discharge of fill material associated with mechanized land clearing of wetlands dominated by native woody shrubs, the applicant shall notify the appropriate District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 – Pre-Construction Notification prior to commencing the activity. For the purpose of this regional condition, a shrub dominated wetland is characterized by woody vegetation less than 3.0 inches in diameter at breast height but greater than 3.2 feet in height, which covers 20% or more of the area. Woody vines are not included.

The following regional conditions apply within the Albuquerque District.

5. Nationwide Permit (NWP) 23 – Approved Categorical Exclusions. A pre-construction notification (PCN) to the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 32 - PCN is required for all proposed activities under NWP 23.

6. Nationwide Permit (NWP) 27 – Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities. For all proposed activities under NWP 27 that require pre-construction notification, a monitoring plan commensurate with the scale of the proposed restoration project and the potential for risk to the aquatic environment must be submitted to the Corps. (See “NWP 27 Guidelines” at <http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/NWP.aspx>).

7. Channelization. Nationwide Permit (NWP) General Condition 9 for Management of Water Flows is amended to add the following: Projects that would result in permanent channelization to previously un-channelized streams require pre-construction notification to the Albuquerque District Engineer in accordance with NWP General Condition 32 – Pre-Construction Notification.

8. Dredge and Fill Activities in Intermittent and Perennial Streams, and Special Aquatic Sites: For all activities subject to regulation under the Clean Water Act Section 404 in intermittent and perennial streams, and special aquatic sites (including wetlands, riffle and pool complexes, and sanctuaries and refuges), pre-construction notification (PCN) to the Albuquerque District Engineer is required in accordance with Nationwide Permit General Condition 32 - PCN.

9. Springs. For all discharges of dredged or fill material within 100 feet of the point of groundwater discharge of natural springs located in an aquatic resource, a pre-construction notification (PCN) is required to the Albuquerque District Engineer in accordance with Nationwide Permit General Condition 32 - PCN. A natural spring is defined as any location where ground water emanates from a point in the ground and has a defined surface water connection to another waters of the United States. For purposes of this regional condition, springs do not include seeps or other groundwater discharges which lack a defined surface water connection.

10. Suitable Fill. Use of broken concrete as fill or bank stabilization material is prohibited unless the applicant demonstrates that its use is the only practicable material (with respect to cost, existing technology, and logistics). Any applicant who wishes to use broken concrete as bank stabilization must provide notification to the Albuquerque District Engineer in accordance with Nationwide Permit General Condition 32 - Pre-Construction Notification along with justification for such use. Use of broken concrete with rebar or used tires (loose or formed into bales) is prohibited in all waters of the United States.

The following regional conditions apply only within the Fort Worth District.

11. For all discharges proposed for authorization under all Nationwide Permits (NWP) into the area of Caddo Lake within Texas that is designated as a “Wetland of International Importance” under the Ramsar Convention, the applicant shall notify the Fort Worth District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 – Pre-Construction Notification (PCN). The Fort Worth District will coordinate with the resource agencies as specified in NWP General Condition 32(d) - PCN.

12. Compensatory mitigation is generally required for losses of waters of the United States that exceed 1/10 acre and/or for all losses to streams that exceed 300 linear feet. Loss is defined in Section F of the Nationwide Permits (NWP). Mitigation thresholds are cumulative irrespective of aquatic resource type at each single and complete crossing. Compensatory mitigation requirements will be determined in accordance with the appropriate district standard operating procedures and processes. The applicant shall notify the Fort Worth District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 - Pre-Construction Notification prior to commencing the activity.

13. For all activities proposed for authorization under Nationwide Permits (NWP) 12, 14 and/or 33 that involve a temporary discharge of fill material into 1/2 acre or more of emergent wetland OR 1/10 acre of scrub-shrub/forested wetland, the applicant shall notify the Fort Worth District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 - Pre-Construction Notification prior to commencing the activity.

14. For all discharges proposed for authorization under Nationwide Permits (NWP) 51 and 52, the Fort Worth District will provide the pre-construction notification (PCN) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as specified in NWP General Condition 32(d)(2) - PCN for its review and comments.

The following regional conditions apply only within the Galveston District.

15. No Nationwide Permits (NWP), except NWP 3, shall be used to authorize discharges into the habitat types or specific areas listed in paragraphs a through c, below. The applicant shall notify the Galveston District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 - Pre-Construction Notification prior to commencing the activity under NWP 3.

