

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

February 23, 2012

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 (NWP), 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.

Division engineers are authorized to add regional conditions specific to the needs and/or requirements of a particular region or state. Regional conditions are important mechanisms to ensure that impacts to the aquatic environment authorized by the NWPs are minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Division engineers may also suspend or revoke specific NWPs in certain geographic areas (e.g., states or watersheds) or high-value aquatic systems where impacts authorized by those NWPs may be more than minimal. An enclosure for this public notice (Enclosure 1) lists the proposed 2012 Charleston District Regional Conditions currently under consideration by the **Charleston District** for South Carolina. Unless otherwise noted, all proposed regional conditions listed on this enclosure are applicable for activities in South Carolina. Comments on proposed regional conditions are to be sent to the **Charleston District Regulatory Division, 69-A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, S.C. 29403, ATTN: Tracy Sanders**. Comments relating to the proposed regional conditions are due by **Friday, March 9, 2012**.

Please note that the proposed 2012 Charleston District Regional Conditions are similar to the existing 2007 Regional Conditions (Enclosure 2). Minor changes to the Regional Conditions were made for clarification purposes, as a result of changes to the 2012 NWPs and general conditions, and to account for the two new Nationwide Permits. The following notable changes to the existing Regional Conditions were made:

Regional Condition #17: For **NWP's 12, 14, and 18**, the permittee must submit a pre-construction notification (PCN) to the District Engineer in accordance with General Condition 31, prior to commencing the activity if the discharge will impact more than **25 linear feet of streambed**. This notification requirement is in addition to the notification criteria listed for these NWPs. (new condition)

Regional Condition #28: For **NWP 29**, the loss of waters of the U.S. is limited to a maximum of ¼-acre for a single family residence. For impacts greater than 0.1 acres, measures taken to avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the U.S. must be provided with the PCN. (revised condition)

Regional Condition #29: For **NWP 36**, the width of the boat ramp will be limited to **16 feet** and only one boat ramp may be constructed on a single lot or tract of land (e.g. each lot within a subdivision). NWP 36 may be used to authorize the construction of all boat ramps. (revised condition)

Regional Condition #34: For **NWP 48**, a copy of the lease or permit issued by an appropriate state or local government agency, a treaty, or legal contractual document establishing a valid property interest, must be provided with the pre-construction notification (PCN) for commercial shellfish aquaculture activities that occur in a new project area. This is in addition to the information specifically required for this NWP as well as the required information found in General Condition 31. (new condition).

The publication of the above referenced *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 Charleston District at 69-A Hagood Avenue, Charleston, S.C 29403 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.

Index of Nationwide Permits, Conditions, District Engineer's Decision, Further Information, and Definitions

Nationwide Permits

1. Aids to Navigation

2. Structures in Artificial Canals
3. Maintenance
4. Fish and Wildlife Harvesting, Enhancement, and Attraction Devices and Activities
5. Scientific Measurement Devices
6. Survey Activities
7. Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures
8. Oil and Gas Structures on the Outer Continental Shelf
9. Structures in Fleeting and Anchorage Areas
10. Mooring Buoys
11. Temporary Recreational Structures
12. Utility Line Activities
13. Bank Stabilization
14. Linear Transportation Projects
15. U.S. Coast Guard Approved Bridges
16. Return Water From Upland Contained Disposal Areas
17. Hydropower Projects
18. Minor Discharges
19. Minor Dredging
20. Response Operations for Oil and Hazardous Substances
21. Surface Coal Mining Activities
22. Removal of Vessels
23. Approved Categorical Exclusions
24. Indian Tribe or State Administered Section 404 Programs
25. Structural Discharges
26. [Reserved]
27. Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment, and Enhancement Activities
28. Modifications of Existing Marinas
29. Residential Developments
30. Moist Soil Management for Wildlife
31. Maintenance of Existing Flood Control Facilities
32. Completed Enforcement Actions
33. Temporary Construction, Access, and Dewatering
34. Cranberry Production Activities
35. Maintenance Dredging of Existing Basins
36. Boat Ramps
37. Emergency Watershed Protection and Rehabilitation
38. Cleanup of Hazardous and Toxic Waste
39. Commercial and Institutional Developments
40. Agricultural Activities
41. Reshaping Existing Drainage Ditches
42. Recreational Facilities
43. Stormwater Management Facilities
44. Mining Activities
45. Repair of Uplands Damaged by Discrete Events
46. Discharges in Ditches
47. [Reserved]

48. Commercial Shellfish Aquaculture Activities
49. Coal Remining Activities
50. Underground Coal Mining Activities
51. Land-Based Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
52. Water-Based Renewable Energy Generation Pilot Projects

Nationwide Permit General Conditions

1. Navigation
2. Aquatic Life Movements
3. Spawning Areas
4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas
5. Shellfish Beds
6. Suitable Material
7. Water Supply Intakes
8. Adverse Effects from Impoundments
9. Management of Water Flows
10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains
11. Equipment
12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls
13. Removal of Temporary Fills
14. Proper Maintenance
15. Single and Complete Project
16. Wild and Scenic Rivers
17. Tribal Rights
18. Endangered Species
19. Migratory Bird and Bald and Golden Eagle Permits
20. Historic Properties
21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts
22. Designated Critical Resource Waters
23. Mitigation
24. Safety of Impoundment Structures
25. Water Quality
26. Coastal Zone Management
27. Regional and Case-by-Case Conditions
28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits
29. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications
30. Compliance Certification
31. Pre-Construction Notification

District Engineer's Decision

Further Information

Definitions

Best management practices (BMPs)
Compensatory mitigation
Currently serviceable
Direct effects
Discharge
Enhancement
Ephemeral stream
Establishment (creation)
High Tide Line
Historic property
Independent utility
Indirect effects
Intermittent stream
Loss of waters of the United States
Non-tidal wetland
Open water
Ordinary high water mark
Perennial stream
Practicable
Pre-construction notification
Preservation
Re-establishment
Rehabilitation
Restoration
Riffle and pool complex
Riparian areas
Shellfish seeding
Single and complete linear project
Single and complete non-linear project
Stormwater management
Stormwater management facilities
Stream bed
Stream channelization
Structure
Tidal wetland
Vegetated shallows
Waterbody