- a. Mangrove Marshes. For the purpose of this regional condition, Mangrove marshes are those waters of the United States that are dominated by mangroves (*Avicennia* spp., *Laguncularia* spp., *Conocarpus* spp., and *Rhizophora* spp.).
- b. Coastal Dune Swales. For the purpose of this regional condition, coastal dune swales are wetlands and/or other waters of the United States located within the backshore and dune areas in the coastal zone of Texas. They are formed as depressions within and among multiple beach ridge barriers, dune complexes, or dune areas adjacent to beaches fronting tidal waters of the United States.
- c. Columbia Bottomlands. For the purpose of this regional condition, Columbia bottomlands are defined as waters of the United States that are dominated by bottomland hardwoods in the Lower Brazos and San Bernard River basins identified in the 1997 Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for bottomland hardwoods in Brazoria County. (For further information, see <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Business-With-Us/Regulatory/Permits/Nationwide-General-Permits/>)

16. A Compensatory Mitigation Plan is required for all special aquatic site losses, as defined in Section F of the Nationwide Permits (NWP), that exceed 1/10 acre and/or for all losses to streams that exceed 200 linear feet. Compensatory mitigation requirements will be determined in accordance with the appropriate district standard operating procedures and processes. The applicant shall notify the Galveston District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 - Pre-Construction Notification prior to commencing the activity.

17. For all seismic testing activities proposed for authorization under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 6, the applicant shall notify the Galveston District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 - Pre-Construction Notification (PCN). The PCN must state the time period for which the temporary fill is proposed, and must include a restoration plan for the special aquatic sites. For seismic testing under NWP 6 within the Cowardin Marine System, Subtidal Subsystem; as defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, December 1979/Reprinted 1992, the Corps will coordinate with the resource agencies in accordance with NWP General Condition 32(d) - PCN.

18. For all activities proposed under Nationwide Permits (NWP) 10 and 11 located in vegetated shallows and coral reefs; as defined by 40 CFR 230.43 and 230.44 respectively, the applicant shall notify the Galveston District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 - Pre-Construction Notification. Examples include, but are not limited to: seagrass beds, oyster reefs, and coral reefs.

19. Nationwide Permit 12 shall not be used to authorize discharges within 500 feet of vegetated shallows and coral reefs; as defined by 40 CFR 230.43 and 230.44 respectively. Examples include, but are not limited to: seagrass beds, oyster reefs, and coral reefs.

20. For all activities proposed for authorization under Nationwide Permit 12 that involve underground placement below a non-navigable river bed and/or perennial stream bed there shall be a minimum cover of 48 inches (1,219 millimeters) of soil below the river and/or perennial stream thalweg.

21. For all discharges and work proposed below the high tide line under Nationwide Permits (NWP) 14 and 18, the applicant shall notify the Galveston District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 - Pre-Construction Notification (PCN). The Galveston District will coordinate with the resource agencies in accordance with NWP General Condition 32(d) - PCN.

22. For all activities proposed for authorization under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 33 the applicant shall notify the Galveston District Engineer in accordance with the NWP General Condition 32 – Pre-Construction Notification (PCN). The PCN must include a restoration plan showing how all temporary fills and structures will be removed and the area restored to pre-project conditions. Activities causing the temporary loss, as defined in Section F of the NWPs, of more than 0.5 acres of tidal waters and/or 200 linear feet of stream will be coordinated with the agencies in accordance with NWP General Condition 32(d) - PCN.

23. No Nationwide Permits (NWP), except NWPs 3, 16, 20, 22, 37, shall be used to authorize discharges, structures, and/or fill within the standard setback and high hazard zones of the Sabine-Neches Waterway as defined in the Standard Operating Procedure - Permit Setbacks along the Sabine-Neches Waterway. The applicant shall notify the Galveston District Engineer in accordance with NWP General Condition 32 - Pre-Construction Notification for all discharge, structures and/or work in medium hazard zones and all NWP 3 applications within the standard setback and high hazard zones of the Sabine-Neches Waterway.

24. No Nationwide Permits (NWP), except 20, 22, and 37, shall be used to authorize discharges, structures, and/or fill within the standard setback exemptions of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway as defined in the Standard Operating Procedure- Department of the Army Permit Evaluation Setbacks along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. The applicant shall notify the Galveston District Engineer in accordance with NWP General Condition 32 (Pre-Construction Notification) for all discharges, structures and/or work within the standard setback, shoreward of the standard setback, and/or standard setback exemption zones.

25. The use of Nationwide Permits in the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Area of Concern are revoked. (For further information, see <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Business-With-Us/Regulatory/Permits/Nationwide-General-Permits/>)

26. The use of Nationwide Permits 51 and 52 are revoked within the Galveston District boundaries.

27. Nationwide Permit (NWP) 53 pre-construction notifications will be coordinated with resource agencies as specified in NWP General Condition 32(d) – Pre-construction Notification.

28. For all activities proposed under Nationwide Permits (NWP) 21, 29, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, and 50 that result in greater than 300 feet of loss in intermittent and/or ephemeral streams, as defined in Section F of the NWPs, require evaluation under an Individual Permit.

The following regional conditions apply only within the Tulsa District.

29. Upland Disposal: Except where authorized by Nationwide Permit 16, material disposed of in uplands shall be placed in a location and manner that prevents discharge of the material and/or return water into waters or wetlands unless otherwise authorized by the Tulsa District Engineer.

30. Major Rivers: The prospective permittee shall notify the Tulsa District Engineer for all Nationwide Permit 14 verifications which cross major rivers within Tulsa District. For the purposes of this condition, major rivers include the following: Canadian River, Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River, and Red River.